Grower Presentation

Jerald Sanders, Agri-Northwest
Kennewick, WA

Is a Farm Unit Manager for Agri-Northwest, Prior East Farms. The Farm consists of about 60,000 acres of irrigated crop land. The farm is divided into smaller units which are managed by individual managers with area wide equipment, planting and harvesting responsibilities. He direct manages about 4600 acres, of which 2000 of that was direct seeded corn this past year. Other crops consist of Potatoes, and Wheat. Rainfall in the area is next to nothing; therefore all water needs are supplied by a large delivery system which pumps out of the Columbia River. All irrigated crop land is under center pivots.

The farm is currently using a number of John Deere 12 row 7300, and 1700 max emerge vacuum corn planters, with Orthman 1-trippers to seed directly into wheat stubble and corn stubble. The 2003 year approximately 70% of the corn, and sweet corn was planted with the one pass Orthman set-up. This was also the first year that a GPS Auto-steer system was used on the tractors during planting. Current plans for 2004 are to use the GPS Auto steer systems over 100% of the corn and sweet corn acreage. Jerald received his Bachelors degree in Agriculture at Utah State University and has been with AgriNorthwest for almost 7 years now. He has a passion for growing profitable corn and looks to the industry for better ideas and improvements, which can be adopted into his pro-gram.