



2023 Research & Development:

New for 2023 is our corn row configuration. After a couple of years of narrow row 19" row corn, we decided CLH Family Farms will change to twin-row 38" corn. We adapted to this change to accommodate staying in beds for our irrigated acres and for the versatility of our equipment to stay efficient. Twin row 38" rows mean we are planting 2 rows 8" apart on a 38" bed. This will still allow the extra spacing of the corn to capture more sunlight and give the plants more room to grow, which should increase yield over time. We have several replicated trials between twin-row corn and single-row corn to determine yield advantages with this configuration. We are also studying a variety of trials and plant populations to see where the sweet spot is for optimizing yield and the return on investment of our dollars. Corn is currently pollinating, and I am excited about what I have seen so far on the twin-row corn. Single-row corn looks good as well, and the rains we have been blessed to receive have set us up for a nice yield potential for harvest.

2023 Planting Season

Planting 2023 was a success, and we were blessed to see such good planting conditions for corn. We were able to get corn to emerge in 5-7 days in February, which typically doesn't happen due cooler soil conditions. This year, soil temperatures warmed quickly, and we took advantage of the opportunity. Corn emergence is the number one key to high corn yields. We want to see plants emerge in a 24-36 hour window from each other to keep the competition on a level playing field. Corn also likes good spacing, and we focus on having top-notch planters to achieve these goals. We are very excited to see what the yield monitors will show us at harvest with the start we were blessed with this year.

Rice planting went smoothly this year. The cool weather slowed emergence but we have great stands and the recent rains really have the rice looking great for 2023. We are very optimistic to see what our first rice harvest will bring and definitely learning some new challenges along the way.

Grain Sorghum is a crop that we don't grow every year, but we decided to plant several fields in 2023 to diversify our portfolio, and so far, the sorghum looks really good.

Cotton has been the challenge for Spring 2023. Early warm soil temperatures blessed corn planting conditions, but extended cool weather in March cooled the soil temperature and slowed cotton emergence drastically. We struggled to get the cotton up and growing quickly, which is what cotton likes. Fortunately, the cotton has started to progress in April and we are beginning to set some fruiting branches. Cotton doesn't have a memory, like corn, so a slow start doesn't determine yield. Cotton can make up a lot of ground in June and produce a high yield and quality crop when finished.



Summer 2023 Outlook:

We are very proud of our work force this year at CLH Family Farms. We have had South Africans work for us at CLH Family Farms for 4 years now. We started with 2 the first year, and now we are up to 5. The crew we have this year, along with our full-time crew, is by far the best crew we have ever had and are truly blessed and thankful for each and everyone who is part our team. I am very excited to get to harvest this year and see how we perform as a team, as well as how the crops turn out. I plan on sending out a newsletter in August-September, along with yield results from our research that we are monitoring here on the farm this year. I am very thankful for each and every land owner that we partner with at CLH Family Farms and look forward to keeping you informed on what's to come from us.