

Jim Petersen

Farmer -- Knoxville, Iowa

- 500 Ewes
- 60 Beef Cows
- 200 acres of Hay
- 150 acres of Oats – part Organic, part Transitional
- Soybeans -- 25 acres Organic
200 acres Conventional
70 acres Roundup Ready
- Corn -- 150 acres Organic
70 acres Conventional
75 acres Bt corn

Petersen Farm History

- 4th generation farmer
- Originally had 400 acres
 - 50% conventional vs. 50% biotech
- 2002 - Asked to farm 160 acres by family who inherited land
 - Requested organic – no biotech
- 2003 - Began transition to organic, by planting transitional oats
 - Three year transition required with no synthetic fertilizer
- 2003 - First planted organic soybean in former hay field/pasture

2005 Planting Season

- March – Planted Oats
- Late April – Conventional & Bt Corn
- Early May – Conventional & RR Soybeans
- Mid May – Organic Corn
- Late May – Organic Soybeans
- Early July – Neighboring Bt corn pollinated
- Late July – Our Organic Corn pollinated
 - » Delay helped avoid contamination

2005 Harvest

- Started with Conventional Corn
- Conventional Soybeans
- RR Soybeans
- Finished Conventional Corn
- Organic Corn
- Organic Beans
- Bt Corn



Petersen Farm in background, organic corn foreground



Petersen organic corn across road from neighbor's biotech field.
-- Approximately 25' buffer area surrounding organic field.



Organic soybeans, organic oats in background



Field showing weed management (cultivating) equipment



Organic corn just after weed cultivation



Neighbor's Round-up Ready soybean field before application



Different field of biotech soy showing post application of Round-up,
located across road from Petersen farm

In Summary

- The combination of planting all three has proven results.
- Able to create extra value through the organics.
- Biotech provides more consistent results.
- Allows us to diversify – thus mitigating risks.
- Plan to continue to plant all three crops.