

BEN LARSON OF S.T.I.

Interview conducted in 2015 by former Pulse USA Western Sales Representative, Luke Dukart



How have the Limagrain Cereal Seeds wheat lineup impacted your growers farms? Which variety has performed best for your growers?

The Limagrain Cereal Seed wheat lineup has performed well under irrigated and dryland production. Our most successful variety so far has been LCS Albany under irrigated production, averaging well over 100 bushels per acre.

Being that you are active in scouting the fields of your growers, what soil health improvements have you seen on the fields with a diverse crop rotation?

A diverse crop rotation has allowed our growers to improve water holding capacity, increase beneficial soil organisms such as earth worms, stabilize nutrient cycling and reduce overall soil erosion.

What benefits have you seen your growers obtain by using the Clearfield lentil system?

Our growers that integrate the Clearfield lentil system have been more successful in managing their weeds in their lentil crop. Higher yields and easier harvest conditions have resulted.

BACKGROUND OF OPERATION

Safflower Technologies International is a premier identity preserved crop production company. Specializing in oil seeds, pulse crops and seed production, STI partners with growers in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota to provide high quality grain products to numerous markets. I serve as the Seed Manager and Agronomist for Eastern Montana and Western North Dakota.

In what ways have you seen pulse crops improve the operations of your growers?

Pulse crops have improved the overall profitability of growers operations by improving soil health, breaking crop disease cycles, reducing fertilizer costs, and providing additional grain market options.

What words of advice and precautions would you offer to someone that is wanting to become active in the pulse industry?

Anytime a grower adds a pulse crop to the rotation, it is important to utilize the best varieties available and to use a high quality inoculant. One of the biggest challenges for those just starting to raise pulses is to understand which herbicides to use to avoid crop injury. Finding experienced growers and industry professionals to lean on for advice is of critical importance.