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2022 Volume 1

Greetings from our family at L. Garrabrant Farms!

Welcome to our very first edition of (hopefully) a regular quarterly newsletter. We are excited to share updates and information with you all throughout the year. We hope this newsletter finds you all warm and healthy and that 2022 is off to a good start.



*Loader stockpiling chicken litter to be spread this Spring,
read more on Page 2*

THE QUARTER IN REVIEW

Chicken Litter Stockpiling

During the month of January, the weather was ideal and the ground was frozen, allowing us to get trucks into and out of fields with chicken litter. We were able to get ALL of our litter stockpiled in preparation for spring spreading ahead of planting. Some years the right weather never comes, and the window of opportunity is limited or nonexistent. To have this completed and checked off the to-do list within the month was a huge accomplishment and allowed focus to be placed on other areas and projects on the farm.

As you can see in the picture on the cover page, we use a loader to “mound” up piles as they are dumped. This is considered a “Best Management Practice” and we take this extra step for various reasons:

1. The most obvious and unscientific reason is it creates a clean-looking, consolidated pile.
2. Having one peak or ridge allows for any excess moisture to drain off. The alternative, having individual piles from each load, creates multiple peaks and valleys. As a result, water will pool in the valleys which creates a desired environment for flies to lay their eggs and multiply as well as create variability within the manure due to the excess moisture
3. Due to the high concentration of nutrients in one spot, no crops will grow that year in that spot. Therefore, to reduce the area of impact on cropland, we mound piles up to create a tall pile on a smaller area to limit the dead zone.
4. With one continuous, combined pile of multiple truckloads of litter, the litter forms a crust. This crust “seals” the pile off and minimizes odor until the time of spreading.



Farm Website Debut

On January 29th, 2022 we launched our website, g-farms.com. We are excited to have an easily accessible platform to share updates and information with landowners, family, friends, and the general public. We hope that it serves as not only educational but interesting to our readers. Our ideas for the operation are endless, we are excited to take you along this journey with us.

Equipment Maintenance and Prep

After harvest and leading up to spring planting, a significant amount of effort is focused on preparing, repairing, maintaining and improving equipment that will be used during the spring season. This work is critical to ensuring up-time when it is time to complete field work. Through the pandemic, parts have been in limited stock at equipment dealers. For this reason, it has amplified the importance of planning ahead for what parts we may need and making sure equipment is in optimal condition to reduce in season down time and wait time for parts. This year we have no major rebuild projects to complete. Routine inspections, maintenance and wear part replacement is the extent of the work needing completed that we've found so far.



Farm Improvement Projects

Each year, in the time between completing harvest and spring field work, we aim to complete farm improvement projects. Projects vary in size based on what is needing completed. This year we are focusing on burning and burying trees and brush that were cleaned up and cleared out last year as well as getting a recently purchased farm cleaned up and cleared to ensure many years of growing a successful crop efficiently. We see having our own excavator and other tools used to complete projects as a major benefit to our operation and our landowners we serve. Have a project you would like done on your farm? Lets talk, We LOVE improving farms!



Tile Plow Purchase

In early February we had the opportunity to purchase a lightly used Wayne's Tile-Pro drainage tile plow. This will be a huge asset to our farm and a critical tool in our toolbox for improving farm land. We will now have the capability of installing drainage tile in small areas of a field all the way to installing a complete farm drainage system. This plow design is similar to commercial self propelled units, offering superior grading capabilities through varying conditions. This will be mounted to the rear of our John Deere 9200 tractor and controlled by SD drainage software using sub-inch accuracy RTK GPS signal.

LOOKING FORWARD

Current State of Commodity Markets

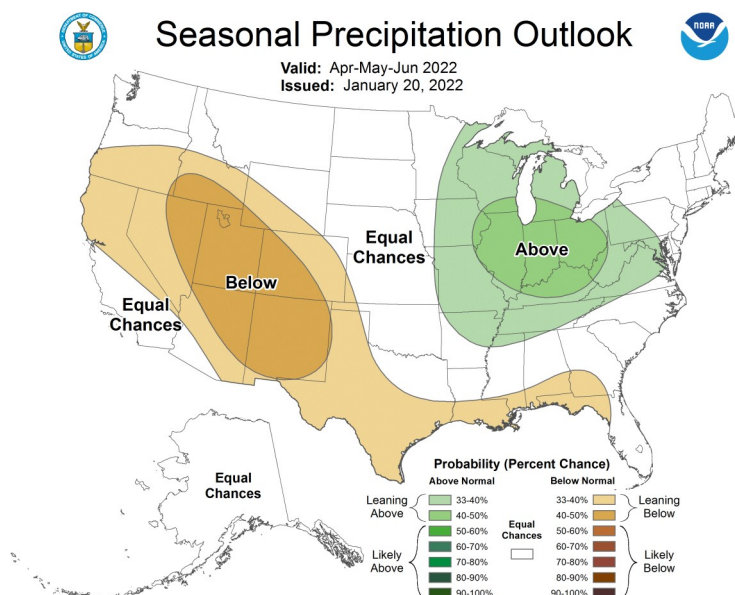
So far in 2022, the commodity markets have been very volatile but on an upward trend. This is a welcome event as crop input prices have in some cases, increased 300% over the last year as a result of the pandemic, global supply chain disruptions/ issues, and inflation. A key factor playing into the market volatility is the Russia/Ukraine uncertainty. Both are key producers of ag products used globally. Another driving factor is the drought that southern Brazil and Argentina are experiencing due to a La-Nina weather pattern. Something important to keep in mind is Brazil and Argentina's growing season are opposite to ours. As we are planting, they are harvesting. Now and for the next several weeks, crops there will be going through the critical reproductive growth stages; a huge determining factor in crop yield.

With the market volatility has come opportunity to forward contract for a profit, assuming timely planting, normal growing conditions, and average yields. We have been carefully watching the markets and re-evaluating our production budgets and expected yields, rewarding the market by forward contracting mostly soybeans and some corn for fall '22 harvest. It is our opinion that the corn market has some catching up to do to "buy" corn acres back from switching to soybeans due to increased income potential. We are still planning to keep our primarily 50/50 crop rotation.

