

Precision gear takes to field this spring

By WILLIE VOGT

SHAUN Glinge is working on covering more ground. The Bourbon, Ind., producer fired up his new GreenStar Lightbar late in March to start applying spring anhydrous, and his first-timer impressions were good.

Shaun, who farms with his father, Randy, is part of the Precision Start program, an effort to explore the installation of precision-guided manual steering for producers who are still deciding on the investment.

PRECISION
START

The Glinges have some experience using a lightbar with a sprayer, but putting the system to work for field preparation is a new idea.

"We haven't used it for tillage or fertilizer application," says Randy.

Their Deere 8400 tractor was outfitted with the GreenStar Lightbar and a StarFire 300 GPS receiver that uses Wide Area Augmentation System correction. Setup was simple; just run an A track and then a B track, and the lightbar will figure out implement width.

After that, the Glinges were off and running.

However, in this setup, they took the GreenStar display from their combine and tied it into the system. That makes setup even easier because all Shaun has to do is enter the implement width, and the display does the rest. The display works with the new lightbar technology.

In the field

For Shaun, using a lightbar is a new way to get work done. It also requires focus. He notes that he has to pay attention to the bar, but also keep his eyes on the implement. "You still have to know what's going on," he says.

When Farm Progress visited, Shaun had just started using the lightbar. In action, it's difficult to tell outside the cab that the operator is getting precision guidance input. While Shaun says he doesn't anticipate he'll be running any faster, he did learn something after a weekend of using the system.

"I've been using the lightbar a lot," he comments. "When I get it set up for a field, it works really well. I've tried running without it, and when I do, I drive too close to my last pass."

That was while applying anhydrous, and getting that placed more precisely will help the Glinges make the best use of that input investment.

In operation, Shaun says watching the lightbar means keeping it in the green. Sounds like common sense, but going over a field with an implement means there are a lot of forces at work.

While he's had little practice, Shaun is already more confident with the system. The Glinges like to run in ninth gear, or about 5 to 6 miles per hour, with their Deere 8400.

He'll cover about 1,000 acres with the anhydrous applicator this spring.

You can check out more of Shaun's experiences online at Farmer Iron - the Blog. Just visit www.PrairieFarmer.com to see the postings.



A BETTER TRACK: Shaun Glinge makes a pass while applying nitrogen this spring. He's found that with the lightbar off, he gets too close to his previous pass.



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