

An Exceptional Alberta Farm.



Dechant Farms of Hawk Hills, Manning, Alberta is an outstanding grain farm in Northern Alberta.

Initially starting with Exactrix Systems on 8,000 acres in 2002, they have expanded to 14,000 acres over the last 15 years.

Exactrix equipment has been on the job as NH₃ single product shank type application from the beginning.

The Dechant farm has improved their machinery every year. Single disc banding is now used which allows high speed application.

The single disc Deere and Case openers are used for deep banding, and leave a very good seed bed for spring seeding.

In 2008 Dechant Farms made a big jump in nutrient application. The farm improved again using the Exactrix TAPPS formulators.

The track carts were developed to handle two independently applied products.



Dechant Farms has been instrumental in expanding their operation using fall banding techniques, and using an advanced fertilizer, TAPPS.

TAPPS is Tri-ammonium Poly Phosphate Sulfate. Potassium Thio-sulfate is also used to stabilize the nitrogen band.

TAPPS is very crop available; 166% more crop available nitrogen and 200% more crop available phosphate.

Fall Banding frees up the workload in the spring and allows for fast seeding of spring crops.

Thus, yields are improved and the seeding date is very early for the area.

The Exactrix No-till technique moves harvest dates ahead and allows more acres to be farmed.

The major environmental advantages of using TAPPS has been to stabilize the nitrogen.

The farm is located next to the Peace River and therefore mobile nutrients and soil can stay out of the river and remain in place, on site and in the root zone of the growing crop.

The advantage for Dechant farms is also expressed in their own fertilizer and delivery system established on the farm.



Dechant Farms has built 3 of their own design application trailers that carry 4,000 gallons of NH₃ and 2,600 gallons of liquid fertilizer. One trailer was recently sold to a large Nebraska farmer.



The Deere 1890 has been used for seeding and banding. Dechant farms bands nutrients such as NH₃, Ammonium Poly Phosphate, Ammonium Thio-Sulfate and Potassium Thio-Sulfate.

Thus all nutrients are banded ahead of the crop. The nutrients are stabilized and do not leach in the soil.

A very high quality seed bed results in a Wheat, Barley and Canola rotation.



Storage of nutrients and handling of nutrients allows banding to occur over a 20 day period in late September and October or up to freezing and snow fall.

On farm storage also allows better pricing and less risk to meet dealines.



Large NH₃ trucks deliver high quality NH₃ with maximum safety. A liquid trailer is used with the same truck and makes for a very efficient method of filling.

The grain storage facility is very advanced. Capable of keeping up with four large Deere combines cutting heavy Spring Canola crops. Crop drying is also used.



On farm the single disc SDX machines are expanded to 60 feet. This requires two machines to make one large banding unit, one of the most efficient banding units built in the US or Canada at 62 feet.



When it takes two machines something is left over. The center section of the 2nd SDX machine was purchased by the USDA-ARS as a research and test plot unit at Pullman Washington.



The complete Dechant banding and application system required about 3 years of development resulting in higher efficiency and much better utilization of time.



That is Adam Dechant watching and observing as a high schooler. Adam has seen his farm change every year.



The Dechant track cart design was modified with a steering bolster about 3 years after Dechant Farms started TAPPS.

The complete storage and handling system took about 5 years.

Dechant Farms continues to improve their farm with better grain storage, and an excellent shop.



Aerial and Tram line ground spraying is required to cover acres fast and accurately.



Kansas farmers enjoy the Alberta/Peace River area and the expansive Dechant farm size. They are impressed by proper priorities of raising good crops by saving soil and nutrients.



Dechant farms has had visitors from the US, Canada and Ukraine traveling to 58 degrees North to admire good crops.

Dechant Farms also has guest workers from Serbia and Bosnia. Ukraine visitors were very impressed with field size and good infrastructure.



Land clearing is now pretty much complete. The Dechant Farm has become a highly efficient Grain Factory at 58 degrees North.
Hopefully the land will be developed to its full potential with conservation techniques.

Guy Swanson
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