



Peterson Farms

End of the year newsletter



Our mission at Peterson Farms is to produce agricultural products using systems that reflect a balance between best cost and sustainability.

We will distinguish ourselves by continuously improving the productivity and viability of the land.

Looking Back on 2015

With 2015 coming to end, we've taken some time here at Peterson Farms to reflect upon the past year. There have been a lot of changes, improvements and challenges for us this year.

Earlier this year, we mourned the loss of William "Bill" Peterson, father and grandfather. He gave us all the love of the land and of family and showed us how we all needed to work together. Most importantly he led by example, and that's something that we try to live here at Peterson Farms every day.

Bill was known as a life-long learner who was open to new techniques and tools to improve Peterson Farms. This is a legacy we all strive to continue. Even though his loss has left a hole in our hearts, we have buckled down and are honoring his memory by continuing to improve our operation.

In 2015, we completed a series of upgrades to our Loretto grain center. This task was started in 2013, and seeing it fully operational has been exciting. These upgrades are important to our operation, helping us to be timely during the busy harvest season. The grain coming from this center is better quality too, thanks to the two new gentle "mix-flow" dryers and an aspirated cleaning system.

We also upgraded our line of equipment. One exciting example is new individual spray nozzle controls to our JD4045R application equipment. With the individual nozzle control our application is more even and better controlled. It's so important not to be wasteful with inputs, not only for cost-savings but also for environmental and stewardship reasons.

To get a better view of our fields, we added a drone to our fleet. This new technology has been really exciting to implement on our operation. We've been using it to check the middle of large fields and see how the crops are looking there. By doing this we have identified areas of weak production within fields and have been able to ground truth these problems. And we've also been able to identify strong producing areas and ground truth them as well, all in the interest of increased production and efficiency.

This year we completed harvest November 18th and are pleased to report that 2015 was our highest-yielding corn year ever! Even

though production has been good, like most grain farmers we're focused on dealing with challenging times as grain prices are down. We are optimistic that the markets will improve and we have measures in place to weather this down time.

As the year winds up we've been able to reflect on a few successes. We've been humbled to receive a few recognitions in agriculture, including the 2015 Top Producer of the Year award, which resulted in Peterson Farms being featured in a recent issue of Top Producer magazine. We were also recognized as the 2015 Kentucky No-Till Wheat Production Champion.

As we close this year and look toward next, we're looking forward to continuing to face the challenges of agriculture while always working to improve our land and operations for the next generation.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Improving Our Fields and Yields

The soil that we farm is so important to us. It really is our livelihood. At Peterson Farms, we enjoy working with individual fields to bring each one to its fullest potential. Through crop rotation we've able to increase biodiversity. We also use cover crops wherever it makes sense and we've seen great benefits from this as well.

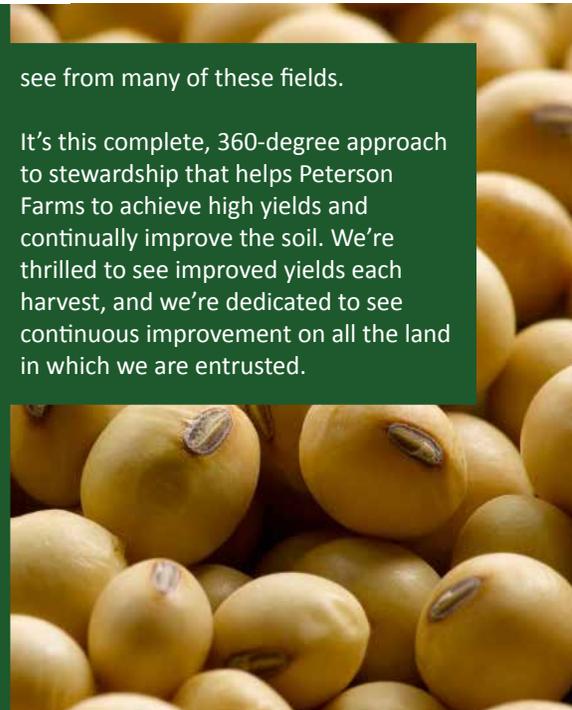
But sometimes these production practices aren't enough. In 2009, one of our fields was producing below average yields. We knew there was more potential in this area, and we carefully considered options for improvements. Then we added tile drainage and surface drainage improvements. After these changes, this

field was one of our top-five yielding corn fields in 2015!

We appreciate that our landowners trust us to take these steps to improve their land, it benefits both of us greatly. Improvements don't always need additions to fields. We also have a staff with ag business background that help us improve our yields. Scott Ebelhar serves as our chief agronomist. His input throughout the year really shows when it's time to harvest our crop. We also have an Inventory/Field Applications Manager, Keene Clements, who helps us to make buying and application decisions for our inputs. Again without his expertise, we wouldn't have the yields that we

see from many of these fields.

It's this complete, 360-degree approach to stewardship that helps Peterson Farms to achieve high yields and continually improve the soil. We're thrilled to see improved yields each harvest, and we're dedicated to see continuous improvement on all the land in which we are entrusted.



Employee Spotlight

There are many people at Peterson Farms who come together to make what we do possible. We'd like recognize a few of our employees for their outstanding work this year.



Brandon Lampkin

Operations Leader - 5 ½ years

Brandon is very involved with the spraying, seeding and land surveying on Peterson Farms. He is our on-farm technology guru, as he is very savvy with many of the new technologies we are using now. When not leading an operation at Peterson Farms, Brandon can be found spending time hunting or shooting. He and his wife Monique have two children. It's obvious to all of us that Brandon truly enjoys agriculture and the technology that is becoming more a part of our industry. And we're all thankful that he's happy to teach others how to use it!



Jeff Bartley

Critical Operation Manager - 6 ½ years

Jeff manages our truck logistics during harvest, plants corn, and conducts drainage and construction projects. He does all of this with a great attitude and energy. We admire Jeff both on and off the farm. Jeff and his wife Janine are foster parents. Over the years, they have given a loving home to more than 40 foster children. In his spare time he enjoys cabinet making and concrete work.



Sharing Our Story

We keep busy around the farm, but also like to take some time to share our story with our farmer colleagues. This year we had two great speaking opportunities. William O. Peterson presented at the International Farm Management Association meeting in Canada. And Bernard presented at the Farm Business Systems meeting and has several other invitations for speaking.

At Peterson Farms we know that we need to provide learning and training opportunities for all of our team members. Recently, we attended a leadership seminar with several of our team members. Safety is so important to us as well and we've taken advantage of several safety trainings this year including one co-hosted by a nearby farm. Peterson Farms also holds quarterly meetings with our staff to go over seasonal safety issues on many different topics.

Be assured that we are all doing what we can to be safe on the farm and when we're moving equipment from field to field. We'd like to thank the community for their patience when they see large, slow moving farm equipment on the road.

About Us

Peterson Farms is a progressive, family-owned business with grain farming operations in central Kentucky.

Peterson farms produces corn, non-GMO soybeans, and wheat. We have the capability to segregate non-GMO and GMO corn. The majority of our corn and wheat production is used in the bourbon whisky industry, right here in Kentucky. Three brothers – William,

David and Bernard – and one nephew – Albert – form the partners who run the operation. Albert's wife Karen and David's wife Sandy work in our operation as well, involved in all areas of our business from accounting to human resources.