Planting Weather Outlook

According to OSU's 2022-04 C.O.R.N. Newsletter, forecasters are predicting a moderate La-Nina weather pattern heading into Spring. For us here in Central Ohio, that means wetter than average conditions through the 2022 planting season. The figure attached to the right, published by NOAA, gives the predicted precipitation outlook for our typical field work months of April, May and June.

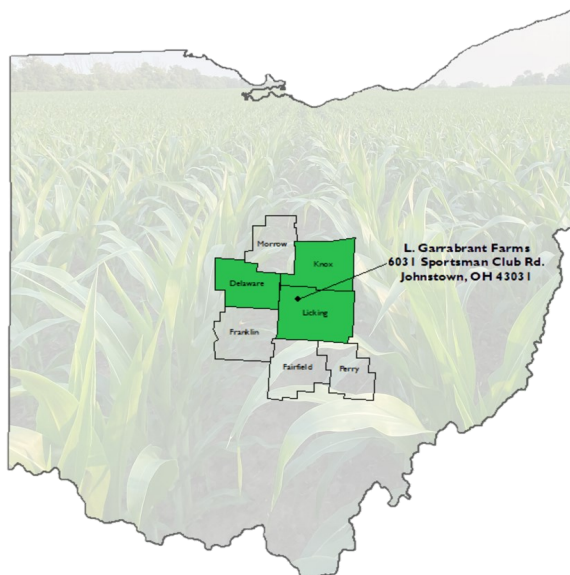
This prediction emphasizes the importance of making sure equipment is prepped and ready to go. Most likely our window of optimal field conditions for pre-planting work and planting of crops will be short and equipment will have to be pushed hard and for long hours if weather predictions are accurate.



Continuous Improvement

With each new growing season comes the opportunity reflect on previous growing seasons and take what you've learned, create a plan of what you want to improve and how you want to go about improving it and implement said plan. For our operation, we have several things we hope to improve on over the coming years. Ones of this years' main goals is to utilize the tools in our toolbox to their maximum potential, to grow a strong and healthy crop. Having our own sprayer allows us the opportunity to make multiple in season passes if deemed necessary to address various challenges throughout the growing season. We hope to intensely scout our crops this year and experiment with tissue testing growing crops regularly for use in diagnosing nutrient deficiencies, if present, and overall crop health.

Another goal we want to work towards is growing our farm by cultivating meaningful relationships and connections using various channels. The website, a quarterly newsletter and regularly updated social media pages are tools we hope will help aid in achieving growth of our farm. If you have anything you think we should add or have a subject you would like us to cover in a newsletter, please reach out to us and share your thoughts!



Farmland Investment

L. Garrabrant Farms, based in Northwest Licking County, is currently farming leased and owned land in Licking, Knox and Delaware Counties in Central Ohio. We are seeking and welcome the opportunity to grow our operations presence by leasing and/or purchasing farm land in these counties and the counties of Morrow, Franklin, Fairfield and Perry.

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- Planting of Spring Crops
- First Cutting Hay
- View From The Cab Series

Looking Forward

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- Crop Scouting and Tissue Sampling
- Summer Activities

2022 Volume 2

Greetings from our family at L. Garrabrant Farms!

Welcome to our second edition of our quarterly newsletter. We hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and well! It has been a challenging Spring to navigate with the wet weather and small windows of opportunity to get into the field but we have, and continue to make the most of it!

We are honored to announce that Luke was chosen as one of the two producers in DTN/Progressive Farmer, View From the Cab series. Read more on Page 2.

THE QUARTER IN REVIEW

Chicken Litter Spreading

As you read on throughout this newsletter, you will notice a very common, reoccurring theme: challenging weather. The challenging weather didn't discriminate against the chicken litter needing spread. We were finally able to get rolling spreading manure starting on April 29th. In 2021, we had all of the litter spreading completed heading in to May. No two years are the same and that statement remained true for this year compared to last! This really put the pressure on our equipment and our team members but fortunately both weathered the storm well with minimal downtime! Planters were not delayed though at any point due to waiting on litter to be spread, so we were thankful for that!

What does our spreading operation look like and how do we operate?

We run one tractor/spreader combo with our wheel loader. The tractor is a 2002 John Deere 9200 pulling a 2012 Tebbe HS220 spreader. The spreader holds just under a semi load, which can vary in weight depending on moisture of the litter (18-30 tons). The spreader is equipped with scales as well as a rate controller, which help us get the correct rate spread across the acreage. The rate controller speeds up and slows down the flow of material through the spreader based on our speed of travel. We use the scales to confirm that the flow gate is set properly with each load. With this setup, we are able to spread at a width of 55'-60' and travel anywhere from 6-10 mph. We are thoroughly impressed with the quality of spread job this spreader achieves.



Planting of Spring Crops

We are thankful to be able to report that all of our crops have been planted and are beginning to take off. Spring is especially busy for us with a small work force and so many tasks needing completed: from spreading manure, to spraying, to land prep and improvement projects, to planting, we always seem to have an endless list of tasks. We typically follow a 50/50 crop rotation on our row crop acres, meaning we have close to equal the amount of acres of corn and soybeans. Though that was our original plan as we set out this year, we ended up having to modify our plans as the wet weather hindered us from getting things planted timely. This year we ended up planting 33% of our total row crop acres to corn and 66% of row crop acres to soybeans. As with most years, we have some really good looking crops as well as some marginal looking crops that we considered replanting. The marginal corn and soybeans we considered replant on were due to lack of stand as a result of excess moisture.

We unintentionally experimented with no-tilling a farm of corn into a thick stand of cover crops. When we seeded the cover crops last fall, we created our seed blend and set our seeding rates based on trying to achieve a high tonnage this spring to bale as feed for our cattle. The intentions were good, the tonnage was most definitely there but the weather did not cooperate to allow us to get it mowed and baled in time to get the corn planted. We ended up no-tilling the corn into a 4 ft tall cover crop stand as seen in the picture below. Fortunately this is the direction we want to move in for soil health reasons and therefore we have our planter equipped to plant into such conditions. The technology really shined in these conditions. The row cleaners on the leading edge of the row unit helped windrow the biomass out of the way of the double disk openers, the hydraulic row downforce ensured that consistent depth and ground contact was achieved and the spiked closing wheels made sure the seed trench was sealed properly. We also feel that the electric motor driven seed meters were beneficial too in preventing the cover crop from throwing the drive chains of traditional chain driven meters off, ensuring a consistent seeding. We look forward to future expansion of cover crops and greater utilization of the technology our planter is equipped with.



