

## Here are the highlights of one growing cycle

### August/September/October (harvest season)

- Planning which varieties of crops to plant
  - Research and select varieties with our seed dealer
- Which fields will be planted to which crop (if wheat, plant that fall)
- Take soil samples and apply fertilizer according to the recommendations
  - Ricketts Farm service takes samples and provides recs
- Apply fall chemical to protect against winter annual weeds
  - Ricketts do all our spraying and fertilizer applications
- Plant a cover crop to protect the soil over the winter and hold back weeds in the spring

### November-March (winter season)

- Service and prepare equipment before planting season
  - We do some work other work is done by local equipment dealers
- Clear brush/maintain edges of fields before spring while the ground is frozen
- Do any soil conservation work (terraces, waterways) on fields if weather allows
  - Conservation structures would be designed by the local NRCS office and we would build them
- Have seed corn delivered and organized for planting
- Fertilize wheat if any is planted
- Attend meetings and do research to learn about new technology and techniques
- Do margin analysis and budgeting

### April/May (planting season)

- Do any tillage to prepare ground for planting
- Plant corn
- Spray corn and bean ground for weeds and insects
- Plant beans

### June/July/August (growing season)

- Prepare combine for wheat harvest
- Service and clean other spring equipment after planting season is completed
- Scout corn and beans weekly for weeds and insects
- Spray crops for weeds and insects if needed
- Harvest wheat crop
- Plant beans after wheat if timing is right
- Spray wheat stubble for weeds
- Apply more Nitrogen fertilizer to corn
- Build any soil conservation structures (terraces/waterways) if planned on wheat stubble
- Pick sweet corn
- Haul wheat crop to town to make room for fall harvest

- Plant cover crops on wheat stubble that isn't in double crop beans
- Prepare combine, trucks, augers, corn dryer and other harvest equipment for fall harvest
- Mow road banks and around edges of fields to make sure that brush doesn't grow

September/October/November (harvest season)

- Setup augers, dryer and bins for corn drying
- Pick corn until beans are ready
- Cut beans
- Finish corn
- Do any fall tillage that is needed
- Build any soil conservation structures that haven't been completed
- Make notes of successes and failures of the crop year

December-August

- Check bins regularly to make sure that stored crop is still in good condition
- Haul crop as it is sold
- Clean and service equipment for storage until needed again