



Ultra-local weather information improves planning and timing

Keith Regnier, Lynd, Minnesota

"The time I used to spend driving to check the field can be spent doing other things. It makes me more efficient. It's a real time-saver."

Keith Regnier

For Keith Regnier, farming is a family affair. Together, with his brothers Duane and Warren, and now his son-in-law, Regnier grows corn and soybeans in southwestern Minnesota. The family also raises a few farrow-to-finish hogs.

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"I really like the historical aspect of the weather station. It's very helpful."

What they were up against.

Weather and agronomic conditions can differ greatly over just a few miles. For example, studies have shown that Growing Degree Units can vary by as much as 203 units within a five-to-nine mile area, and 500 in an 80-mile area. Further complicating planning, many weather reporting stations are located in cities or at airports far from rural farmland. That's less than ideal for making targeted — and costly — operational decisions.

To ensure accuracy in the past, Regnier would need to regularly drive out to one of the family's fields 23 miles away. There he would personally assess critical factors like wind speed and ground wetness. The added travel time and effort to gather the on-site information delayed planning and operations. It also kept him from other tasks.

What we did to help.

Regnier chose to add a DTN Ag Weather Station to their operations. With it, he can gather critical weather and agronomy data for their remote field — directly from it. No travel required.

What the impact was.

DTN Ag Weather Station has made life easier. Regnier can use his computer or mobile device to quickly view conditions — including historical information for rainfall and wind. Data from the station also feeds ultra-local forecasts and custom alerts that further aid planning and warn about changing conditions.

Regnier put the weather station's information to the test and found it to be extremely accurate. He appreciates that he can check conditions any time he likes. That's essential for weather-sensitive tasks like spraying.

By improving the timing of applications, producers can better manage both risk and cost. The field-level insights also help improve the use and placement of valuable resources like labor, equipment, and irrigation.

The system can be configured to measure more than 10 different parameters, including soil moisture, soil temperature, solar radiation, and leaf wetness. This further supports spraying decisions, as well as planting, fertilizing, and harvest operations. Even livestock health can be protected by adjusting management techniques to approaching weather threats.