Start of First Cutting Hay

Due to the less than favorable spring weather we were able to begin our first cutting of hay about a month late, on June 16th. Nonetheless, we were happy with the quality and yield from the first cutting. We have found it beneficial to have the option to make small square bales as well as round bales. This allows us flexibility for our customers and the quality of the hay in the field. In the last two years our hay enterprise has grown exponentially; this is by design through our cropping schedule as well as customers asking for custom harvest of their hay. Though hay making can be stressful and unpredictable, we enjoy the process (when things work as designed).

The Process...

The process begins with us mowing the hay and usually letting it lay and dry out the day it's mowed. From there we ted, the following day, typically in the morning and let it dry for the day. On day three we rake the hay into windrows in late morning, to be baled hopefully that same day, depending on the moisture. We randomly test the moisture of the bales in the field with a probe aiming for it to be 15% or less for us to continue baling. The correct moisture is critical to ensure the hay doesn't mold or heat up in storage. Behind the baler we pull a Steffen accumulator that groups them into 10 bale bundles (2 rows of 5, on flat), which are easily picked up by a skid loader equipped with a hay fork in the field and then loaded to a trailer.



Something New...

In years past we would hand stack our hay into a structure like a mow or a barn. However, this year to better utilize our system and increase efficiency we are trying out weather resistant tarps as means of storage. These tarps are allowing us to store more hay, utilizing loaders with grapples without needing the initial investment of a storage barn. So far we are impressed with the tarps and will continue using them this season for hay and straw and in coming years as we are told they are warranted to last three years.

View From the Cab

Young Ohio Farmer Carves Independent Path

5/8/2022 1:50 AM CDT



By Pamela Smith, Crops Technology Editor

Connect with Pamela:

@PamSmithDTN



DECATUR, Ill. (DTN) -- Luke Garbrabant calls himself a beginning farmer.

He can document his family's agricultural roots in east-central Ohio as far back as 1840 and across a minimum of three farming generations. But multi-generational farming titles don't really fit when you branch out as an independent operator.

He's hardly a beginner either -- Garbrabant rented his first land and machinery at age 13. Now 25, he has expanded operations to 700 acres of owned and leased ground where he grows corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. He tends a small beef herd that is sold as freezer beef. He owns and operates a poultry litter spreading business and also does some custom spraying.

A custom business of spreading chicken litter is just one of the agriculture enterprises Luke Garbrabant operates. (Photo courtesy of Luke Garbrabant)

DTN readers will have a chance to learn more about how Garbrabant is building a future in agriculture and negotiating the 2022 season through a feature called View From the Cab. The series follows two geographically different farming operations throughout the growing season.

Also participating in the project will be Marc Arnusch from Keenesburg, Colorado. Farming in the arid west should provide an interesting contrast to Garbrabant's current cool and soggy Midwest situation.

However, both farmers face similar challenges as urban and industrial interests compete for land. Both farmers

View from the Cab Series

We are honored to announce that Luke was chosen as one of the two producers in DTN/Progressive Farmer, View From the Cab series. Each week their Crops Technology Editor, Pamela reaches out to Luke and gets an update on the weeks' events. From there she takes what she has learned from Luke and Mark, the other farmer chosen for this series, and creates an article. The articles are posted on the DTN website each Sunday. This series is set to continue throughout 2022. If you are interested in reading more check out the DTN website or visit the link on our website.

LOOKING FORWARD

Improvements for 2023

Now that the planting of spring crops is complete and we are well into the 2022 growing season, we are really beginning to think of the changes we need to implement to make 2023 a better, more productive and efficient year. While it is fresh in our minds, we are making notes of the spring season's events and focusing on areas that we could have changed or improved to combat the wet weather and condensed windows of opportunity for field work. This winter we will review and analyze our notes, evaluate the economics of noted potential improvements and operational changes and either implement changes or brainstorm additional options. Being diverse and having multiple enterprises as well as experiencing significant growth year after year, running a smooth and successful business is an intricate and complex puzzle. Any and all changes have to be carefully evaluated to ensure balance and avoid disruption of the business as a whole.

Crop Scouting and Tissue Sampling

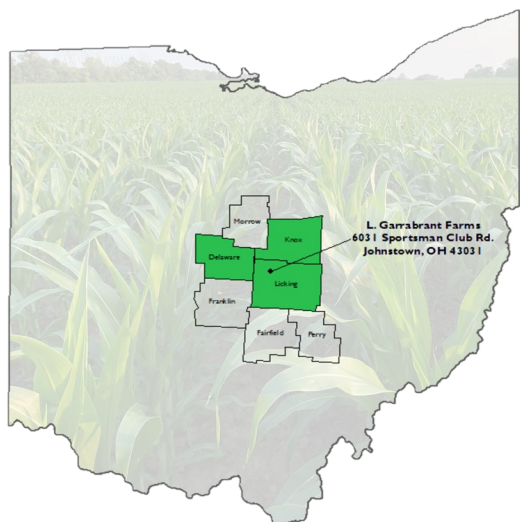
This past winter our seed salesman and agronomist brought up an opportunity for us to do some tissue sampling throughout the growing season. Agrigold is providing us with guidance, supplies, and recommendations to hopefully increase our yield potential as well as to learn more about our crops and soil and finding potential nutrient deficiencies throughout the growing season. In corn they have recommended that we pull tissue samples at 6 key milestones: 350, 750, 1150, 1400, 2000 and 2400 GDU's from planting. Certain GDUs are required for corn to reach growing stages as temperature affects corn growth rate. Its important to remember though that you cannot just rely on GDU for growth stage, often stress like flooding or drought will greatly affect the growth stages. In the chart to the right we have related the GDU with typical growth stages of the corn plant.

GDU	Growth Stage and Conditions
350	V3-V4 corn has 3 or 4 collars, the growing point is still below ground
750	V7-V8 corn has 7 or 8 collars, growing point is now above ground
1150	V13-V14 corn has 13 or 14 collars, ear/kernel size and kernel number has been determined
1400	(R1...) Reproduction stage, nearing pollination *about 50% of the total Nitrogen taken up by corn is taken up after R1.
2000	Start of grain fill
2500	Finishing grain fill

In addition to this project we are scouting our fields for disease and insect pressure as well as weed control issues. Some of these things we can't correct within the growing season, but we can make notes for what we think we should do this fall or next spring to ensure a healthy crop is raised.

