

Get To Know David Hula

National Corn Grower Association Champion

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MidAmerica Farmer Grower

Part 3 of 3

David Hula, Charles City, Virginia was the keynote speaker at the recent DuPont Pioneer New Madrid Missouri Field Day held July 30, 2013 and the DuPont Pioneer Union City, Tennessee Field Day held July 31, 2013.

Hula, a National Corn Growers Association national top yield winner in 2011 has been using the practice of “never till” since the 1980s. A North Carolina State University graduate with a degree in agronomy, Hula began his farming career on the family farm. Upon graduation from college Hula worked for the Department of Conservation and Recreation as a nutrient management specialist. With agriculture as his love, Hula joined the family farm, Renwood Farms, as farm manager and hasn’t stopped since.

Hula began producing National Corn Growers Association top winning yields in 2003 with 321.8 bushels per acre. In 2004 Hula won with 339.4 bushel per acre. A third winning top yield of 385 was hit in 2007. In 2011 Hula won the highest overall yield title with 429.02 bushels per acre. He won first place in the No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated category.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Associate Professor/Grains Specialist, Wade Thomason said, “Renwood Farms success results from good business management but also a genuine passion for growing quality crops in a sustainable manner.”

Aggressive, progressive, driven and innovative, Hula was the first grower in his area to plant small grains in corn stubble in 1989. Currently, Hula practices “never till” planting a rotation of corn, wheat and beans. His leadership has resulted in 95 percent of growers in Eastern Virginia practicing “never till”. Hula also led Virginia growers in the use of yield monitors.

A member of the Virginia Small Grains Checkoff Board and supportive of research and extension ac-

tivities, Hula has hosted numerous research plots focusing on high yield corn and wheat strategies. In 2007 Renwood Farms hosted the Virginia Ag Expo a statewide field day for the corn and soybean growers associations in Virginia.

Renwood Farms includes a seed cleaning and conditioning operation, the Renwood Fields Farm Machinery Museum, a petting zoo and a five acre corn maize. With 3,000 acres near the James River, Renwood Farms spreads across three counties and includes some crop land on the Mainland Farms at Jamestown.

Mainland Farms is the first land cultivated by American farmers in Virginia 400 years ago.

Using a Conservation Innovation Grant from the NRCS, Hula is currently working with retired Virginia Cooperative Extension agent Paul Davis, Colonial Soil and Water District and NRCS on a variable rate nitrogen application system using an infrared chlorophyll reader.

Covering 800 acres in five or six counties, Davis said, “if there is new technology out there, David Hula wants to be a part of it.”

Hula was named the 2013 Corn Farmer Of Year at the 16th Annual National Conservation Systems Southern Corn & Soybean Conference held in Baton Rouge Louisiana earlier this year. He is scheduled to make presentations on January 15-16, 2014 at the 17th Annual National Conservation Systems Southern Corn & Soybean Conference to be held in Tunica, Mississippi.

Over his career, Hula has used DuPont Pioneer hybrid seed to break numerous national and state records. He plans to share his success story with attendees at the upcoming two day conference held at Harrah’s Conference Center, Tunica Mississippi.

If you missed Hula in 2013 put him on your calendar for 2014. Watch for updated information on www.mafg.net. Δ

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