

TALKING WITH YOUR LANDLORD:

NO-TILLAGE

There are many landowners looking for young, innovative farmers who are promoting a sound conservation ethic as they look at the future care of their land. Gaining conservation, communication and financial skills will help Emerging Farmers stand out in the community and create a competitive advantage for building relationships with future landlords. This publication series lays the initial roadmap to help develop those skills and provide resources for continued growth.

NO-TILL BASICS

WHAT IS NO-TILL?

No-till is a soil conservation practice that leaves the soil undisturbed between harvest and planting except for the injection of nutrients such as anhydrous ammonia or liquid manure.

THE DOLLARS AND SENSE OF NO-TILL

No additional equipment is needed to make the transition to no-till. Every pass across the field with a tillage tool costs money: labor, fuel, time and wear-and-tear on equipment.



No-till reduces the number of passes across the field, **reducing operation input costs.**



Yield in no-till systems versus tillage systems **is comparable.**



No-till reduces the number of passes across the field, **saving you time.**

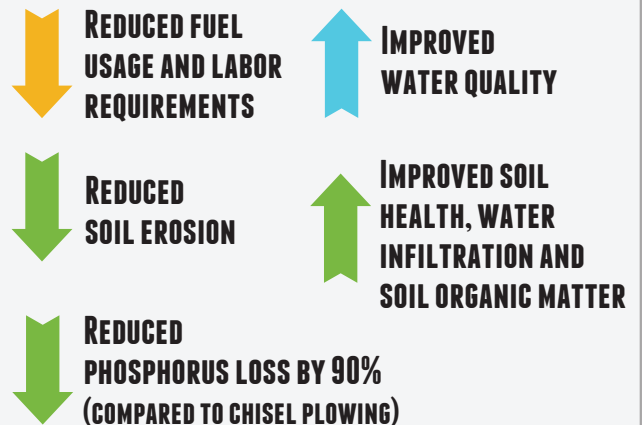


HOW IT WORKS

To prepare the seed bed, a coultter or disk seed-furrow opens narrow strips within the field for planting, creating good seed to soil contact. When no-till planting soybeans after corn, row cleaners are often used to push crop residue out of the way of the seed bed. Residue from the previous year remains on the soil surface to protect the soil from erosion.

No-till can be used on any well-drained or tile-drained field. Adjustments to combine and planter settings to account for higher residue levels and modifications in weed control and fertilizer application should be considered. If an area is poorly drained, the land may be a better candidate for strip till.

NO-TILL BENEFITS



START SMALL

It is important to recognize that it takes time to learn new management techniques. Consider using the practice on a smaller portion of the land and increasing each year, to learn new management skills to incorporate other practices successfully. Working with your landlord to gather information about the practice and addressing any concerns early will help smooth the transition to the new practice and minimize conflicts.

Your local NRCS staff and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach field specialists are available to meet with you and your landlords to help answer questions, provide resources and technical assistance.



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