Summer Activities

We have a summer full of activities planned; from finishing first cutting and starting second cutting hay, to wheat harvest and baling straw, to weed control and crop care and hay seeding in late July/early August, we will stay busy. As you can imagine pulling together a newsletter in the thick of the things you just read about is difficult; hence why you are receiving this a few weeks later than planned and after we got a couple inches of much needed rain recently. We are currently gearing up for wheat harvest; making sure the combine is inspected and repaired as well as trucks and equipment used to harvest the wheat and bale straw are ready to go too. We are looking forward to seeing how the wheat yields and what the quality of the grain is this year.



Farmland Investment

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- Growing Season Summary
- Fall Harvest Preparations

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- Fall Season
- Business as Usual: Achieving Growth
- Preparing for Growth in 2023

2022 Volume 3

Greetings from our family at L. Garrabrant Farms!

Welcome to our third edition of our quarterly newsletter. We hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and well! The cool, brisk air and sights and smells of fall are lingering as we put this newsletter together here in mid-September! You will notice a common theme in this edition: OPTIMISM and POSITIVITY! It has been a great quarter on the farm and we are excited to share with you all the latest updates.



THE QUARTER IN REVIEW

Wheat Harvest

This year we planted and harvested approximately 130 acres of wheat. In this part of the country we grow Soft Red Winter Wheat. SRW Wheat is planted in the fall, starting around the last week in September and is harvested around July 4th of the following year, as a general rule of thumb. Wheat harvest this year came a few days early much to our surprise, we began cutting wheat on June 29th! With the cooler, damper than usual spring, an early harvest wasn't really on our radar. Harvest went on without any major hiccups with equipment or weather. Yield, grain quality and prices of the wheat were also all above average to boot. In summary, 2022 was a good year on our farm for our wheat crop.



Growing Season Summary

On our farm and in the counties we operate in, we have been VERY fortunate and blessed with the weather we've received throughout this growing season. It seems like temperatures and rainfall have been near perfect throughout the entire summer. A major concern and critical point in the corn growth season is the weather during pollination, when pollen drops and fertilizes the potential harvestable kernels on each ear of corn. Pollination is arguably the second most important stage in the production process, behind planting and the stand establishment. Pollination normally occurs starting around mid-July and goes on for a few weeks. We worry about hot and dry temperatures during pollination, which can cause a slew of issues. Temperatures were very mild, typically in low to mid 80's as well as rainfall was slow and timely! We have yet to find any pollination issues in any of our fields while scouting.

We remain optimistic about our potential soybean crop. Planting was LATE... almost an entire month late in some cases. We FINALLY wrapped up soybean planting and replating on June 20th. We really were concerned for the final outcome of the soybean crop. Optimism has replaced the initial grim outlook recently as we continue to receive unusual late season rains. These late season rains are keeping the life in these soybeans as they continue to try and set and fill pods with soybeans.



Fall Harvest Preparations

Fall harvest prep is on the home stretch! No major issues have shown their ugly face yet during inspection and preparation of harvesting equipment. After a tough battle with major, costly breakdowns last year with our combine, we are hoping for some Grace this year. Parts availability hasn't been a major issue so far... the typical couple day wait period for uncommonly stocked parts has still been the case. Probably the most concerning supply issues we are currently seeing is tires. We are trying to plan ahead and keep critical common size tires on hand and prematurely replacing tires in some cases and keeping the old ones as spares.



LOOKING FORWARD



Fall Season

The general consensus in our household is that fall and fall harvest is our favorite time of the year! The cooler air, Buckeyes football, a glowing landscape of turning leaves, and reaping what we've sown are just a few of the reasons we love this season. We are only a couple of weeks away from kicking off our fall harvest. We are tentatively planning on an October 1st start date and most likely that will be in soybeans. That's a couple of weeks later than usual but that is because of the later planting. We have set some pretty lofty goals in terms of what we hope to accomplish this fall, above and beyond our harvest duties, in preparation for the 2023 growing season. We are confident in ourselves and our crew and hope to successfully carry out our plan.

Business as Usual: Achieving Growth

Central Ohio is a booming place; specifically western Licking County. Early in 2022, Intel announced their interest in building a semiconductor (chip) factory right here in Licking County. The phrase "Silicon Heartland" was soon coined and the landscape of our hometown will never be the same. It is no secret that a lot of productive agricultural land will be lost to development and that continuing to farm "here" will come with a new set of challenges. Land acquisition and moving equipment on public roadways from farm to farm are just few examples of the challenges we will encounter. We are up for the challenge and ready to not only survive but to thrive and continue to grow!

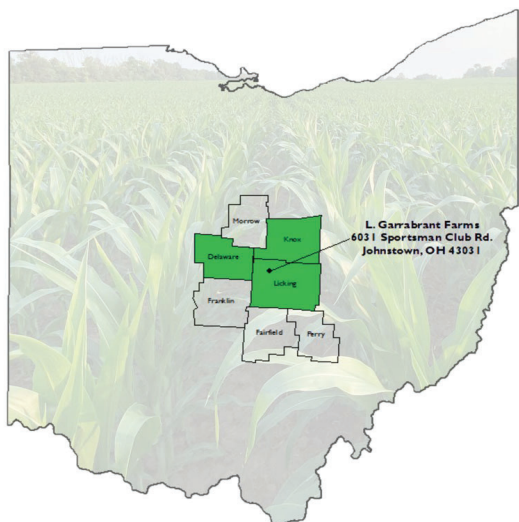
One thing that we want to make clear is that we are continuing to operate as "business as usual". Business as usual encompasses a lot of things; one of those things is achieving growth. In this quarter of 2022 we were able to connect with new landowners (many of which are reading this newsletter for the first time) and establish new relationships ahead of the 2023 growing season. We truly cherish each and every one of our landowners, new and existing alike, and are looking forward to what the 2023 growing season has in store! We are continuing to try and grow ahead of the 2023 crop year as well as future crop years. If you or anyone you know in the Licking, Knox, Delaware or Morrow county area have farmland that you are interested in leasing or selling please share our contact information as we would welcome the opportunity to continue cultivating new relationships!



