

Season Issue:  
Summer 2018

# The Ridgeline Review

## Ridgeline Farm

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*Keeping connected to the action at the farm.*

## Harvest is Back!

At the beginning of August we were greeted with warm weather and the start of another harvest season. To prepare we held our annual harvest kick-off meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup>. We started the meeting by reviewing safety hazards that arise during the fall and with harvest equipment. Refreshers are always beneficial. Following this we had a group discussion on operations and equipment use. Taking time to calmly talk about things in the shop BEFORE the action gets started saves potential time and stress once we are in the field.



On August 8<sup>th</sup> the combines started harvesting on the wheat fields. With the fresh smell in the air and the colors on the horizon, it is an event that brings an exciting feeling each year. The reality of dusty hot work follows shortly! Pictured above is the first of many suppers in the field.

## Watching the Weather

There are a lot of things that a producer can control on their farm, but there are a lot of things they cannot. One of the biggest things out of our control is the weather.

Hail is one of those weather risks. This year we had the most hail damage that Tim has seen in his farming career. In June we had to reseed 115 acres of soybeans due to hail damage. On August 4<sup>th</sup> a small but severe thunderstorm containing hail passed through the middle of our farm. The crops on over two thirds of the cropland sustained yield reducing damage. Some damage was light and some was severe. We will not know the full impact to yield or quality until the crops are harvested. Some of the economic losses will be offset by hail insurance.



*This picture is from one of our corn fields. The leaves are shredded and the stock and ears have hail impact damage.*

# Women Caring For The Land

On August 8<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth had an opportunity to attend a local event called Women Caring for the Land which was organized by Pheasants Forever, FSA, USDA, and NDSU Extension. This was a gathering for women with an agenda of group conversations, presentations, and a tour of a local family run stock farm. Discussion topics revolved around various land conservation practices, soil education, and information on many agriculture resources that are available to producers and land owners. The stock farm is co-owned by one of the women in the group. During the tour everyone was given hands-on education on cover crop practices used in some of their fields. We even had a chance to visit some pasture land and release live flea beetles on noxious weeds that are showing up. This is a biological practice that is used for weed control and was interesting to see in action.



Combines and grain cart on fresh cut wheat stubble.



Eddie and Herlof visiting about the wheat.



Elizabeth (pictured front row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left) with the group touring fields and pasture lands.

Ridgeline Farm sees the importance of land conservation and soil health, and incorporates practices throughout the year to help manage them. This event was a great opportunity for Elizabeth. There was a lot of information and a group of women are great at visiting and sharing ideas!

# Medical Update

In our previous newsletter we provided information about Scott's brain cancer diagnosis and treatment plan. Three months later we are happy to report that everything is on schedule and looking great. In June Scott started his chemotherapy treatment. This plan consists of 6 rounds of pill sets that can all be taken from home. Each round is scheduled to take between 6-8 weeks and he visits Mayo Clinic between each set to ensure that everything is going well. This month Scott started "round 2" just in time for harvest to keep him active. There are side effects to work around but the road after this hurdle looks bright. Thank you again for all of the support!

# Internet Options

The Ridgeline Review is a fun piece that we enjoy sharing, but there is a lot more activity that happens at the farm than can fit in a quarterly publication. To keep up with activity on the go with Scott, we invite you to visit our web site [www.ridgelinefarm.org](http://www.ridgelinefarm.org). Scott is also active on Twitter. You can follow him at @scotthuso.



Herlof helping clean the eyewash station.



Elizabeth, Herlof, Scott, Chase, and Wyatt attending a local Anhydrous Ammonia safety training.