

## Meet Tyler Franzenburg, Keystone, IA

### Organic Farmer and Blue River Hybrids Dealer Since 2006



Photo courtesy of *Practical Farmers of Iowa*

Following is an August 5, 2011 interview with Tyler.

#### ***Describe your farming operation.***

My dad and I farm 80 acres of corn, soybeans, small grains, and hay. Our farm has been certified since 2002, and chemical free since 1999. We have 15 cows which we rotationally graze; we finish the calves on grain and direct market some of our beef. I lost 80 acres of rented ground last year which had been organic since 1981—the new tenant is not farming it organically. I am actively looking for pasture and crop ground to rent to add to our operation.

#### ***Why do you choose to use organic farming methods?***

Being organic allows us to diversify our farm and better utilize our labor rather than trading large capital expenditures to decrease labor inputs like most conventional farms are doing. Organic farming is better for the land by maintaining and/or increasing soil and environmental quality. It's difficult or next to impossible for a small farm to produce much income growing conventional corn and soybeans.

#### ***What are some of the benefits of being a Blue River Hybrids dealer?***

I like meeting my customers and being on their farms, learning about their operations first hand. Everybody does things differently, and seeing what works and what doesn't on multiple organic farms in the area is a priceless opportunity.

#### ***What BRH hybrids have been dependable performers for you and your customers?***

48B30 has been an excellent performer for us since it was introduced. I like it partly because of the early maturity for late planting and early drydown, and the yield has always been there, too. Last year was the first year we had 53R57, so we don't have much history on it, but it's looking to be very dependable.

#### ***What BRH soybeans have been dependable performers for you and your customers?***

2A12 hands down. 63 bushels per acre the last time I had it in a test plot.

#### ***Any comments on BRH alfalfas?***

I think the leafhopper resistant alfalfa is a must for organic production. There isn't a year goes by that we don't have heavy leafhopper pressure, and, most of the time, the Bluebird and Bluejay handle it very well with little to no hopperburn.

#### ***What has helped develop your skill and knowledge as an organic farmer?***

My experience working on an organic farm in high school is what initially got my interest in organics; my education at ISU furthered that knowledge and interest, and now being on customers' farms and learning from their successes and failures is invaluable. Practical Farmers of Iowa has also played a big role in developing my knowledge of organic farming through their research, demonstration, and networking.

# Sunflower Oil for Food & Fuel

Driftless Organics, Soldiers Grove, WI

Driftless Organics is a CSA near Soldiers Grove, WI operated by brothers Josh & Noah Engel and Mike Lind. With an established customer list of over 600 members and planting over 150 acres of vegetables, grains, and oil seeds, this is an ambitious team.

In 2007, they decided to add sunflower oil to their list of products with the first oil available for sale in 2008. In 2011, when organic seed became available from Blue River Hybrids, they planted Sierra Organic Sunflower seed. The crop is planted in mid-June and harvested in mid-October. Josh cleans the seed and sends it off to be cold expeller-pressed and bottled. The pressing is a low-heat process that results in a more full flavored and nutrient dense oil.

Quoting from their website...“Organic sunflower oil has a rich and nutty flavor that tastes fantastic in salads. Also, it works great for low-temperature cooking and light stir frying. Josh loves to use it in baking as it imparts that wonderful nuttiness into breads and muffins.” The nutritional benefits are impressive: high in vitamin E, low in saturated fats, and high in polyunsaturated fats which benefit your cardiovascular health!

The sunflower oil can be ordered through their CSA membership application or simply by calling 608.624.3735. To learn more go to [www.driftlessorganics.com](http://www.driftlessorganics.com)

**Josh** has also utilized sunflowers to produce oil for fuel. He has used the mobile unit from Organic Valley to crush sunflower seeds and process the oil. Pictured is a tractor converted to run on sunflower oil.



## A First Look at Data

### PuraMaize—Your Best non-GMO Insurance Policy!

2011 was the first year of extensive yield testing of Blue River’s PuraMaize hybrids. Seed for this testing was made by hand pollinations in the 2010-11 winter production in South America. Depending on the maturity, conventional test locations were in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Missouri. In general, 58PM36 and 71PM50 were competitive in yield with other Blue River and seed industry check hybrids of the same maturity. Severe weather plagued test locations for 47PM37, and data from these locations was not usable.

Grain quality testing was done at the Grain Lab of Illinois Crop Improvement. Grain from the three PuraMaize hybrids may qualify for some food uses. Kernel hardness of 47PM37 and 71PM50 will meet the standards of some dry millers. Grain from all three PuraMaize Hybrids

are candidates for wet milling. Millers will appreciate the assurance of meeting non-GMO standards.

