

From a single row picker, to a twenty-four row combine head, improvements in the agricultural industry are happening every day. Not many people think about how agriculture has had various changes and technological advancements. Without these improvements, farmers couldn't produce the food and products we need and our world wouldn't be able to survive.

As you are driving down the county roads, you often see field signs showing and advertising the crops being produced. Many seed sales reps put these out so you can see how well their brand and type of crop is doing. However, they often forget to take them out of the fields before harvest time. This means that farmers often run over them or have to swerve to avoid them. Imagine if we created biodegradable field signs made from petrochemicals. Not only would this help the environment, but it would also be cheaper in the long run.

Dave Hiltbrand, a local farmer from southwest Ohio said, "I love being able to represent NK and their products, however their signs can be in the way when I am trying to harvest my beans." He, along with many other farmers feel this way. If this product was created, that would be one less stress farmers would have to face during harvest, and less burdensome for the seed sales reps who put them in the fields and often forget to take them down.

Currently these signs are made from three layers of polypropylene plastics. According to an article from Creative Mechanisms, "Polypropylene (PP) is a thermoplastic "addition polymer" made from the combination of propylene monomers" (Creative Mechanisms Staff, 2018). The combination of these plastics is not good for the environment. If the signs were biodegradable, they would be made from what is called "petrochemicals" which break down more quickly and safely.

This improvement would benefit many people in the agriculture industry. This would serve the producers of the signs because it would be cheaper for them to make and put out to sell. It would help seed sales reps because they wouldn't have to worry about taking the signs out before harvest time. Farmers would also benefit because they wouldn't have to have the concern about the signs going through their combine and damaging it. This would also benefit you! With this product being biodegradable, it would be safe for the environment and limit the use of plastic.

In conclusion, the agriculture industry is improving in many ways and this is just one example of ways it can be even better. Creating any type of biodegradable products is an improvement for the world as a whole. Remember that without improving agriculture we will not be able to survive. We as a community need to work together to keep developing and creating new products and technologies for agriculture.