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## TWO YEARS OF TESTING *and an* EIGHT BUSHEL BUMP

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Randy Aberle, Melvin, Illinois, needed to prove to himself that improved nitrogen placement at sidedress would pay. Even though this corn and soybean grower is also a dealer for 360 Yield Center®, he was a bit of skeptic when it came to investing in the 360 Y-DROP® Sidedress upgrade.

Randy says, “There were things I didn’t like about the coulter, like that slot that always seemed to open up as soon as it turned dry. But I had been generally pleased with the results I had seen with my traditional knife and cover disk set up.” Randy is always looking for better ways. For example, he is an owner in Flying Ag that helps growers put UAV technology to work. So, he set up a test to determine if there was a yield advantage to over-the-row placement.

“Two years ago, I installed three rows of 360 Y-DROP Sidedress on my applicator. So same timing, same rate.” He adds, “In 2015, we had a ton of rain and we would have run out of nitrogen by tassel. I split the harvest loads to make sure I was getting a fair comparison of the two systems. That year, I saw a three- to eight-bushel increase in the Y-DROP strips.”

“Last year, I repeated the test. But 2016 was an ideal mineralization year and there seemed to be plenty of nitrates available. So I was kinda of shocked when the yield monitor showed an even greater yield increase — eight- to 13-bushels.”

So, after two years — years with very different environmental conditions — Randy decided it was time retire the old system and put 360 Y-DROP Sidedress on every row.

He observes, “I really never saw a visible difference between the two systems, so I was even more surprised by the results. Believe me, I double checked my yield monitor calcs, split out loads, cut equivalent loads out of the data . . . everything I know how to do to make sure I was seeing the numbers correctly.”

Now that he has made the switch, he also saw advantages in pulling a lighter bar. He says, “There’s less dust, less weight, less maintenance, plus an average of eight more bushels. I guess I should have pulled the trigger sooner.”

