Jeppesen Farms
Soil Health Practices
Summary

I was recently involved in your Farming Program. In this three-year program I was made more aware of some of the effects and procedures of my farming practices. I installed a Lesa system on one tower of my linear. I was made more aware of my organic matter from my farming practice. And my farming input costs.

LESA. Low Energy Spray Application. I have a linear that waters a 200-acre field. The field is split 80 acres and 120 acres where wheat and potatoes are grown. The first year we installed the Lesa system I applied water to the crops. The Lesa system put down half as much water then the rest of the linear. Visually and digging with a shovel that amount of water was sufficient to grow a great crop. When we harvested the crops, the wheat was 4 bushels an acre less than the standard irrigation practice on 125-bushel wheat crop. In the potatoes we noticed the crop was about equal. On the next year we replaced the nozzles to put the same amount of water on the crops as the rest of the irrigation system. After running the system that way we noticed that that amount of water applied by the Lesa

system was too much resulting in water runoff. We nozzled back down half way through the growing season. I nozzled back down to help with the water runoff. At harvest time on the second year we noticed crops were about the same. I was impressed with the water savings and the Lesa system. Going into the next year I plan on raising the Lesa system from 18 inches to around 30 inches from the ground and applying around 60°/o of the water. I am excited to see how this modification works for us for this next year.

No till practice was also done on my farm. Due to growing potatoes it was not a true no till but a minimum till practice. After harvesting potatoes, we go in and work the ground with some deep tillage and leveling off the dirt as flat as we can make it. Then in the spring instead of working the ground we no till plant right into the ground. As a result, we save moisture, fuel and equipment usage. I have also seen a better more even stand on the grain and better yields. I have noticed if we receive high winds after planting we see more soil erosion compared to conventional planting. I also do no till on my dry farms. I feel like on the dry land the no till practice works well minus trying to chemically kill weeds. I am learning and trying different chemicals and practices to combat weeds. I plan on trying to incorporate cover crops into my practice. I would like to no till plant into the grain stubble and grow a cover crop until later in the fall. Resulting in more organic matter in the soil. There are always changes in farming to make things more efficient and better. I am looking forward to trying some of these practices and see what I can do to make my farm better for the future.