

WESTERN INDIANA SOYBEAN GROWER OPTIMIZES ADJUVANT CHOICE WITH REALCOVERAGE, GETS 3X HIGHER COVERAGE & 1-YEAR ROI

Background: Protecting 12,000 Acres of Family Farm

Bryan Brost, whose family has operated W J Brost Farms for generations, primarily grows corn and soybeans on 12,000 acres in western Indiana. While Bryan describes himself as a late adopter of new technologies, he liked the level of transparency RealCoverage offered and the insight it would provide into his fields. He saw the opportunity for both economic returns and improved tracking of input usage on every field.

Challenge: Choosing the Right Adjuvant

The first element of his program Bryan wanted to address were his soybean adjuvants. He knew they were important enough to make or break his efficacy, but picking the right one felt overwhelming. Even after making his choice, he didn't have a reliable method for discerning whether the adjuvants were delivering on their promises.

Solution: Optimize with In-Field Data

With RealCoverage on his boom, Bryan immediately saw how much product was getting on the leaves. All the data is uploaded in real-time to the RealPerformance website so Bryan could look at the results both in the cab and wherever he goes. Overarching coverage maps show not just what was sprayed but how well it was sprayed, and are interactive to show leaf-level data with a variety of metrics including the temperature, wind speed, tank mixes, PSI, GPA, and more.

After setting a baseline for his sprays, Bryan used RealCoverage to test which adjuvants worked best. He grabbed a few from his supplier and sprayed each one on different parts of his fields. For each test, he'd fill the tank just under halfway, add the adjuvant, and spray until he got a consistent coverage reading. With built in testing features, he could tag each section by adjuvant to easily compare the results side-by-side.

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I was excited to see how much of what I'm spraying is actually reaching my plants. Especially with adjuvants, it's very tough to determine which ones are for real and which ones are sub-par or a complete waste of money.



Year 1 Results: 233% Better Coverage & 1-Year ROI

With the new adjuvant as his go-to, Bryan tripled his coverage overnight going from an average of 9% to 30%. Such a drastic increase allowed Bryan to cut the GPA on his soybeans from 20 to 12 and still get an average of 22%; more than 2X his baseline. These savings amounted to Bryan saving more than he spent on the unit, giving him a one year return-on-investment, while achieving the cleanest fields he's seen in the past 10 years.



Previous Adjuvant: 9% Average



Better Adjuvant: 30% Average

Coverage Maps from the RealPerformance Website

Year 2: Further Savings with More Optimizations

In his second year, Bryan felt more comfortable making changes, so he optimized his nozzles, pressure, boom height, and driving speed. These changes increased Bryan's coverage so much he was able to cut his active, and carrier rates by 50% while still getting better coverage than before. This led to better weed kill and disease control while spraying less, putting less hours on his sprayer, and spending less time in the field.

While Bryan was first interested in RealCoverage for its data and transparency, he has been amazed to get over 2X his coverage while spraying 50% less. The insights have transformed how he makes decisions and helps him connect his inputs, like adjuvants, to in-field results. Plus, the savings have opened up more opportunities for the future. Looking forward, he's excited to optimize more aspects of his program like to maintain the higher coverage while cutting costs, refills, and time in the field.

"RealCoverage was a no-brainer for us, really... Seeing the data from the machine in the field, it's clear that it works."

Scan for more information:

