

EXROTH FARMS NEWSLETTER

December 2014

Volume 1,

Greetings from all of us at Rexroth Farms! This is our first ever newsletter. We will be sending out these newsletters periodically to keep you updated with the day to day operations of the farm.

Rexroth Farms Mission Rexroth Farms is a family farming organization devoted to the promotion of our agricultural lifestyle and the preservation of our agricultural heritage through innovative, sustainable, professional farming practices that benefit our families, employees, land partners and surrounding communities in the areas where we operate.

A Successful Harvest!

Harvest 2014 is officially complete! The corn is shelled, soy beans are cut, and the grain bins are full, but that is just a portion of what we accomplished this fall. Aside from physically harvesting our crops, we also prepared our ground for the winter by planting cover crops like rye, barley, and wheat. We also began trucking out corn and soybeans to various mills in our area.

Thanks to the hard work, dedication, and versatility of our crew here at Rexroth Farms, we were able to efficiently complete all of our harvest/planting activities this fall. It takes a great team to execute the multitude of tasks associated with fall harvest, especially with our ever expanding farm territory; as well as continuing to properly maintain and manage the many daily operations of the farm at home.

FALL HARVEST PARTY!

On November 1st, we took a short break from our fall harvest to gather together with our families and celebrate the blessings of our Agricultural lifestyle. Employees and their families came together at the home farm to enjoy food, hay rides, and a bonfire.



The event was a great way to slow down and recharge for the second half of harvest, as well as to appreciate all of our abundant blessings and the great industry we are fortunate to be a part of.



Want to learn more about Rexroth Farms? Check us out on Facebook or on our website

www.rexrothfarms.com



Winter on the farm

The number one question we hear from people after harvest is “What do you do on the farm in the winter?” It’s a great question, seeing as the busiest time of the year is over. However, there is still plenty to do over the winter months. First off, we have beef and dairy cattle to care for and keep warm. Inclement weather requires us to pay extra attention to livestock to ensure their wellbeing. Secondly, there is plenty of maintenance to catch up on around the farm. Equipment that has been used hard during the fall needs cleaned and serviced thoroughly. With the amount of machines it takes to complete our many tasks, the shop never stays empty long. Finally, the fields still require work even in the cold. Winter is the time when we do a great deal of plant food application. We will also make drainage improvements in wet areas of our properties. So as winter begins on the farm, we begin the process of preparing for another successful year!

Looking Forward

A new year brings new plans, new challenges, and new opportunities. Something we are looking forward to this winter, is using a tile plow to incorporate subsurface drainage in our fields. We will also use the beginning of the year to further train ourselves on various aspects of Agriculture, such as no-till farming practices, Ag-technology and equipment, and Ag business management. Furthermore, as a team we will evaluate our successes of the former year and plan for the next by setting goals and defining on our plan of action. We are extremely proud of the work we do and our employees who keep us driving forward.

Pictured to the left is our John Deere 4930 Sprayer. You may be asking yourself, what is it exactly and what does it do? Although it may look like an alien robot, it is actually a highly efficient and crucially important machine. Thanks to John Deere’s advanced technology and design, we are able to apply the exact amount of product to a precise location without error and in a fast and efficient manner.

The sprayer is used to apply 70% of the plant food we use to grow our crops to maximum yields. The main plant food we apply is Nitrogen, which contains the sulfur that plants need to grow big and tall. Another function of the sprayer is to apply a deodorizer to fertilizer that has been spread on our fields. The product (More Than Manure) is used not only to neutralized to smell given off by manure, but also unlocks nutrients through a chemical reaction, which makes those nutrients available to the crops, rather than be stuck in the soil. Now, I know what you’re thinking, what about the other chemicals used for agricultural crop production, like herbicides and pesticides? Well, thanks to modern plant genetics and practices like selective breeding, the need for use of herbicides and pesticides is very limited. We do apply Round Up as our main herbicide. It is the same thing you might use on your sidewalks or in your garden to get rid of unwanted weeds. Round up is a very useful tool, because it is safe and can be used to control weeds without damaging the crops. As for pesticides, there are certain times we may need to apply them. For example, those pesky stink bugs that are nuisance in your home are also a big problem for our soy beans. When stink bug pressure is evident, we will use a product to get rid of the current bugs and deter any others from entering the fields and destroying our crop.

So as you can see, the sprayer has many uses in our operation. Without this vital machine, we would not be able to produce high yielding crops in a neat and efficient manner as we do now. Therefore, the next time you see a sprayer, we hope you think of this article and how important a sprayer is for producing high quality crops.
