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## OUR TRANSITION TO ORGANIC

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- 2011: Returned to family farm
  - Corn and soybeans rotation (with some hay)
- 2014: Certified first field as organic
  - Started small (knowing I had a lot to learn)
- 2018: 130 acres now certified as organic
  - 130 acres are now certified as organic
  - 50 acres in year 2 transition
  - 100 acres in year 1 transition
  - 140 acres still conventional (will start 36 month transition in 2019)
- 2022: Hope to have all entire farm certified as organic

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### OUR CROP ROTATIONS

- **Rotation A**
  - Oats Interseeded with Hay/Pasture Mix
  - Hay/Pasture/Graze
  - Hay/Pasture/Graze
  - Corn
- **Rotation B**
  - Oats or Field Peas/canning crop
  - Rye Cover Crop
  - Soybeans – Roller Crimp
  - Cover crop mix
  - Corn
  - Interseed cover crop mix
- **Rotation C (if field is weedy)**
  - Oats
  - Cover Crop
  - One Year Alfalfa
  - Corn

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### CHALLENGES

- Weeds
  - Can't just call the elevator to spray
- Finding and acquiring equipment
  - Cultivators, tine weeder, no till drills, roller crimper, rotavator, etc.
- Getting the timing right
  - When to cultivate, rotary hoe, roller crimp, etc.
- Cleaning everything because we still have some conventional crops to keep separated
  - Will be MUCH easier when 100% organic
- Record keeping
- Cash flow during transition
- Overspray

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### OBSERVATIONS ABOUT TRANSITION

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- Amount of records required
- My concern about GMO contamination
- The more I learn, the more I realize how little I know
- A lot of people may look at the organic income potential ... but like many things ... there is risk

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Thank You

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