

to feed out through the winter on 10 to 15 acres of corn silage.

“That just gives us one more way to market our crops and diversify the operation,” he relates.

Other than the corn used for silage, though, father and son store and market the produce from their respective fields independently. “He has his storage bins and I have mine,” Kirk relates, noting that his four-year average on corn yields is close to 225 bushels per acre.

“And we tend to market the crop at different times. More often than not, I sell when the market is still going up and he sells when it is starting to go back down. In the end, we come out pretty close together.”

Whether they agree or differ, Kirk says he and his dad remain close and continue to depend on each other in the day-to-day operations.

“I don’t know what else I’d be doing if I wasn’t farming,” Kirk admits. “I grew up farming and I like farming. So I’m grateful to my dad for helping me along. With all the overhead involved in farming today, I couldn’t do it alone.” **FL**



Green Tractor to Red Tractor

KIRK VENVERTLOH AND HIS FATHER certainly have a lot in common and share a bond when it comes to the family farm. However, when it involves tractors, you might say Kirk is going in a different direction than his dad.

While his father Willie Venvertloh has been a lifelong John Deere customer, Kirk recently purchased a new Massey Ferguson® Model 7615, equipped with the optional Dyna-VT™ CVT transmission and a Massey Ferguson Model 961 loader. In effect, it replaced two older tractors, while improving both efficiency and versatility.

“I mainly use it for feeding cattle and haying,” relates Kirk, who says he purchased the MF7615 in large part due to the efficiency and ease of operation provided by the CVT. Yet, as much as he appreciates that continuously variable transmission for both fieldwork and loader chores, Kirk says he has since learned that the tractor does so much more than he even imagined.

“I love the Dynamic Tractor Management (DTM) system and the foot pedal mode, and the way they work together when I’m using the loader,” he says. “I just move the shuttle lever to change direction, and use the pedal to start and stop, and to control the speed.”

Kirk says it is equally valuable on PTO-powered equipment, like their Hesston® by Massey Ferguson Model 2745 round baler. Again, he prefers to use the foot pedal for speed control, taking his foot off the pedal to stop and wrap the bale, then pushing down to start baling again.

“It’s great for going down the road too,” he continues. “We’re spread out quite a bit. We have one farm that’s 10 miles north of our main farmstead, and my house is actually 15 miles east; so the ability to travel between fields at around 32 mph is very helpful.

“At the same time, it’s been amazing on fuel economy,” he adds, pointing out how the engine automatically throttles down when power isn’t needed. “During one of the first hay cuttings this spring, I drove 17 miles to the field, cut about 13 acres of hay with the mower conditioner at about 6 mph and used a total of seven gallons of fuel. With any of the other tractors, we would have used at least 25 to 30% more fuel.”

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■ To learn more about the Massey Ferguson 7600 Series tractors and the CVT, visit your local Massey Ferguson dealer or see **MasseyFerguson.com**.