Preparing for Growth in 2023

As noted in the previous segment, we have been fortunate enough to increase our acreage for 2023 and beyond. We firmly believe in the importance of efficiency and timeliness as well as implementing and utilizing current technology as part of fulfilling and carrying out our vision, mission and core values. Equipping ourselves with room to grow has allowed us to accomplish growth. Therefore, ahead of the 2023 growth season, we are analyzing our fleet of equipment and determining our most limiting factors to accommodating growth. So far we have updated our sprayer to a 2020 John Deere R4038 from our 2013 John Deere 4730. In addition, we updated our soybean planter to a Kinze 3650 12/23 row 15" planter. The Kinze will replace the John Deere 750 no-till drill. This will over double our planting capacity as well as allow us to be more efficient with our seed as the planter does a far superior job metering and singulating seed. The Kinze also folds up to be significantly narrower than the drill, helping the challenge of navigating our increasingly busy roadways. The sprayer upgrade comes packed with a number of updated technologies as well as a greater solution carrying capacity that will aid in increasing our efficiencies.

It is apparent that our weather is ever changing and we must evolve with it. Our windows of opportunity to perform field work are getting smaller and smaller. This is driving us to equip ourselves to be more efficient. Also on the list to add/change ahead of 2023 is adding another tractor, possibly two to the lineup as well as a vertical tillage tool to perform conservation tillage.



Farmland Investment

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2022 Volume 4

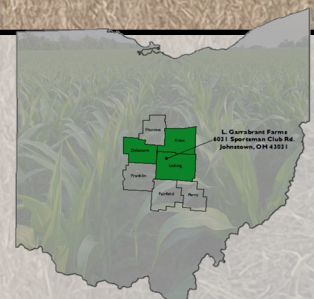
Greetings from our family at L. Garrabrant Farms!

Welcome to our fourth and final edition of our quarterly newsletter for 2022! We hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and well, especially after the recent arctic blast that hit central Ohio and much of the country around Christmas! The cool, brisk air is temporarily leaving this week, making room for unseasonably warm air as we ring in the New Year! Harvest was completed in record time this year, leaving us a couple weeks of nice weather to complete some additional fieldwork we hoped to complete heading into winter. Read further as we highlight this quarter on the farm!



Farmland Investment

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THE QUARTER IN REVIEW

FALL HARVEST RECAP

Our favorite season: fall harvest! Harvest kicked off on September 23rd where we started cutting soybeans for Luke's dad. We started harvesting our own soybeans on October 7th. Our beans were slow to mature due to later than usual planting and wet weather late in the growing season, keeping the plant alive and growing (a blessing!). Once we started into our beans, it went relatively quickly and smoothly with minimal down time. We pretty much harvested all the beans straight through, from start to finish, with the exception of a couple days of damp, drizzly weather. We switched the combine over to harvest corn while the weather passed through, allowing us to get a good start on corn harvest.

Corn harvest also went relatively quickly and smoothly once completing soybean harvest. Corn is considered dry at 15% moisture. Above that, it either needs to be dried on the farm or pay the buyer to dry it. Typically corn "here" gets harvested between 18-25% moisture. It typically doesn't get below that naturally due to cooler weather as we get later into the fall, therefore there is normally some level of drying charge incurred. This fall our corn was exceptionally WET, coming off at an average of 27% moisture. We believe it was partially due to the later planting but more so the lack of heat units throughout the growing season.



Weather

We wrapped up harvest in record time, finishing on November 8th. Much of this can be attributed to the favorable weather throughout the harvest season, though there were many of factors that played into the smooth harvest. This fall was DRY. We never truly were "rained out" once we started, which is very abnormal. We normally experience a handful of days of rain delays spread throughout the fall. As mentioned above, there was a brief period of foggy, damp weather, but we were able to work right through it. The dry weather was also very helpful in getting the harvested grain moved out of the field. We were pretty well able to take the trucks that haul the grain wherever they were needed in the field which rarely happens.

Breakdowns

Breakdowns are inevitable. Thankfully this year they were minor compared to last year, with only one minor setback early on in the season. We were thankful for the quick response and turnaround time from our John Deere dealer. Due to what we think was over lubrication, we blew a grease seal causing a main drive belt to slip. We were only down for two days, thankfully. Immediately following harvest, we had the combine inspected. Issues were noted and repairs were scheduled to be made, leaving the combine ready for our biggest harvest season yet in 2023!



FALL HARVEST RECAP CONTINUED

Harvest Efficiencies

Typically the bottleneck and weak link during harvest is getting the harvested grain away from the combine and out of the field in both corn and soybeans. In an effort to mitigate this, we rented a grain bin from a friend and fellow farmer. We used this bin to manage and store a portion of our soybean crop. Typically our soybeans go direct to market which is a two to three hour turn around at best, assuming no traffic or no lines at the grain terminal. This often times leaves the combine sitting for extended periods of time, not harvesting, waiting on trucks to return. The rented bin allowed us to quickly get our semi unloaded and back to the field to keep the combine harvesting. In corn, we hired a local truck to haul corn from the field to the grain terminal for us alongside our own truck. Those two strategies played out well and was a key factor in the timeliness of finishing harvest.



New Combine Operator

With an unexpected shortage in labor this fall, it was all hands on deck. Luke spent most of the fall driving the semi and keeping everything moving, leaving Paige (and often times Gracen too) needing to quickly learn to operate the combine. After a few hours in the seat with me alongside and a few questions over the phone, you would have never guessed this was Paige's first season at the helm. Paige harvested at least 1/3 of the total crop this year! When faced with adversity, we prevailed and still managed to complete harvest in record time!



POST HARVEST ACTIVITIES

Why Spray?

In the fall we spray for weeds that typically are tough to control in the spring once conditions are fit to be in the field. Marestalk is one of them and a very tough weed that we fight primarily in soybeans. It is a winter annual, meaning it will germinate and grow throughout the fall and winter months. Options are limited to control the weed in growing soybeans so therefore we take an aggressive approach to controlling it in the fall, after harvest.

Other weeds we are targeting are purple deadnettle, dandelion and annual blue grass. When the weather begins to warm in the spring, these weeds grow quickly, creating a thick mat that becomes tough to manage whether we are no-tilling or trying to work the ground.

Why Tillage?