47PM37 is best suited for eastern areas, that is corn growing areas east of Chicago—especially Ontario, New York,

and Pennsylvania. It should be used where 102 hybrids are full season. 58PM36 and 71PM50 can be used anywhere where 108 or 114 day hybrids are appropriate.

#### 58MP36 - 107 Day

HYBRID	PuraMaize	BU/ACRE	MOIST %	STALK LODGING %	ROOT LODGING %	PLANT HEIGHT	EAR HEIGHT
<b>58PM36</b>	Yes	189.3	18.90%	0.00%	0.35%	104	49
<b>CNV Check</b>	No	183.0	17.85%	0.30%	0.40%	101	44
<b>53R57</b>	No	188.7	17.78%	0.20%	0.40%	105	50
<b>57H36</b>	No	196.2	18.86%	0.90%	0.40%	106	51

\*Locations = 6 Iowa, 3 Illinois, 1 Nebraska

#### 71PM50 - 114 Day

HYBRID	PuraMaize	BU/ACRE	MOIST %	STALK LODGING %	ROOT LODGING %	PLANT HEIGHT	EAR HEIGHT
<b>71PM50</b>	Yes	184.8	19.45%	0.10%	0.00%	116	49
<b>70R50</b>	No	187.2	21.57%	4.10%	0.00%	117	53
<b>CNV Check</b>	No	188.2	19.70%	5.20%	0.40%	120	56

Locations = 3 Iowa, 5 Illinois, 1 Nebraska, 1 Missouri  
Yield Data for 47PM37 is not available.

# 2011 Test Plot Results

## 77-86 Day

HYBRID	RM	YIELD	% LOC AVG	MOIST	%SL	%RL	PLANT HEIGHT	EAR HEIGHT	Locations
08T91	77	129.3	89.9%	14.16	20.0	2.5	77	47	MI, Fowler MN, Owatonna MN, Stewartville MN, Wells MN, Owatonna2 MN, Stewartville2 MN, Gaylord MN, Hancock MN, Olivia
12N01	80	122.4	85.1%	15.07	10.2	1.0	83	41	MN, Sauk Center MN, St Cloud MN, Staples ND, Alice ND, Enderline SD, Brookings WI, Almond WI, Arlington WI, Deforest
14B91	82	134.3	93.3%	14.43	9.6	6.2	87	41	
19K19	84	136.8	95.1%	14.42	21.0	2.2	89	43	
20B91	85	137.8	95.8%	14.99	11.8	1.1	90	39	
21H19	85	135.5	94.2%	14.98	11.6	1.3	83	43	
23A71	85	149.5	103.9%	14.65	11.1	3.7	81	46	
22A10	86	148.9	103.5%	15.24	8.8	2.6	80	36	

\*18 total testing locations (IA, IL, MI, MN, SD, WI)

## 86-96 Day

HYBRID	RM	YIELD	% LOC AVG	MOIST	%SL	%RL	PLANT HEIGHT	EAR HEIGHT	Locations
22A10	86	147.8	96.4%	14.71	7.2	3.6	86	45	IA, Grafton IL, Woodstock MI, Fowler MN, Owatonna MN, Stewartville MN, Wells MN, Stewartville2 MN, Cottonwood MN, Gaylord
31A17	87	153.3	100.0%	14.56	10.3	3.6	81	38	MN, Hancock MN, Jackson MN, Olivia MN, Sauk Center MN, Waseca SD, Brookings WI, Almond WI, Arlington WI, Deforest
25A16	88	176.3	115.0%	14.71	16.5	5.4	89	44	
26A17	88	145.1	94.7%	14.45	7.6	2.0	88	36	
29D01	90	127.5	83.2%	15.45	13.6	4.5	85	43	
30A12	90	151.9	99.1%	14.48	11.0	3.2	86	41	
34C17	93	154.2	100.6%	14.45	10.2	1.7	92	42	
39B17	96	165.0	107.6%	14.43	11.3	3.1	89	45	
42A32	96	168.1	109.7%	15.11	13.5	1.7	89	46	

\*18 total testing locations (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, NE, SD, WI)

## PuraMaize—Your Best non-GMO Insurance Policy!

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### Grain Quality Characteristics

HYBRID	MOISTURE	TEST WT	"THINS"	KERNEL DENTISTY	100 KERNEL WT	% HORNEOUS ENDOSPERM	CROWN SCORE	DENT SCORE
47PM37	11.8%	62.8	73.1%	1.318	29.91	94.0%	8.1	7.5
58PM36	14.5%	59.8	35.3%	1.266	34.09	82.0%	3.7	6.4
71PM50	15.1%	61.5	38.7%	1.299	36.58	88.0%	5.1	5.5
Desired	12 - 16%	60.0 +	< 50%	> 1.31	> 30	> 90%	> 6.0	> 6.0



