Jobman Farms' 3-Year Success Story with N-Drip

At a Glance

Grower
Andy and David Jobman, Jobman Farms

Field size
22 acres

Crop
2021 Soybean
2022 Corn
2023 Corn

Water source
Well

Jobman Farms, soybean field, irrigated with N-Drip. (Photo: Martin Hobelman)

	June 2021 Soybean →			June 2022 Corn →			June 2023 Corn
	N-Drip	Flood	%	N-Drip	Flood	%	N-Drip*
Irrigation (AF/acre)	1.53	3.05	-50%	1.4	2.40	-42%	1.6
Yield (Bushel/AF)	89.5	72	+24%	273	231	+18%	262
Energy** (kWh/acre)	500	925	-46%	512	895	-43%	567

* There was no control field this season
** Energy usage is estimated based on the University of Nebraska calculator, https://water.unl.edu/documents/dollar%20savings%20from%20irrigating%20lessV02.xls

Background

Jobman Farms is a fifth-generation, family-owned and operated farm located in Gothenburg, Nebraska. It is run by brothers Andy and David Jobman and their dad Terry. David Jobman, who is Assistant Manager at Jobman Farms, has a degree in Mechanized Systems Management. Andy Jobman serves as an agronomist and crop consultant at Jobman Agronomics. Additionally, Andy holds the positions of past president and current chairman of the Nebraska Corn Growers Association. Jobman Farms is a corn grower for Frito-Lay.

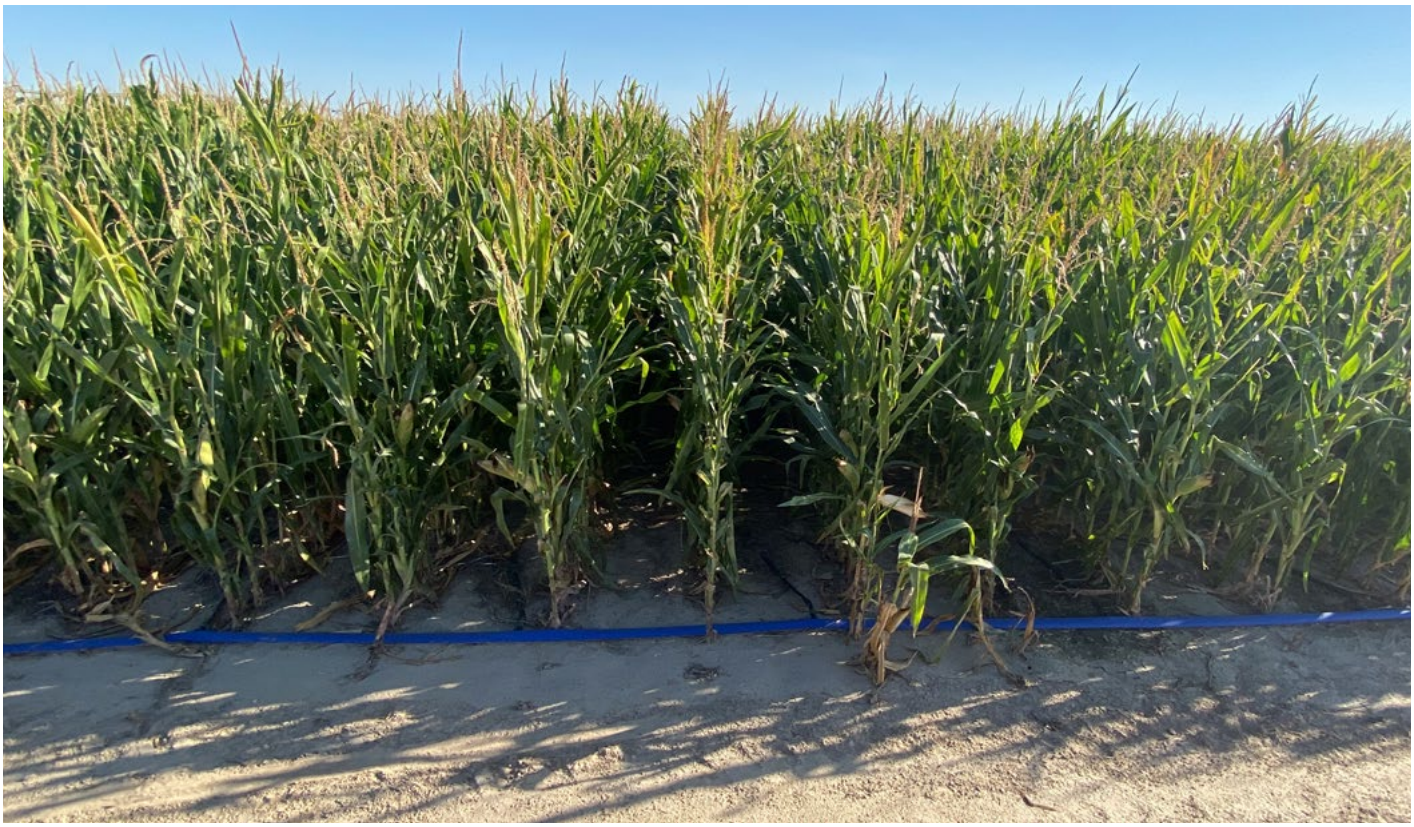
Challenge

Eager to reduce their farm's water irrigation needs, Jobman Farms opted to pilot N-Drip as part of the PepsiCo Positive (pep+) strategy. Under this partnership, PepsiCo aims to integrate regenerative agriculture practices, such as N-Drip, into the PepsiCo global supply chain, with the goal of sustainably sourcing 100% of their key crops by 2030.

Solution

In 2021, Jobman Farms converted 22 acres of flood-irrigated fields to N-Drip'a micro-irrigation solution for soybeans. The implementation included N-Drip's decision-making support tool for irrigation and fertilization, known as N-Drip Connect which provided valuable insights accompanied with ongoing support from N-Drip's team of professionals. Since its initial installation, Jobman Farms has completed a successful three-year crop rotation of soy-corn-corn.

(Photo: Martin Hobelman)



Results

Overall, with N-Drip, the Jobmans were able to reduce their AF per acre pumping costs by 40%, water usage by 39%, increase their yields by 19% and field revenue by 25%. The simplicity and efficiency of operating the N-Drip system saved them about 50% of the normal working hours required to operate their standard flood field.

> By the end of the season, we saw big savings not only in time, but also in labor. We saw improved yield because we were watering the field more efficiently. And the N-Drip team was here to help us set up the system and answer our questions.“ - Andy Jobman

> We just finished our third year with the N-Drip system. We’ve had great water-use efficiency. Fertilizer uniformity has been excellent and our yield maps have shown it. - David Jobman

Looking Forward

After three successful years of using the N-Drip System on their farm, Jobman Farms plans to continue leveraging the benefits of N-Drip. The farm recently installed N-Drip on another 57-acre field and is entering its fourth season with the N-Drip system this year.

Why flood, when you can N-Drip!

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