



SoDak Labs, Inc.

“Seed production has always been my favorite part of the business.”

-John H.

John Hennenfent Joins the SoDak Labs Team



Figure 1. John Hennenfent

SoDak Labs is pleased to announce the addition of John Hennenfent to our seed corn team. John brings 30+ years of experience in the seed business. He will be assisting Les North and Al Bortnem throughout our Sizing, Shakeouts and Growout Packaging season here at the lab and growout readings in Puerto Rico.

John grew up on a grain and livestock farm in the Galesburg, Illinois area. As a youth, he was involved in 4-H and FFA, holding offices at the local and sectional level. Following high school graduation, John attended Carl Sandburg Community College getting an associate degree in Agriculture Transfer. John then attended Western Illinois University, graduating in 1982, with a bachelor's degree in Ag Business with an emphasis in Farm Management.

While in college he married his wife, Holly. Following graduation, they moved to the St. Charles, Illinois area to work for Northern FS. John and Holly moved back to the Galesburg area after 2 ½ years to manage a grain and livestock farm.

John had an opportunity to begin working for Lyle “Bud” and Alice Davis at Munson Hybrids. John began learning all facets of the seed business but especially the ins and outs of production. He noted, “I grew up on a grain farm and went to college and thought I knew everything, but growing seed corn was a whole new experience”.

In 1999 Holly and John purchased Munson Hybrids from the Davis’ and started the adventure of owning their own seed business. John oversaw the entire operation but remained very hands-on in the production activities of the business. “Seed production has always been my favorite part of the business,” John reflected as he looked back on his years of experiences.



Figure 2. John examining tassel for pollen.

John has been active in IPISA, serving on the research committee for many years, as well as the education committee. John served two terms on the board filling several offices, including President. John also served on the Illinois Foundation Seed Board.

As a part of their succession plan John and Holly sold the sales portion of the business in 2018. In 2020, they are closing the production operations of the business. John and Holly have two daughters and three grandsons. They enjoy spending time with their family, traveling and relaxing on their boat.

