

Family enterprise consisting of 3,000 acres of corn, soybean and wheat production.



Grower: Paul Loyer (above, center)

Location: Marion, Ohio

Retail Facility: Morral Companies

Crop Advisor: Brandon McClure

Retailer Location: Morral, Ohio

What Paul says about the 4Rs: "The 4R program is something we had already been doing on our farm. It allows us to be a better steward of the land we intend to have provide for our families for generations to come. We believe that the implementation of these practices has not only allowed for us to better manage our nutrients, but be more profitable in doing so"

What Brandon says about the 4Rs: "The 4R program is a great way for us to help people understand what we are doing to keep agriculture successful and safe. That's true for those of us involved directly as well as for people who may reside near it and for all those who may not realize how they are affected by agriculture. Even though we understand that we are doing things in a safe and productive way, others may not. If we do not highlight what we are doing to keep agriculture safe and bountiful, the very population for whom we are producing healthier food and other products may very well limit where we can go in the future with agriculture."

CROPPING SYSTEM OBJECTIVES:

Increase farm profitability while remaining good stewards of the family's land to maintain its value for future generations, and reduce the potential runoff of nutrients to non-target areas.

ADVOCATE PROFILE

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED ON THE FARM:

- Grid soil sample and variable rate fertilizer application to apply the right rate in the right place
- Foliar fertilizers when possible to make small corrections to apply in the right place at the right time
- Band apply row starters on corn to maximize early season nutrient uptake to reduce over-application of broadcast applied nutrients
- Perform post-season analysis of previous season management decisions
- Use nitrogen stabilizer to help prevent losses of nitrogen to the environment
- GPS used for planting, applications and tillage
- Tissue testing is performed on random fields throughout the year to make sure the management practices we are using are working correctly
- Use of grassed waterways and buffers for surface water runoff
- Minimum-tillage implemented to reduce erosion

FORMS OF NUTRIENTS APPLIED:

11-52-0, 0-0-62, 28-0-0, 7-18-6 (2x2)

Economic Measure of Savings: In most cases, the implemented practices have resulted in reduced total nutrient input and increased yields.