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Customer Story

# Wisconsin Potato Farmer Implements Precision Farming

Trimble CenterPoint® RTX





## Overview

Mike Wolter is a potato farmer in Antigo, Wisconsin, farming 1,500 acres for over 30 years. He knows with a high-value crop like potatoes, accuracy and performance are critical. After 15 years of relying on the same accuracy equipment, Wolter's system was no longer supported and he was faced with making a decision about a new precision farming system.

NUMBER OF ACRES FARMED:

1,500

NUMBER OF YEARS USING  
PRECISION AG:

15

## Challenge

### A Forced Upgrade Leads to Improved Service and Reliability

Wolter was frustrated to be in a position where his current system was no longer supported. Subsequently, he was faced with making a decision about a new precision farming system. Wolter began researching Trimble, and was impressed with the quality of the products and the competency of the customer support. Wolter was hesitant about having to learn a different interface, but once he got started, he saw how intuitive the system was and quickly mastered it. He knew Trimble customer support was always available if he needed help. The impact of the new system was immediate.

“Anyone who has switched to Trimble would never go back. Trimble provides excellent service and overall is more responsive.

## Approach

### New Correction Service, Improved Farming

Utilizing the Trimble GFX-750™ display, operating with the CenterPoint RTX correction service and Trimble Field-IQ™ precision ag system, gives Wolter the ability to tackle a range of farming applications every season, across his equipment pool.

The system is very intuitive. I learned it quickly, and then saw the full breadth of its capabilities.

Wolter knew he had made the right decision. He saw efficiencies as the system enabled him to reduce the fertilizer and seed that had previously been used in areas that are non-productive. His tillage doesn't overlap, allowing him to get the most out of the fuel he uses.

Prior to using Trimble, driving his tractor was the focal point of his work. Now, Wolter considers driving an afterthought: “The burden of maintaining precise rows in the field has been taken over with the accuracy of Trimble CenterPoint RTX. With the added integration of cameras, I can now monitor the actual operation — spraying fertilizer, applying fungicide or running the planters — while the mental and physical stress of keeping precise and accurate rows is taken off my plate.” Furthermore, Wolter appreciated the decreased physical impact of his daily work, “I can now go for a motorcycle ride after a day in the field — the impact on me physically can’t be overstated.”

### Laying the Path for a Generational Transition

As with any farm each field has its own characteristics, and over his lifetime Wolter, like all farmers, has acquired an unrivaled knowledge of his land. As he nears retirement, he is looking to his two sons and the next generation of his employees to take over the farm. Trimble’s precision ag solution makes it easy for Wolter to transfer his in field knowledge to the next generation: “With this system, the detailed knowledge about the terrain — from areas that have drainage issues to spots where I shouldn’t waste seed and fertilizer — allows my sons to catch up on my 30+ years of walking these fields.”

Wolter continues to rely on CenterPoint RTX and its ability to deliver on repeatable accuracy to within an inch in the same rows, whether running a 3 week, 3 month or 3 year cycle. Wolter recently invested in a second tractor with the same Trimble precision ag solution, including CenterPoint RTX correction service. Employing the system across his equipment has given Wolter the peace of mind he needs to confidently pass his knowledge to the next generation.

“The biggest improvement is that farmers can be more productive, more efficient. The system gives us the ability to treat each acre differently and customize our farming based on the needs of that particular area.



*Trimble’s precision ag solution makes it easy for Mike Wolter to transfer his in-field knowledge to the next generation.*

## Results

### Ease of Use Delivers Accuracy, Reliability and Efficiency

While Wolter was initially hesitant that switching to a Trimble precision ag system would entail a steep learning curve, he had confidence in its capabilities from the moment he grasped the interface. The implementation was a seamless process — he immediately saw the accuracy improvement and continues to rely heavily on the system’s map of his farm.



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