

WARRINER AG BENEFITS FROM 360 SOILSCAN™



Siblings Lynne, Nick, and Paul Warriner are the 4th generation in their family farming operation, which includes 125 acres of corn ground. In 2013, the trio formed Warriner Ag, providing precision ag consulting services for over 40,000 acres in the Blenheim, Ontario region. Like many in agriculture, they had a two-fold goal: find a tool to monitor nutrients and give them more control over inputs, and help them take care of the environment for both their own farming operation and their precision ag services company. In 2015, they found their answer with 360 SOILSCAN and began implementing it in both operations.

"We were looking for a tool to help us apply in-season nitrogen according to what our crop needs," says Lynne Warriner. Also factoring into the decision was the Warriners' yearly challenge to themselves to follow the 4R nutrient stewardship practices, identifying the right source, right rate, right time and right place for their nutrient management plan. "The combination of 360 SOILSCAN and 4R practice has led us to be more responsible stewards of our farm, creating environmental benefits for our community and economic benefits for ourselves," Warriner said.

360 SOILSCAN helped the Warriners meet their 4R nitrogen management requirements for in-field readings as well as fast, accurate results. It also allowed the Warriners to export the data to their GIS software to create variable rate nitrogen prescriptions for their customers.

The Warriners face many soil challenges on their farm and service area due to variable soil types, which range from sandy loam to clay soils within the same field. Additionally, the terrain is flat to slightly rolling, leading to drainage to the Great Lakes and main tributary rivers. This causes soil erosion and potential loss of nutrients during significant rainfalls, adding to the challenge of nutrient management planning.

For the family farm operation, the Warriners' farm nutrient management includes the use of manure and compost along with regular fertilizers. By assessing the soil N supply before application they're able to significantly reduce in-season N application rates without compromising yield. This growing season, by using 360 SOILSCAN they applied 33 lbs less N compared to their standard traditional sidedress program.

Prior to using 360 SOILSCAN, Warriner Ag did not sample for nitrogen and used only pH/P/K/Mg tests to make fertilizer recommendations.

"We managed other nutrients on our farm with variable rate applications for many years, but did not have a reliable and accurate way to assess the nitrogen needs," explains Warriner. "Using 360 SOILSCAN allowed us to assess our N requirements and apply accordingly."

In past years, the Warriners applied all of their N before V3. By using 360 SOILSCAN, they found that their starter blend provided adequate N to carry the crop farther into the growing season. "As a result," Warriner said, "we have started delaying our in-season N application by 3 to 4 weeks, giving us the opportunity to mitigate risk of weather-related loss and assess our crop potential before applying." This has led to achieving similar yield results with lower per acre expenses. In 2016 this translated to an additional \$42.22 per acre profit.



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- Lynne Warriner