As corn hybrids have become tougher and more resilient to various environmental factors, that has created new management challenges. The stalks and roots are stronger creating challenges in the Spring. The roots and stalks act as a "mop", retaining moisture and delaying planting. To mitigate this, we perform "conservation tillage" which leaves majority of the crop residue on top of the ground. It is a balancing act of pinning the residue down with soil to minimize blowing and disturbing the root balls allowing for better break down ahead of planting but yet not working the ground too aggressively, leaving the soil at risk of excessive erosion.



View From the Cab Wrapped Up

As they say, all good things eventually come to an end. That was how we felt when we wrapped up the View From The Cab series published by DTN/Progressive Farmer that we volunteered to participate in for 2022. This segment was almost like a diary of the 2022 growing season, interviewing each week and updating on the events that took place. We thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and will miss the weekly phone call to catch up with Pam Smith who wrote the segment. We look forward to looking back on these articles and reflecting on the year that was so intimately documented!

LOOKING FORWARD

Growing Our Family

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Gracen will be a big sister! We are expecting a baby boy in June 2023!

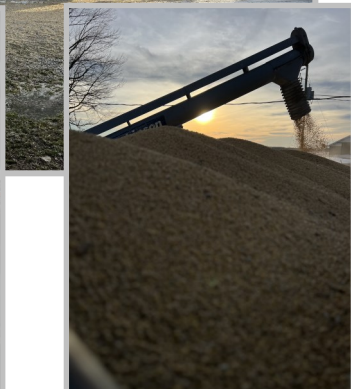


Farm Improvements/Tilling Projects

We have a lot of projects lined up for this winter that we are looking forward to! We are hoping for minimal rain and snow as well as temperatures in the upper teens to mid-20's after the new year to allow us to get busy installing tile and cleaning up tree lines, etc.

Hauling Soybeans

Over the coming weeks we will work on cleaning out our rented bin of soybeans and haul them to the grain terminal to be sold. We are excited to try out one of our new trucks we recently purchased! Crop prices continue to remain strong thankfully creating opportunity for profit and help buffer the severely inflated cost of production.



Assessing and Preparing Equipment for 2023

As we mentioned in the previous newsletter, we have been fortunate enough to increase our acreage for 2023 and therefore have been assessing and adjusting our equipment lineup to sustain the growth and continue to be positioned for new growth. Since the previous quarter's newsletter, we have added a third tractor, a sidedress applicator for corn, a larger grain cart, two newer semis and a service truck! All of those pieces of equipment will play a pivotal role in the farms growth, efficiency and success in 2023 and beyond. Parts also seem to flow in weekly in preparation of spring planting. We're going to rebuild the new bean planter from the ground up, rework a few things on the corn planter, perform routine maintenance and inspections on the tractors and sprayer and rebuild the sidedress applicator used to apply nitrogen to corn. We are making strides at being well equipped for the 2023 crop year and for that reason we are very excited!





IN THIS ISSUE

- 🐦 Greetings from L. Garrabrant Farms
- 🐦 The Quarter in Review
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 - Planting Preparation
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 - Soil Health
- 🐦 Looking Forward
 - Baby Update
 - Barn Restoration
 - Planting Plans

2023 Volume 5

Greetings from our family at L. Garrabrant Farms!

Welcome to our fifth and first edition of our quarterly newsletter for 2023! We hope you enjoyed our newsletters last year and are as excited as we are for this new year. We believe communication with our landowners, neighbors, friends and family is an integral part of a successful farming operation. If you ever have questions or feedback for us please reach out, we love hearing from you all!



2023 Volume 5

THE QUARTER IN REVIEW

Winter Weather in Review

For those of you reading this that reside in central Ohio, you can attest to the oddly mild winter we've had. We were rarely below freezing for an extended period of time and while it was wet all winter, we were never really swamped. December ended on a cold note with our white (and frigid) Christmas, followed by a very mild and wet January and February. From mid-march on we were fairly dry with the occasional weekly rain event.

The weather this winter didn't permit many field projects being able to be completed. No manure was able to be hauled into the fields and stockpiled on frozen ground whereas last year in the month of January, we were able to complete many of those tasks. While it was still quite soggy for drainage tile installation and other field projects, we still managed to at least make some progress on our intended projects to be completed. On our main drainage project, we were able to dig in the tile "mains" that all of the laterals will hook into. This will make finishing the project after fall harvest significantly easier.



Planting Preparation

Here at L. Garrabrant Farms we are gearing up for spring. With these recent warmer temperatures, we have felt the pressure to have equipment and personnel ready to go at a moments notice. We are hopeful that April will bring warm, dry weather and allow us to get our pre-planting field work done along with some seed in the ground.

This year we have been blessed with growth of our farm and the ability to upgrade some of our equipment to increase our efficiency and reliability in the field. We have significantly increased our planting capacity and are looking forward to getting in the field to utilize the tools that we've upgraded in hopefully planting our best crop yet!

The planting pass is arguably and understandably the most important pass we will make all year. A successful crop starts off with a well planted seed. If any of you have ever planted a garden, you know it is a multi step process: from creating the seed trench, to placing the seed, spacing the seeds accordingly and covering them back up. A planter is no different and in our case on our bean planter, we are planting 32 rows worth of seed, 40 feet wide at 5-6 mph. It is critical to give thorough inspection and proper maintenance to ensure it is operating at peak performance.

One thing we hope to improve upon for 2024 is building a shop large enough to fit our equipment in to work on. That has been an area of struggle for us as our current shop that we work out of is not large enough for most of our equipment, leaving us with only outdoor work area and navigating mother natures weather to find times suitable to do said work.



DRAINAGE PROJECTS

Artificial drainage has been used in agricultural systems since the mid 19th century. As you can imagine, these earlier projects were done by hand, using clay tile and various other materials to create underground channels for excess water to drain from farm fields. Today, we still do some of the work by hand but we are much better equipped for the job.

Our go to tool for large projects is our tile plow. You may recall us talking about it in last years newsletter. It mounts to the back of our tractor and consists of a knife shank that penetrates the ground, creating an underground path, followed by the tile “boot” that the tile runs through to get to the underground path. Proper grade is achieved using highly accurate GPS signal to control the plow’s pitch and slope. This tool makes quick work of tile installation in the right conditions.

We appreciate those that not only our employees that help install these systems but also our landowners and neighbors that cooperate with these projects. We are already seeing a major improvement in drainage from the farm pictured on the left.

