

One Step Ahead with Sustainable Agriculture



Selterhof – Germany



Bayer
Forward 
Farming

Sustainable Agriculture in Practice

Conscious and careful use of agricultural and environmental resources is the foundation for the Bohnsack family in their farm management. Their conventionally managed farm looks back on five years of organic farming. Respectively, the family has continued harrowing for very specific goals. On the other hand, they also rely on cutting-edge technologies to be prepared for the future.



Introducing Selterhof

**Owned by Petra and
Wilhelm Bohnsack**



Location:

Einbeck-Erzhausen, Lower Saxony.



History:

The farm's history dates back to the Erzhausen monastery, which was first documented in 1547. The Bohnsack family has been farming in Erzhausen for seven generations. The current location, a former manor, was acquired in 1933.



Farming Land:

230 ha farming land; Luvisol with a loess layer of approximately 90 cm; weathered soils (rendzinas) ranging from clayey loam to loam; average of 70 points on the quality index for agricultural land (28–85 points).



Crops:

Winter wheat, sugar beet, winter oilseed rape, and corn for renewal energy production.



Partners:

The expertise of a whole range of players is combined to tackle the challenges of sustainable agriculture together.

Selterhof

Farm Profile



- Tailored Solutions
- Proactive Stewardship
- Partnerships

Key Elements

- Seeds**
High-quality, certified seeds are the basis for optimized yields.
- Bayer SeedGrowth®**
Protecting seeds from diseases and improving stress tolerance.
- Integrated weed control**
The combined use of herbicides and harrowing is in-line with the basic principle of integrated crop production.
- Integrated crop protection**
Traditional ecological measures such as the use of sulfur is complemented by modern chemical solutions, as needed.
- Digital solutions**
These enable efficient, targeted, and resource-conserving cropping (implementation ongoing).
- Soil health and erosion prevention**
Cover crop cultivation and contour tillage are very important in sloping areas and contribute to soil conservation.
- Flower strips and flower meadows**
Flower meadows and flower strips in the fields provide a food source and habitat for the native flora and fauna.
- Bee houses, beetle banks and earth piles**
These measures offer appropriate breeding grounds for wild bees and other pollinators and insects.
- Skylark plots and nesting boxes**
Skylark plots are one example of supporting various ground-nesting birds. Protected nesting aids help cave and cavity breeders like swifts and swallows to raise their young in safety.
- Phytobac® and water protection**
Riparian buffers with year-round vegetation, the use of drift reducing nozzles, and the proper cleaning of spraying equipment help to protect against unwanted discharges of crop protection products. A Phytobac® system is also planned.
- Safe storage and safe use of crop protection products**
Safe storage of crop protection products, the proper use of personal protective equipment, as well as an easyFlow M-system protect both the environment and users.
- Partnerships**
Working with local dealers and consultants helps overcome challenges. Close cooperation exists with the Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture.



Bayer ForwardFarming provides an up-close look at how farmers are practicing sustainable agriculture around the world. Unique in its global reach the Bayer ForwardFarming network serves as platform for knowledge sharing and dialogue. Forward-Farmers deploy technologies and best practices that reduce agriculture-related greenhouse gas emissions, decrease the environmental impact of crop protection, promote biodiversity and conserve natural resources.

On the ForwardFarms, progress towards the Crop Science sustainability commitments truly comes to life.

Bayer ForwardFarming demonstrates solutions that support sustainability in agriculture across the following three components:

// **Care for Crops** – Every farm is different, and every field within a successful farming operation is unique. **Tailored Solutions** are needed to meet the needs of the individual farmer and their specific field – from the right seeds and traits to the correct type and amount of crop protection, to the digital tools and services that allow for good decision making and precision.

// **Care for the Planet and People** – ForwardFarming promotes and demonstrates **Proactive Stewardship** to protect human health and preserve the environment. Examples include addressing the safe and responsible use of crop protection products; soil health, biodiversity, and water conservation; and offering training in all of these areas.

// **Care for Partnerships** – Bayer ForwardFarming fosters **Partnerships** with agricultural value chain actors, research centers, universities, and other institutions to strengthen sustainable farming development.



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