

Meet a Farmer!

Kevin Underwood

Dear Students,

I'm Kevin Underwood. I am a corn and soybean farmer in West Lafayette, Indiana. I am a second-generation farmer. Our family has 800 acres of corn and 800 acres of soybeans. We began planting popcorn in 2011.

We aim to keep our soil healthy. We leave the parts of the plant that we don't eat on top of the soil. This is called conservation tillage. We also plant cover crops in the fall. Cover crops keep the nutrient rich topsoil in place during the winter and on windy days. We only apply fertilizers when the crops need it. Just like other farmers, we depend on the weather. The weather controls when we can plant and when our crops are done growing. We rely on rainfall for water. We commonly get 36 inches of rainfall in one year!

Farming is a year-round job. From April through May, we plant the crops. During the summer we watch for diseases and pests. In mid to late September, we harvest the crops with a tractor called a combine. My dad or another family member often helps with harvest. The field corn is sold to feed livestock. The popcorn is sold for humans to eat! Did you know that popcorn is a whole grain food? The kernels are taken off of the cob. They are used for the popcorn we all know and love. Most of the popcorn is put into microwaveable bags or jars for home use. Did you know there is water inside popcorn? The water makes the kernel pop when heated!

My wife and I have three children. I like to spend free time with my family, at church or serving on the Tippecanoe County Council. I enjoy how different every day is on the farm. I love farming because I get to work with my hands and be surrounded by nature.

Sincerely,

Kevin Underwood
Popcorn Farmer



*Kevin Underwood and Shane Geswein
Popcorn Farmers, Indiana*