SOIL HEALTH

Understanding and improving the quality of our soil has always been a priority for us. However, as you know, it can be difficult to manage every facet of the farm to the best of our abilities without outside help. This year we decided to bring in a highly recommended agronomist to develop a program for how we understand and manage our land.

The first step in this program is learning not only what is in our soil but how it reacts to different situations. To do this, we have begun sampling our farms using zones determined by Soil, Water, and Topography (SWAT) maps as well as bare ground imagery. The picture on the right are samples pulled from one of our 180 acre farms. This farm was broken into 5 zones, looking closely at the samples you could see how physical characteristics differed within each zone. The samples were then packaged and mailed to a lab. The results of these soil tests will allow us to perform more efficiently and improve our soil health and performance.



When we received our first soil test results it was something we had never seen before. Of course we are conditioned to the more conventional grid type sampling with a generic print out of the usual soil nutrient levels such as pH, phosphorus and potassium levels. These results included all the “old-school” information as well as numerous other calculations and ratings for a total of 48 different parameters measured. The results focused on five primary soil nutrient levels: organic matter, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and calcium. The levels of each of these critical constituents were averaged together to create an efficiency rating for the farm. Some other important values shared with us were the HT3 24 Hour CO2 Burst, which measures the CO2 levels in our soil, higher rates of CO2 respiration in the soil indicates a higher level of microbiological activity in the soil, the higher the level, the more greater potential for mineralization in the soil. Mineralization is critical, it is the process that nutrients become plant available and readily available for uptake.

Stay tuned as we go through this process this growing season. Soil sampling, analyzing, and planning was just the beginning of this program. We are now looking forward to carrying out those plans in field, completing in-season plant tissue tests, monitoring critical soil areas and hopefully seeing our efforts on the yield monitor this fall.

If you are reading this and are one of our landowners, we would be happy to share the specifics of your land’s soil health characteristics with you. Please reach out to us if you are interested.

LOOKING FORWARD

Baby Update

As we announced in our last issue, we are expecting a new helper on the farm this spring! Things have been going well and the baby is healthy and growing as expected. We will be eager to share his birth announcement with you in our June issue.



Barn Restoration

In 2023 we are focusing on revamping and improving our base of operations to better suite the needs of our growing farm. While doing so, we are trying to preserve the family history so that we can be reminded of our roots and family heritage on this land and in this industry. We are excited to have the opportunity to restore the bank barn on our home farm. This farm has been in our family for nearly a century now and as you can imagine, it has seen a lot of change over the years. The bank barn, we feel, is the staple of the farm. Over the years, the condition of the barn has declined, leaving it in severe disrepair as many bank barns are. Due to the danger and liability of the barn's condition, we were faced with the decision to either tear down or make significant repairs. We opted to save the barn and have enlisted a reputable contractor to raise the barn, construct a new foundation, repair any rotten or damaged structural beams and true up the frame of the barn. Work is supposed to begin sometime mid summer and be completed by the end of summer. We are very excited to see the results as there are many family memories that have been made in that barn. We hope that it will be around for another century and we can share our memories with future generations while creating new memories along the way.

Planting Plans

The late March and early April warm up's are always create a sense of urgency to get planters in the field. The National Weather Service is predicting a slightly below normal rainfall average across the state in April. Soil temperatures in our area are currently ranging in the low to mid 30's. If the extended long-range forecast is at all accurate it looks like this could be an early spring. Forecasts are showing an extended period of dry weather the first 3 weeks of April with above average temperatures.

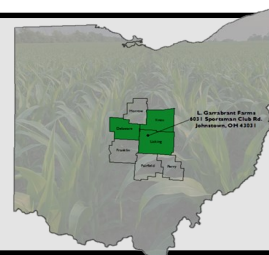
While we are pretty adamant about being patient and not planting crops until the calendar turns May, this may be the one spring we be aggressive and give early planting a try if the forecast pans out how they are predicting. Our biggest concern and the issue we fight the most is getting the seed planted and the crop out of the ground ahead of cold and wet weather. Ideally, soil temperatures for corn and soybean germination and growth is 50°F and up. In general, early planting will increase the yield potential of both corn and soybeans. However, there are risks and considerations that need to be made when planting in April. One major risk is cool rain or snow during the imbibition stage or first step of germination where the seed is absorbing water (24-48 hours after planting). If the water temperature is below 50F, the cells in the seed can be damaged and cause the seed to die or perform poorly. The outcome of widespread damage will force us to replant the field at a later date.

If we truly get a 3 week span of dry and warm weather in the 60's and 70's, we think the ground is dry enough to plant in time to give the seed a 10 day to 2 week period to get out of the ground before any concerns of cooler and damp weather arrive. A lot can change between now and then and like with most things in farming— it's a gamble!

We are actively monitoring our field conditions and current/predicted weather. We hope to be in the fields as soon as possible all while mitigating our risk of replant.

Farmland Investment

L. Garrabrant Farms, based in Northwest Licking County, is currently farming leased and owned land in Licking, Knox and Delaware Counties in Central Ohio. We are seeking and welcome the opportunity to grow our operations presence by leasing and/or purchasing farm land in these counties and the counties of Morrow, Franklin, Fairfield and Perry.





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2023 VOLUME 2

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- ~~HELP WANTED~~... WELCOME TO THE FARM
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- IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2024 PLANTING SEASON
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THE QUARTER IN REVIEW

HERO'S OR ZERO'S... PLANTING SEASON IN REVIEW

The 2023 planting season came quick, started early and happened in two separate waves this year. We kicked off the planting season on April 15th, starting by planting soybeans. From start to finish, we had the soybeans planted in 5 cumulative days with only a 3 day rain delay in-between. It was a gamble to start that early knowing typically what kind of weather April can bring in Ohio. As the segment headline states, we knew we would either look like "hero's" by making the choice to plant early or "zero's" for planting too early and having a crop failure. But, at the time, conditions were nearly perfect. All the planting prerequisite boxes were checked except the date on the calendar. But as Ecclesiastes 11:4-6 states "He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap." And with that in mind we took a giant leap of faith. As of now, our leap of faith appears to have been a good decision. We are absolutely thrilled with the early season progress the soybean crop has made. We talk more about this and other crop conditions later on in the newsletter.

