

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL

OHIO FARMER IS BIG BELIEVER IN PRECISION AGRICULTURE



Trimble Products Save Farmer Time, Money, and Simplify Operations

Ryan Shanks farms corn, soybeans, carrots, and occasionally wheat on his 3,000-acre farm, called Scioto Valley Growers, in northwest Ohio. Shanks uses a variety of Trimble® products on his farm, all purchased from his Trimble Ag reseller, Agri-Tech. Products range from the FmX® integrated display and Autopilot™ automated steering system to the WM-Drain™ farm drainage solution, Field-IQ™ crop input control system, and the TrueTracker™ implement steering system.

Shanks believes the Trimble products have benefited him in many ways. "The absolute repeatability of the AB lines has saved me time and increased my efficiency," said Shanks. "There is zero overlap, zero underlap. As a result, we've been able to go from broadcast nutrients to precisely placed nutrients, and we've reduced the risk of runoff."

He adds, "By controlling the traffic, we are not compacting areas of the field where our crop would be growing, which allows our soil to get healthier, and that's helping yield," said Shanks. "And, by precisely placing nutrients, we reduce waste."

Advanced Precision Ag Functionality and Steering

Shanks also is a fan of the FmX display, which runs every Trimble precision agriculture product he uses on his farm. Every tractor, combine, sprayer, and harvester includes an FmX display along with the Trimble Autopilot system, which provides hands-free, high-accuracy steering. Shanks believes the FmX display allows him to conduct a lot of self-diagnostics, so he can usually solve his own problems without much help.

Better Drainage Design and Control

To better manage water in his fields, Shanks uses Trimble's WM-Drain solution on most of the acres he farms. After using lasers for years, he upgraded to the FmX display, which allowed him to easily collect 3D field data and eliminated the need for lasers.

"Surface drainage is a never ending process. It used to be a real time-consuming thing to set up a laser, survey everything, and try to pinpoint the areas that need help," said Shanks. "By running WM-Drain with the FmX

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display, we can gather topographic data every time we run over a field and then send that information to Farm Works™ Surface software to pinpoint and lay out a prearranged design before we even hit the field.”

The benefits of using the WM-Drain solution are evident to Shanks. “It takes much less man power, much less planning, and is much more efficient,” he said. “Our fields have gotten so much better using controlled drainage. In fact, it’s been easier to keep up on the things we need to do now, and ultimately it’s helped yield and efficiency. Everything we’ve gotten from Trimble has done that.”

Less Overlap for Planting and Spraying

Shanks runs the Trimble Field-IQ crop input control system on all of his crops. With it he can apply multiple liquid products (or liquid and dry products) at the same time, and he has eliminated overlap of seed on headlands and point rows. Shanks thinks the rate and section control of the Field-IQ system for spraying and planting operations has been easy to use, and a good system for his farm.

Greater Accuracy with Active Implement Steering

Shanks began using the Trimble TrueTracker implement steering system about four years ago for his carrot crop after realizing his implement continued to drift regardless of how straight he was steering. In the precision application of chemicals, foliar feeds, and even in harvesting, the lack of exact row spacing translated into money lost.

Shanks set up the TrueTracker system on his carrot bed shaper, which creates the raised beds and paths on which the carrot planter plants the seeds. Once the beds are shaped perfectly straight, the planter will not go off the beds.

“TrueTracker corrected the previous implement imperfections we were seeing and has resulted in rows that are perfect linearly and laterally, which has made all the operations associated with the carrot crop easier and 100 percent accurate,” said Shanks.

As time and money allow, Shanks plans to implement the TrueTracker system on everything he can because of the results he’s seen from using it on his carrot crop.

In speaking about precision agriculture as a whole, Shanks had this to say: “In dollars and cents, once you get started with precision agriculture products and grasp the benefit, it just spreads to every facet of your operation.”