## 106-112 Day

HYBRID	RM	YIELD	% LOC AVG	MOIST	%SL	%RL	PLANT HEIGHT	EAR HEIGHT
56M30	106	183.1	101.9%	19.73	2.7	0.7	111	54
57H36	107	178.7	99.4%	19.68	3.0	0.9	110	55
61F39	109	177.9	99.0%	19.72	0.6	1.9	111	53
63H30	111	192.7	107.2%	19.71	1.5	1.2	112	56
64A36	112	167.0	92.9%	20.11	2.2	2.4	110	54
66H54	112	197.4	109.8%	20.97	0.9	3.1	110	51
67M07	112	178.8	99.5%	20.06	0.7	3.0	112	53

### Locations

IA, Ames  
IA, Atlantic  
IA, Fairfield  
IA, Luther  
IA, Monticello  
IA, Reinbeck  
IA, Schaller  
IL, Champaign  
IL, Geneseo  
IL, Mt Pulaski  
IL, Roseville  
IL, Tonica  
IN, Bluffton  
IN, Remington  
IN, Windfall  
NE, Arlington  
NE, Henderson  
NE, Hooper  
NE, Tekamah  
OH, Arcanum

\*20 total testing locations (IA, IL, IN, NE, OH)

## 107-116 Day

HYBRID	RM	Yield	% Loc AVG	MOIST	STALK LODGE %	% ROOT LODGE
57H36	107	198.3	100.8%	15.34	8.7	0.0
63H30	112	190.0	96.5%	17.45	14.5	0.0
64A36	112	178.2	90.5%	17.07	7.2	0.0
66H54	112	215.6	109.6%	17.40	10.6	0.0
Pio 33T56	113	207.3	105.3%	18.29	8.1	0.0
70R50	114	210.3	106.9%	19.36	4.6	0.0
71M36	115	184.0	93.5%	19.85	8.6	0.0
73B33	116	214.8	109.1%	20.24	7.4	0.0

### Locations

IA, Ames  
MO, St Joseph  
TX, Hereford  
TX, Stratford  
TX, Texline

\*5 total testing locations (IA, MO, TX)

## 111-117 Day

HYBRID	RM	YIELD	% LOC AVG	MOIST	%SL	%RL	PLANT HEIGHT	EAR HEIGHT
60B35	111	174.4	102.6%	19.47	1.3	1.6	118	52
66H54	112	168.4	99.1%	19.37	0.7	1.3	117	57
Pio 33T56	113	173.2	101.9%	19.44	0.5	0.2	119	55
70R50	114	171.5	100.9%	20.83	0.9	0.0	116	55
73B33	116	174.0	102.4%	21.13	1.3	0.0	115	55
71M36	116	166.5	98.0%	21.33	2.7	1.2	112	51
76H50	117	149.6	88.1%	21.96	0.1	0.0	114	51

### Locations

IA, Ames  
IA, Atlantic  
IA, Fairfield  
IL, Champaign  
IL, Mt Pulaski  
IL, Roseville  
IL, Champaign2  
IL, Effingham  
IN, Evansville  
IN, Fort Branch  
MO, St Joseph  
NE, Arlington  
NE, Henderson  
NE, Minden  
NE, Sutton  
OH, Arcanum

\*16 total testing locations (IA, IL, IN, MO, NE, OH)

# 2011 Soybean Test Plot Results



## Group 1-Early

LOCATION	BRAND	GROUP	VARIETY	BU/AC	% OF LOC	HT
N Dak/MN x3	Pioneer	1 - Early	90M92	36.4	104.6%	NA
N Dak/MN x3	Blue River	1 - Early	11A1	35.4	101.7%	NA
N Dak/MN x3	Blue River	1 - Early	09FC8	35.3	101.4%	NA
N Dak/MN x3	Pioneer	1 - Early	91Y10	35.2	101.1%	NA
N Dak/MN x3	NK Brand	1 - Early	S08-A2	35.0	100.6%	NA
N Dak/MN x3	Blue River	1 - Early	06F8	33.0	94.8%	NA
N Dak/MN x3	Blue River	1 - Early	00F81	32.2	92.5%	NA

