

VOHLAND

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He agreed planting corn after soybeans is good, and planting soybeans after corn is good, but he plants corn on corn, or grow corn on the same ground two years in a row, on parts of his land. Then he plants soybeans the third year.

"We have some fields that seem to yield better the second year than the first," he explained.

Roundup, an herbicide based on glyphosate, has more than doubled in price and is quite scarce, Vohland said.

"A lot of this stuff is made in China," he noted. The patent on Roundup expired a few years ago, and it is cheaper to make glyphosate overseas where there are fewer environmental restrictions than in the United States, he said.

Vohland said he had not checked current herbicide prices yet, because he was scared to see what they are, but he has talked to suppliers and knows herbicide will be expensive.

Believe in your seed

"We're 100% Pioneer corn and seed both. Our seed cost is also more expensive this year; that's not changing. I feel the hybrid we raise on our corn is the best anywhere, so I'm sticking with the corn we've been using," Vohland said.

He added he's going to plant all 2, 4-D soybeans, known as "Enlist," this year. Dow Corporation makes an herbicide called 2, 4-D in the U.S., and Enlist soybeans can tolerate it. It used to be that Roundup and 2, 4-D killed soybeans, but varieties have been developed that can tolerate them, Vohland said.

Sky-high grain prices

Vohland said the war in Ukraine is driving

"The war in Ukraine is driving grain prices now"

grain prices now. On March 1, corn prices were flirting with \$7 a bushel, and last week they reached a high of \$8 a bushel before settling at a lower price.

On Thursday, March 10, commodity futures prices on the Chicago Board of Trade settled at \$7.5775 for March corn and \$7.5575 for May corn. Soybeans that day were fetching an even \$17 for March and \$16.8625 for May contracts.

Vohland said he, along with a lot of other area farmers, were unable to capitalize on those recent spikes in grain prices, because they had forward contracted their crops.

He explained the idea is to look for a good price and lock it in. After the corn harvest in

October, supplies were high but prices were low. That's why farmers store it in bins. They contract to deliver it in January, March or later when prices are usually higher. This time, that was not the best bet.

"I applaud those who held out," Vohland said.

"We're not even getting \$5 for corn," he said. "I don't think we'll take a loss on it, but I don't think we'll buy a house on it." He added it seemed like a good price at the time.

Vohland also said some winter work he's been doing includes putting seed tender boxes with seeds in them on a planter. He put scales on the tender and was waiting for a piece of equipment to arrive to make moving seeds from the tender to the planter easier.

He was planning to service all their tractors – change the oil and all the filters – in the next week or so when they got caught up on grain hauling.



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