Corn planting on the other hand didn't start until nearly a month after we finished planting soybeans on May 19th. We experienced a several week period of both cold and wet weather at the end of April and first couple weeks of May, preventing us from being in the fields. From start to finish, we had the corn planted in 12 days by May 31st. We should have been done much sooner than that but we fought gremlins in the corn planter all 12 days. Random hydraulic hoses, o-rings, hydraulic motors, computers, controllers and sensors on the planter; it seemed to be a new issue every day. Thankfully there were no major catastrophes and we had a lot of the parts we needed on hand when the issue arose. There were a lot of new fertilizer systems and components installed on the planter ahead of this planting season so some "bugs" and "kinks" were expected. All in all, we are very happy with the way the planter performed this year.



HELP-WANTED.. WELCOME TO THE FARM

We are extremely excited to announce the birth and arrival of the newest member of our family and our first baby boy! We would like you to meet Frederick Thomas Garrabrant. Fred was born on the evening of May 25th. Everything went very well and both Mom and Baby were rock-stars! Gracen took to the big sister role quickly and very much loves and cares for her little brother. We are adapting well to being a family of four now and are excited for all of the new adventures the future holds for our family!

EARLY GROWING SEASON CROP CARE

As we write this quarterly newsletter here at the end of June, we have completed most of the field work needing done following planting and prior to harvest. We have made our weed control application to our corn and have made our two weed control passes on our soybeans. Corn is about 80% sidedressed with the critical nitrogen fertilizer as well. We are currently waiting for the ground to dry back out from the late June rains to finish the last 140 acres.



CROP CONDITIONS

So far the 2023 crop year could be summarized using the words abnormal and/or extremes. We started off April abnormally warm and dry. That was followed by wet and abnormally cool weather. In-fact, our Knox county farms had a freeze warning issued on May 17th! That is extremely cold, abnormally late. We went from cool and wet to hot and VERY dry from the end of May through mid-June. We went nearly 5 weeks with no measurable rainfall. In general, we are very happy with how the corn and soybeans responded to the stress from the weather extremes.

Another unexpected factor we're navigating is the cloudy, overcast weather as a result of the Canadian wildfire smoke. We have had multiple days with air quality advisories issued and a thick haze throughout the day. This is a relatively new phenomenon that hasn't had much research completed on the effects of growing crops. Some say there could be benefits to growing crops while others claim a negative impact. Here are a few links to articles offering different predictions and suggestions of the effects:

- <https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/news/article/2023/06/29/canada-fire-smoke-may-affect-corn>
- <https://www.agweb.com/news/crops/corn/smoke-wildfires-creates-indirect-concerns-us-corn-crop>
- <https://www.pioneer.com/us/agronomy/wildfires-crop-yields.html>

As we write this newsletter at the end of June, corn is around the V5 growth stage and varies in height but averages somewhere around 18"-28" tall. In general, corn seems to be pretty variable in height and condition and we feel doesn't have the potential to be a record breaking crop. We would be happy with an average corn crop based on current conditions. Though the overall condition of soybeans in our area seems to be average to poor, we feel very excited and optimistic about the condition of our soybeans. We are in the early reproductive stages and most of our soybeans have canopied. We feel the potential is there for a personal record soybean crop.

LOOKING FORWARD

IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2024 PLANTING SEASON

The verdict is still out on what the final yield outcome will be on the early planted soybeans but as we write this newsletter today, we are very excited about the potential they have currently. With that being said, we want to set ourselves up to be ready to jump at the opportunity to plant soybeans again during an early April window. Whether that means trading our corn planter off for another planter that can plant both 15" soybeans and 30" corn and having two identical planters –or- keeping our current corn planter and trying 30" soybeans alongside our current soybean planter that plants 15" soybeans, we're weighing our options.

Another area we are looking into is how we can maximize efficiency with the labor pool we have. Traditionally in the spring, we are focused on spraying for weeds, applying pre-plant fertilizer, getting ground tilled and prepared for planting, all on top of trying to get crops planted in a timely manner. As you can imagine, trying to do all of those things at once leaves us running ourselves ragged at points. We're looking into ways we can adjust the timing of weed control and fertilizer applications to allow us to shift our focus more to just getting crops planted in a timely fashion. Those are two areas we are looking to improve and build upon for 2024.



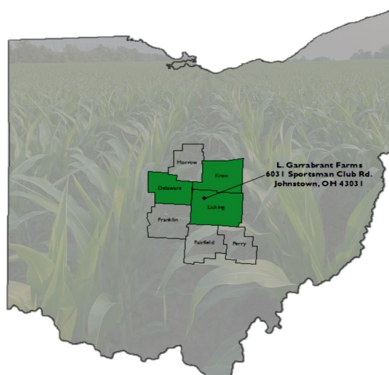
IN-SEASON CROP ACTIVITIES

With the hustle bustle of spring planting and early summer crop care passes being completed and transitioning to maintaining and keeping the crops on a good path to finish the crop out for harvest, we switch gears from being in a dead sprint to more of a slower paced marathon. There are still plenty of tasks to be completed but it's at a much more easily managed pace. We will be monitoring crop conditions for weed outbreaks, signs of nutrient deficiencies as well as signs of disease pressure.

We will also be making the last passes on the crop shortly. Those passes consist of applying foliar nutrients and biologicals to the plant to promote plant and soil health, strength and a symbiotic relationship between both plant and soil.

SUMMER PROJECTS

This summer is going to be a change in pace for us. On top of all the in season crop care passes and to do list that we explain below, last year we were making a lot of hay. At the end of last year we decided to discontinue the hay enterprise to focus on maximizing our spring crop's potential and the care and readiness of the associated equipment. Beyond our crop care duties, our summers now consist of cleaning up and performing maintenance on equipment used to get the crop planted and cared for this spring and early summer as well as prepare fall harvest equipment. We also spend a lot of time keeping field edges and waterways mowed and this summer we have a couple of drainage tile and tree cleanup projects to work on.



FARMLAND INVESTMENT

L. Garrabrant Farms, based in Northwest Licking County, is currently farming leased and owned land in Licking, Knox and Delaware Counties in Central Ohio. We are seeking and welcome the opportunity to grow our operations presence by leasing and/or purchasing farm land in these counties and the counties of Morrow, Franklin, Fairfield and Perry.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR TOPIC YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE US COVER IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER? PLEASE EMAIL US YOUR IDEAS!
LUKE@G-FARMS.COM OR PAIGE@G-FARMS.COM