



Seeding cover crops
on July 25, 2019

Layman's Language

*"A Farmer has to be an **optimist**
or he would not still be a **Farmer**."
- Will Rodgers*

This has certainly been our attitude the past year. We had promised in our last issue of this newsletter to provide a more in-depth update as we got closer to spring. Unfortunately, we just do not have much to update. After a drawn out and exhausting harvest due to wet weather, we were hopeful spring preparations and planting would be more timely.

We harvested the final field of corn on January 17, 2019. The 2018 crop did produce record-breaking yields - the best I have seen in 40 years in the business. A brutal winter followed, not only here in Ohio, but across the Midwest. We were fortunate in the big picture - something we try to remember when the day-to-day threatens to drag us down. As we started to get antsy to get in the field, continual small rains, spaced just enough apart to prevent us from starting, kept coming. *(Continued on the next page)*



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Learning on the Go

Continuing to search out experiences which allow us to further educate ourselves, improve our business model and practices, and network with fellow farmers and agricultural professionals is important to us.

Jan, Cindy, Matt, Genny, and Avery (just 7 weeks old!) attended the MFAC (our peer group) Winter Conference, held in Louisville, KY, in February. The 3-day event allowed us to participate in a DISC personality assessment course, where we learned (or confirmed) Jan and Genny are very similar personalities, while Cindy and Matt share commonalities; the two pairs are opposite each other, creating a good balance across the board. We also toured another group member's farming operation and elevator, before touring Maker's Mark Bourbon - our friends, Peterson Farms, are the exclusive wheat growers for the distillery. The same group from our farm travelled to Decatur IL in July. Topics included mental health and employee balance, land investments, and government programs. We toured three member operations including a sprayer flight demonstration and a trick pilot show.

June 21, 2019



July 10, 2019



July 25, 2019



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We had measurable rainfall 18 out of 31 days in May, which counted for 150% of average precipitation. All in all, we were not able to work a single day in April or May and only about 3 days in June, putting in just 17% of our intended 2019 crop. To say tensions and anxious feelings were running high would be an understatement.

Our crew has worked tirelessly since the beginning of June hauling the last of the 2018 crop to market, seeding cover crops, applying lime, and maintaining the remainder of our acres by either applying a spray program or working the soil. Not having a crop to speak of has turned out to be more work than having a crop would have been. We owe a huge THANK YOU to Ron, Chris, Matt, Randy, Oz, and Aaron for the many, mostly frustrating, hours they have put in.

Since the first of July, rains have been less in quantity and frequency - always a fear that when it stops raining, it quits all together. We are now in a period where we could use some rain to keep the crops that were planted growing. The possibility of an early frost, which will bring an earlier harvest, looms ahead. When recently asked what are we most looking forward to; "To be done with the 2019 crop year, and move forward to 2020."



Both Jan & Genny were interviewed by the Ohio Soybean Council.