



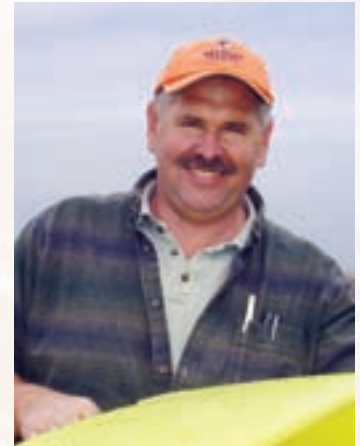
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Best Practices: An Agronomist's Perspective

"The 'secret' to successful continuous corn production isn't voodoo—it's vigilant management practices across the operation. Choosing the right ground, the right hybrids and traits, the right treatment program, etc., all are critical to corn-on-corn success. In my experience, when a farmer follows a sound corn-on-corn management strategy, the economic payoffs are real."

Jerry Hartsock, Cutting Edge Consulting & Research,
a leading agronomic services company, Geneseo, IL



Here is agronomist Jerry Hartsock's systems approach to prioritizing the basics involved with successful corn-on-corn production:

1. Select your better producing and best fertility fields first, then expand to other farms if successful.
2. Aggressive fall tillage to cut up and mix residue into the soil maximizes breakdown of plant tissues and utilizes the warming effects of tillage at planting time. Strip till is an option for some select situations and managers. Nitrogen or other products may need to be applied before fall tillage to break down late-harvested fields or excessive amounts of residue.
3. Multiple forms of nitrogen applied at different times.

Example #1: Fall anhydrous (2/3 of total) plus N-Serve® followed by 28% nitrogen (1/3 of total) applied pre-emergent (post plant or incorporated)



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Example #2: 28% nitrogen applied PPI or pre-emergent (2/3 of total) followed by 1/3 of total nitrogen side-dressed on 12-24" tall corn (28% or anhydrous)

Top Choice: Fall anhydrous + N-Serve®, starter fertilizer (10-34-0-Zn) at plant, 28% pre-emergent

4. Know your hybrid's offensive and defensive abilities. There are excellent triple-stack corn variety choices and poor ones. Corn rootworm and European corn borer control are a must! Check YieldGard® trait varieties to combat these pests. Roundup® herbicides are excellent at helping reduce herbicide stress and controlling weeds.
5. Seed treatments to aid in stand establishment and seedling disease prevention. Security™ seed treatment contains Maxim® + Apron® + Poncho® 250 + Trilex®.
6. Plant with impeccable standards: 5 mph + 2" deep to help with uniform emergence, spacing between plants and maximizing root masses. Demand the best warm and cold germs of your selected seed varieties.
7. Overcoming the allelopathic properties being excreted by previous corn residue is an attempt to stifle new corn growth. Good fertility, tillage and early rainfall are crucial to winning this battle early in a corn plant's life.
8. Foliar fungicides are a must in many continuous corn production systems. If managed properly (hybrids, product, timing), expect a bushel of corn return for every dollar invested.
9. Additional management practices:
 - a. Spring is for a tillage pass to prepare the seedbed and then planting.
 - b. Spring is not for trips to apply anhydrous or early chemical programs which lead to season-long, yield-robbing compaction.
 - c. Control weeds, including volunteer corn.
 - d. Don't skimp on N-P-K and micronutrients.
 - e. Successful corn producers do not cut corners and are timely in performing their field operations.
 - f. Not all hybrids make the transition to continuous situations.



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