## Group 2-Late

LOCATION	BRAND	GROUP	VARIETY	BU/AC	% OF LOC	HT
Cent IA x 3	Pioneer	2.1 - Late	93Y13	56.7	108.4%	37
Cent IA x 3	Blue River	2.1 - Late	29AR9	53.8	102.9%	37
Cent IA x 3	Blue River	2.1 - Late	30A2	52.8	101.0%	37
Cent IA x 3	Blue River	2.1 - Late	2A71	51.4	98.3%	35
Cent IA x 3	Blue River	2.1 - Late	26F0	50.6	96.7%	35
Cent IA x 3	Blue River	2.1 - Late	32AR1	49.1	93.9%	40
Cent IA x 3	Blue River	2.1 - Late	32F0	46.8	89.5%	39
Cent IA x 3	Blue River	2.1 - Late	30AR1	46.5	88.9%	35
Cent IA x 3	Blue River	2.1 - Late	27AR1	46.1	88.1%	36

## Group 1-Late

LOCATION	BRAND	GROUP	VARIETY	BU/AC	% OF LOC	HT
S Minn x 3	Blue River	1 - Late	17C2	52.3	107.4%	36
S Minn x 3	Blue River	1 - Late	16C1	52.2	107.2%	34
S Minn x 3	Blue River	1 - Late	12A2	51.6	106.0%	35
S Minn x 3	Pioneer	1 - Late	91Y10	50.6	103.9%	32
S Minn x 3	Blue River	1 - Late	2A12	49.4	101.4%	36
S Minn x 3	Blue River	1 - Late	20AC1	49.4	101.4%	37
S Minn x 3	Blue River	1 - Late	11A1	49.4	101.4%	33
S Minn x 3	Pioneer	1 - Late	92Y30	46.6	95.7%	38
S Minn x 3	Blue River	1 - Late	19AR1	44.8	92.0%	34
S Minn x 3	Blue River	1 - Late	1F44	44.1	90.6%	37
S Minn x 3	Blue River	1 - Late	15F1	43.3	88.9%	33

## Group 3-Early

LOCATION	BRAND	GROUP	VARIETY	BU/AC	% OF LOC	HT
S IA/NE x 3	Blue River	3 - Early	34A7	58.2	108.8%	33
S IA/NE x 3	Blue River	3 - Early	389F.YC	56.4	105.4%	32
S IA/NE x 3	Blue River	3 - Early	348.TCS	53.8	100.6%	32
S IA/NE x 3	Blue River	3 - Early	38C9	52.1	97.4%	33
S IA/NE x 3	Blue River	3 - Early	35F1	49.9	93.3%	33

## Group 2-Early

LOCATION	BRAND	GROUP	VARIETY	BU/AC	% OF LOC	HT
N Iowa x 3	Blue River	2 - Early	2A12	56.10	108.7%	35.00
N Iowa x 3	Pioneer	2 - Early	92Y51	55.20	107.0%	38.00
N Iowa x 3	Blue River	2 - Early	20AC1	53.60	103.9%	35.00
N Iowa x 3	Blue River	2 - Early	25C2	52.20	101.2%	36.00
N Iowa x 3	Blue River	2 - Early	23C2	51.90	100.6%	36.00
N Iowa x 3	NK Brand	2 - Early	S20-G7	51.90	100.6%	38.00
N Iowa x 3	Blue River	2 - Early	26F0	51.10	99.0%	35.00
N Iowa x 3	Blue River	2 - Early	240F.Y	45.50	88.2%	35.00
N Iowa x 3	Blue River	2 - Early	25AR1	43.40	84.1%	35.00





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## Pounders Receive Awards in 2011 for Roadrunner Organic Alfalfa, Niva Orchardgrass Mix!

At the 2011 World Forage Superbowl held in Madison, WI, John Pounder of Delvan, WI won two awards for his entry of Organic Roadrunner Alfalfa/Niva Orchardgrass Mix: Grand Champion Baleage and third place for Grass Hay, a new category for 2011.

Baleage Ratings: Crude Protein-26 RFQ- 213 Milk per Ton-3,324

In 2010, John Pounder won Grand Champion Forage Producer with his entry of Organic Roadrunner Alfalfa/Niva Orchardgrass Mix. His achievements as a forage producer are outstanding. We congratulate him and his family on their success.

The World Dairy Expo has held a forage contest for 28 years. This year the World Forage Analysis attracted 398 entries, up 119 samples from 2010, with entries from 23 states. Organic Roadrunner was competing against alfalfas from the other major alfalfa seed suppliers in the U.S. If someone asks, "Does Blue River Hybrids have a good alfalfa?", we can definitely say "YES"!

To learn more about the Forage Analysis competition go to:

<http://world-dairy-expo.com/pages/World-Forage-Analysis-Superbowl.php>



**John Pounder, Delavan, WI**

### Customer Cash Discounts

Month	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012	March 2012	April 2012	May 2012
Cash Discount %	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%