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360 Y-DROP IN 2017

Third season and still working great

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Nate Bonde, 6th generation farmer from Nerstrand, Minnesota, farms about 900 acres, half corn and half soybeans, with his dad's two cousins.

Just trying to make a good return on their investment, their farming operation doesn't like to stick a lot of extra inputs into their crops. Nate had already seen the advantage of split applying nitrogen so their previous nitrogen management plan included strip tilling and then coming back with anhydrous banding.

"The 2014 year, it was really dry so the anhydrous was leaking a lot and it was hard to get the knives in. We missed out on some yield that year. In one spot we couldn't get to it was about 12 bushels per acre lower than the rest of the field."

That's when Nate made the decision to adopt 360 Y-DROP into their nitrogen management plan. 2015 was his first growing season using 360 Y-DROP and it was a wetter season which he says would have made it tougher to get in with the anhydrous.

"It was just wet so it was a tight timeframe and 360 Y-DROP helped get through everything. Our anhydrous rig was only 12 row and our Y-DROP is 24 row so you can cover area pretty quick too, get twice the coverage."

Then 2016 provided favorable growing conditions in their area, allowing Nate time to experiment with variable rates.

"That seemed to work pretty well. It was a great season last year. We weren't pressed for time or anything so it worked out well all around."

Now in his third season with 360 Y-DROP, Nate is truly seeing the benefits of precise placement of nitrogen.

"So, this year it started out wet but it's dried out too so there's not much moisture in the ground. So, the Y-DROP theory with the stem water where it catches the water and feeds the plant, I think that's a good point. There was a wet band about 4 inches wide along the root zone there – that was with no rain – just dew/condensation running down."

Nate was also able to use the 360 Y-DROP-equipped sprayer for his first custom work. He says, "360 Y-DROP allowed us to easily cover our own acres, leaving us available time to do custom work for others. A neighbor wanted to apply later in the season so I applied 200 acres for them."

After three seasons of running 360 Y-DROP Nate believes he is getting better use out of his nitrogen by applying when the plant needs it so it's not subject to leaching.

"And we are able to get through our acres a lot easier, a lot less time. As far as the impact I don't think we've lost yield like we did in that 2014 season. It's great. It works great for us. Especially for our strip tilling and how we deliver our N."

