

# Increasing Yields

With Swine Manure Effluent



#### GROWER NAME

Todd Rokey



#### LOCATION

Sabetha, Kansas



#### CROPS

Corn and Soybean Rotation



#### FARM SIZE

127 Acres / 3,500 swine /  
1.0M gallon swine manure  
lagoon (8 foot pit)



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# / Challenges



Optimize manure management practices to enhance farm sustainability.



Implement cost-effective strategies to minimize fertilizer expenses without compromising crop quality.



Revolutionize irrigation techniques to boost efficiency and provide stable and enhanced yields.

Todd Rokey, an accomplished farmer overseeing 800 acres of vibrant farmland nestled in the picturesque landscape of northeastern Kansas, boasts a diverse operation cultivating corn, soybeans, and nurturing approximately 3,500 swine. Despite the idyllic setting, Rokey faces the formidable challenge of optimizing resource management on his rolling hills terrain. With shallow wells limiting access to groundwater, Rokey relies predominantly on surface water sources, compelling him to devise innovative strategies to ensure sustainable water utilization.

To address his pressing concerns, Rokey endeavors to enhance his farm's efficiency while maintaining ecological balance. Foremost among his priorities is the implementation of more effective manure management practices, aligning with modern agricultural standards and environmental stewardship. Additionally, Rokey seeks to alleviate the financial strain of fertilization by exploring avenues to reduce costs without compromising crop quality or yield.

Furthermore, Rokey is keen on revolutionizing his irrigation techniques to streamline operations and minimize labor expenditure. By embracing efficient irrigation methodologies tailored to the unique demands of his crops, topography and irregular field shapes, Rokey aims to boost productivity while conserving vital resources.



As my children come into the business, acquiring more land is not easy, there's not much available. So we had to figure out how to add more value to what we already have. We came across drip irrigation and really felt like that was the way to improve value. With the introduction of SDI-E to our farm, we saw an ROI on the system in just two years and that doesn't even include the nutrient value of using it on our crops.

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# / The solution

- Implementation of a comprehensive solution tailored to farm's unique conditions
- Adoption of subsurface drip irrigation (SDI) for crop cultivation on 127 acres
- Transition and Utilization of SDI-E for efficient swine effluent and resource management
- Utilization of manure-derived nutrients to nourish crops
- Facilitation of moisture retention in soil through 100% no-till practices and preservation of furrows year-round
- Minimization of evaporation losses through underground water and nutrient delivery
- Streamlining of operations leading to reduced labor costs



# / The results

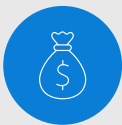
- With a 90% distribution uniformity, SDI-E ensures precise nutrient application to the root zone of crops. Additionally, Netafim's patented system precisely blends the right ratio of effluent and fresh water for maximum nutrient uptake.
- Subsurface application minimizes water loss from evaporation, runoff, and deep percolation
- Netafim's patented system blends effluent and fresh water for maximum nutrient uptake



**Water savings**



**Increased production and quality**



**Better utilization of resources**



**Conventional fertilizer program cost**

**\$56/** corn acre

**vs.**

**Hybrid fertilizer program cost**

**\$32/** corn acre



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