

Introduction

Embarking on my agricultural journey at the age of 18, I took my first steps into the world of precision agriculture at CHS. This initial exposure laid the foundation for my professional development, equipping me with hands-on experience in seasonal operations and essential skills in managing agricultural inputs. As I progressed through my education at Mitchell Technical College, specializing in Precision Agriculture and Technology, I was entrusted with increasingly complex tasks that transformed my practical experiences into robust competencies. This blend of education and real-world application not only sharpened my agronomic capabilities but also ignited a passion for leveraging technology to solve contemporary agricultural challenges. My subsequent role as an Integrated Solutions Specialist at Grossenburg Implement further fueled this enthusiasm, as I collaborated with farmers to optimize their operations using data-driven insights.

Recognizing a significant gap in available services for challenging terrains in Knox and Cedar counties, I was inspired to launch Barney Precision Ag, LLC, a venture dedicated to utilizing drone technology to revitalize neglected agricultural lands. This introduction to my journey encapsulates the evolution of my career—a commitment to innovative solutions that marry agronomy with cutting-edge technology for a sustainable agricultural future.

Education and Early Experience

At the age of 18, I began my career at CHS, where I gained valuable experience in seasonal operations. My initial responsibilities included tendering spraying trailers,

delivering chemicals to customers, treating seeds, and performing various basic tasks around the chemical and fertilizer sheds. During this time, I was also preparing to attend Mitchell Technical College for the Precision Agriculture and Technology program.

Once accepted into the program, my lead agronomist at CHS entrusted me with more advanced agronomic tasks, such as prescription writing, soil sampling, tissue sampling, and other precision agriculture-related tasks. This practical experience complemented my education and allowed me to transform basic skills into valuable competencies for the workforce.

After my first year of college, I began my internship at CHS in Ethan, SD. During this internship, I was responsible for managing the fertilizer shed, organizing the chemical warehouse, conducting soil and tissue sampling, and handling machine agronomic data. These experiences further enhanced my skill set and prepared me for my future career.

Transition to Integrated Solutions Specialist

Upon completing my Associate's Degree in Precision Agriculture and Technology, I shifted my focus toward the technology side of precision agriculture. I relocated to northeast Nebraska, where I accepted a position at Grossenburg Implement as an Integrated Solutions Specialist. In this role, I merged my agronomy background with technology to assist customers in reducing their initial inputs for future farming seasons. With this position I found myself still working hands on with agronomic data but in a different fashion. I was taking the data and processing it in a way that made it understandable to customers that were not using it. I took this as a time to teach my

customers what the importance of this data was and how they could be planning for the future by just looking at the data.

Identifying a Community Need

While working at Grossenburgs, I frequently interacted with customers in Knox and Cedar counties who shared a common concern: the need for spraying services for pasture and cropland. The steep river hills in these areas posed significant challenges for both ground rig and manned aerial applications, leading to neglected land.

So after relaying this message to my Grandfather who works in the aerial application business in Bloomfield, Nebraska, it started to get the wheels turning on the idea to provide a new type of service with the help of aerial spray drones. The idea was I could help add a safety type of service to the manned aerial applicators of our aerial by using an unmanned aircraft to get into more of these challenging spots to spray.

Business Development

Motivated by this need, I founded Barney Precision Ag, LLC, which employs drone sprayers to access and revitalize these challenging areas. My goal is to improve pasture health by managing weed infestations and protecting cropland from diseases. Additionally, I aim to assist customers in creating soil maps and prescriptions, encompassing all aspects of precision agriculture. The way I will do this is through drone technologies. As I sit I do not currently have a drone selected for my business. The reason being, is that drone technologies have been hitting a stride in advancements that made me feel like its a better option to wait. This in turn gives me a

better opportunity to give more reliable and faster work to the agriculture producers that I will be working with.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my journey from a seasonal worker at CHS to the founder of Barney Precision Ag, LLC, reflects my deep commitment to innovation in precision agriculture. Through my education and practical experience, I have developed essential skills that bridge agronomy and technology, enabling me to address the unique challenges faced by farmers in northeast Nebraska. As I launch my business, my goal is to provide reliable, efficient solutions to revitalize neglected lands and enhance agricultural productivity. I envision Barney Precision Ag as a trusted partner for farmers, dedicated to reducing costs and effectively managing weed and disease issues. By leveraging cutting-edge drone technology and a comprehensive understanding of precision agriculture, I am excited to contribute positively to the agricultural community and ensure sustainable farming practices for future generations.