Indiana Farm Management Tour
Montgomery and Putnam Counties
July 9 and 10, 2003

Wednesday July 9, 2003

1) Cain’s Homelike Farm — Montgomery County — Interview at 1:00 p.m. Mini-tours on continuous no-till farming, Conservation Reserve Program participation (habitat restoration), and Conservation Security Program participation (conservation planning) at 1:40 p.m.

Six or seven generations from now, what will our family members see when they farm this land? What can we do now to ensure that our family will be sustained for generations to come by farming this land? These are the kinds of forward-looking questions that have led the Cain family to adopt conservation farming practices in a big way. Tour participants will see and hear how the Cains are already reaping the benefits of long-term continuous no-till farming and habitat restoration. Related topics that will be highlighted are multi-use field borders, optimum conservation tillage systems, and optimal wildlife populations.

2) Sennett Cattle Company — Montgomery County — Interview at 3:00 p.m. Mini-tours on beef producer initiatives, marketing new beef products (including an opportunity for tour participants to taste samples of new beef products), and nutrition, health, and housing management in the beef finishing enterprise.

There is money to be made in the cattle business in Indiana, as shown by the Sennett Cattle Company, near Waynetown, Indiana. Clark Sennett, former president of the Indiana Beef Cattle Association; son Lance; and partner Chad Cass operate a commercial-sized cattle feeding and breeding operation. They market 1,200 to 1,500 head of fed cattle each year. In addition, they operate both a purebred Limousin cowherd and a commercial crossbred herd. Their success in the cattle business is based on a combination of astute marketing, relationship management, careful attention to costs, and dedicated management of animal health, physical attributes, and housing to insure high-yielding, high-quality beef.

3) Evening program at 7:30 p.m. “Are You Ready for a New Ag Venture?” Community Building, Putnam County Fairgrounds, State Road 231 North, Greencastle, IN

4) Legan Livestock and Grain — Putnam County — Interview at 8:00 a.m. Mini-tours on cropping alliances with neighbors, manure nutrient management, hog production technology, and pond development, wildlife habitat, and wetland establishment at 8:45 a.m.

Mark and Phyllis Legan have proven that a young couple can still establish a successful family farm with sound management, deep commitment, and alliances with other farmers. Starting in 1989 with a modest capital base, their business today is comprised of 775 acres of crop land and 700 sows producing 15,000 pigs per year. The tour will feature their “farm-with-a-neighbor” cropping alliance and their no-till cropping system. Using irrigation to apply nutrients produced in the hog operation and hog production technology will also be highlighted. Participants will have a special opportunity to tour a pond that was developed from a former hog lot into a recreational area complete with a wetland and wildlife habitat. The couple will share their leadership experiences at the local, state, and national levels.

5) McCammack Farms — Putnam County — Mini-tours on how to bring a son or daughter into the family farm business, tillage and residue management practices, double-cropping technology practices, and a Purdue corn yield test plot at 10:00 a.m. Interview at 11:30 a.m.

David, Janice, and Clayton McCammack produce corn, soybeans, and wheat in Putnam, Hendricks, and Morgan Counties, on which about 500 acres of soybeans are double-cropped. This fifth-generation grain farm is organized as a general partnership with David, his wife Janice, and son Clayton as general partners. When land has remained in a family for five generations, there is an obligation for each generation to make improvements. This long-term view has guided David as he has worked to improve tillage and residue management practices. The McCammacks are located just south of U.S. 40, so they are literally “on the line” for double-cropping wheat and soybeans. The reasons they double-crop extensively and the technology they use will be highlighted. Phil DeVillez, Purdue Agronomist, will discuss Purdue’s corn performance testing program.

6) Lunch will be served at 12 Noon at the McCammack Farm. Chris Hurt, Extension Marketing Specialist at Purdue University, will provide an update on the outlook for grains, soybeans, and livestock immediately after lunch is served.

7) White Oak Farms — Putnam County — Interview at 2:00 p.m. Mini-tours on cropland management and the economies of tile drainage, grain merchandising, and pork production and the feed mill operations at 2:45 p.m.

One essential for a successful business is having satisfied customers. How are you doing this on your farm? The Mann family has developed several strategies for providing what their customers want — whether that customer is a landowner, grain buyer, or hog packer. Another essential for continued business success is developing the next generation of management. Working one son or daughter into the management of a farm business can create several challenges. But what do you do when there are four sons who want to return to the farm? The visit to White Oak Farms will allow participants to explore how the Manns have accomplished this task and also the payoff from drainage investments, how record data from the crop and hog enterprises are used to improve efficiency, their approach to technology adoption, and why they are growing milo.

HOTELS: Walden Inn, Greencastle, IN (765) 653-2761.

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