

# Soybean producer shatters glass ceiling

By TOM J. BECHMAN

**K**IP Cullers broke the 100-bushel-per-acre barrier on farm-size, commercial fields in 2008. Imagine watching the yield monitor display 103 bushels per acre average yield while leaving an 85-acre field, or 106 bushels per acre when pulling out of a 160-acre



field. The Purdy, Mo., soybean grower adopted some of what he's learned in record-breaking plots in previous years to boost commercial yields. He plants

various Pioneer soybean varieties.

His results beg the question: Have farmers shattered the glass ceiling for soybean yields?

Since the late 1990s, soybean yields seemed to plateau. The imaginary glass ceiling inspired Tippecanoe County, Ind., Extension ag educator Jeff Phillips to look for ways to smash it in repli-

cated plots from 2002 through 2007. Trying nearly two dozen methods, including varying populations, lime and fertilizer rates, insecticide and fungicide choices, and more, he discovered that while some factors would make a small but significant difference in some years, weather was king.

It's easier to bump yields up when it's not too wet in May and then rains in August, he concludes.

Cullers appears to have an answer no matter what the year. Here's hoping he can shed light on what it takes to punch through the yield barrier again this year.

## Dow goes global

Dow AgroSciences' apparent strategy to add significant seed partners to help deliver a growing portfolio of seed genetics and traits extends beyond U.S. borders. The company recently purchased Sudwestsaat GbR, a German hybrid maize company. It marketed hybrids in Germany, France, Portugal and Hungary.

Dow AgroSciences added more than half a dozen U.S. companies to its stable in '08. One of the bigger acquisitions was Dairyland Seeds.

## Non-GMO soybean brand

With premiums for non-GMO soybeans approaching \$2 per bushel in parts of the U.S., the timing may be perfect for eMerge Genetics, a division of Schillinger Seed that will focus solely on non-GMO soybean seed. The division was founded by John Schillinger, former president of Asgrow Seeds, and Billy Rhodes, a soybean breeder.

The division intends to focus on "output" traits, Schillinger says. These will include higher protein level soybeans, those with low-linoleic characteristics and more. Learn more at [www.schillingerseed.com](http://www.schillingerseed.com).

## Precision innovator joins DuPont

MapShots Inc., Cumming, Ga., recently was acquired by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, owned by DuPont. The ag data management firm dates back to the days of cutting-edge innovators in precision farming in the early '90s. MapShots develops and sells proprietary crop management software.

Ted Macy, an Indiana native and former farmer, founded MapShots. He says it will continue licensing core precision ag components to other companies. The acquisition now allows Pioneer to expand its mapping and recordkeeping services to farmers, Pioneer officials note.

## Farm Works releases Version 2009

Mapping and recordkeeping for precision farming becomes even more fine-tuned in the newest version of Farm Works software, called simply Farm Works Version 2009. The Indiana-based ag software company is a leader in providing affordable software mapping.

This newest version streamlines many mapping functions, says Brian Stark, marketing manager. It also greatly expands the capability of the financial recordkeeping package. Learn more at [www.farmworks.com](http://www.farmworks.com).



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