

## Grower Files

Chuck Hesse, *Janesville, Iowa*



# Support counts when the weather turns

When it rains, it pours. Chuck Hesse and the staff at AgVantage FS in Janesville, Iowa, know that all too well. Chuck, wife Lisa and their two daughters, Allison, 13, and Andrea, 11, raise corn, soybeans and nursery pigs on their family farm near Cedar Falls, Iowa. Chuck's brother, Bill, and their dad, Vernon, also farm separately, but they all help each other during busy times.

With major flooding during the growing season, spring was an especially tough one. "I had to replant portions of six different fields, ranging from just a couple of acres to 30 acres of a 90-acre field. The guys at FS were very helpful in finding replant seed at such a late date," says Chuck.

Usually growers in the area are looking for drought tolerance in corn and soybeans, but this year, some fields were under water off and on for a month and a half. "We had an exorbitant amount of rain from the flood, so our varieties aren't standing as well. For next season, we'll kind of be starting from scratch," says crop specialist Kirk Tanner. "We have very high-producing soils in the bottoms and stress-prone soils in other areas. Growers float a pretty wide range on yield goals, and therefore, they change varieties they choose. On droughty soils they look for 135 to 150 bushel on corn; on better soils, they look for 180 upwards to 210 or 220. In beans, on droughty, more stressful soils, they can get 45 to 50 bushel and on the higher-quality soils 60 to 65 bushel. My customers have a choice and the potential with FS Seed for big yields. There's a wide range in that line that can perform in such varied conditions."

Chuck uses technology to help him manage his soils. "Some of the land that we farm has extremely variable soil types. I have found it very beneficial to utilize FS grid mapping and variable-rate technology applications of fertilizer. The more uniform and better-producing farms also benefit from FS VRT programs," he says.

He is enrolled in the company's seed and crop protection rebate program, and uses AgVantage FS as a useful source of information. "They have very good test plots in the local area and lots of yield data to look at," he says.

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