



THE
No
TILL NEWSLETTER

SPRAYER TUNE-UP

Although much spray work has already been done, post-emergence type spraying continues. It's important to read the label of the product you are using to determine if a change of application rate or even spray tips is desirable.

Regarding tips, for some post-emerge materials thorough coverage with high pressure is desirable (where drift is not a concern). Such materials often recommend hollow or solid cone nozzles. Others more prone to drift often recommend nozzles that produce larger droplet sizes and operate at lower pressures. Check the label to determine if tips, operating pressure, and application rate will match your sprayer set-up.

Further information on sprayers, including calibration can be obtained by asking at the Extension Office for bulletins in the Pm-1101 series, Spraying Equipment, or Pm-817, Broadcast Sprayer Calibration.

NO TILL DRILL DEMO

A field day will be held June 3 demonstrating the use of no till grain drills to plant soybeans into corn stubble. Producers will be able to observe several drills in action beginning at 6:30 p.m. The demonstration will take place on the Robert Hough farm adjacent to L34 (Beebeetown road) southwest of Underwood. The field is located along L34 3½ miles north of Hwy. 191 or 2½ miles south of G30. Signs will be posted on L34 to direct producers.

Rain date is June 5.

EQUIPMENT STORAGE

Toward the end of the spring work rush producers find themselves with various tillage equipment, planters, and sprayers to put away. If they are stored properly, additional life can be added to the machine. Also it will require little additional work at the start of next season before they are prepared for the field.

First check the operator's manual for any specific storage instructions. It's

the best place to find information for a particular piece of equipment.

Clean the outside of equipment with high pressure air or water if it is a less critical area. Be sure to let it air dry in the sun if wet. Make a thorough check for worn or broken parts. Repair them now or make a detailed list for the machine if time is limited. Places to check include chains, belts, blades, shovels, metering mechanisms, and safety shields.

Lubricate bearings. You may want to consider oiling dry fertilizer, herbicide, or insecticide attachments. Tighten loose bolts.

Touch up painting, particularly on sheet metal helps stop rust. Commercial rust preventatives are also available.

Inflate tires to proper pressure. Use a board between tire and soil or better yet block up the implement.

Sprayers require a thorough final rinse. Adding a couple of gallons of lightweight oil to the rinse water leaves a protective coating on interior plumbing. Store nozzles and strainers in light oil such as diesel fuel. Make sure the sprayer is completely drained or consider anti-freeze.

CHECK FIELDS

With less trips through the field most crop producers still find this a busy time of year making sure that provisions for pesticide control are working and observing emergence and early growth. While you're out checking now is a good time to evaluate this year's management practices and make some written notes. Of course you'll have to distinguish between those problems that may recur and those that are peculiar to this year.

It's also a good time to take advantage of any local no till tours being offered by Extension and SCS. Not only can you observe another's technique, but you can visit with other no tillers.

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NO-TILL INCENTIVE PAYMENT AVAILABLE

Funds are available for the \$10/ac no-till incentive payment. Applications must be signed at the District office before the crop is planted. You must be a first time no-tiller or are renting the no-till equipment. The planting must be done in heavy residue cover such as corn stalks, hay, oat stubble or sod. Soybean ground is not eligible. For more information call the SCS office.

NO-TILL DRILL IN USE

A no-till soybean rental drill has been in use around the District this past month. It is a Haybuster drill available through Underwood Feed and Supply. The following operators have used the drill so far this spring to no-till soybeans on 300 acres: Ken Strohhenn, Bob Soloth, Gary Larson, Bob Hough and Mick Ring. They report good success planting through untouched or heavy corn stalks and sod. The drill can be seen in use at the no-till drill demonstration on June 3rd. For more information on renting the drill, call Joe Constant at Underwood Feed & Supply.

NO-TILL TOUR

Again this year we are planning to have an evening no-till tour. We are planning on looking at some fields of no-till corn and soybeans and possibly a meal will be provided. The tour is tentatively scheduled for the last week in June. For further information on this year's evening tour, watch for it in your local newspaper.

SAVE SOIL, SAVE MONEY

One reason producers change to a no-till planting system is because of the soil conservation benefit. The difference in erosion rates between a chisel-disk system and a no-till system on typical slopes in this area can be more than 15 tons per acre per year. One source has estimated that the nutrient content of a ton of soil is worth about \$6 per ton. In the example above, the value of the soil loss could be about \$90 per acre per year. To this, you can add the benefit of lower machinery investment, less hours of labor, and less fuel used. Think about it. Try no-till. Save Soil and Save Money.

IOWA MASTER GROWERS CONTEST

The West Pott. SCD is again co-sponsoring the local Iowa Master Corn & Soybean Growers Contest. One of the four divisions of the contest is conservation tillage. To qualify, a field must have at least 30% ground cover. Ground cover measurements must be made by Soil Conservation District or Extension personnel. If no-till is used as the conservation tillage method the producer will also be included in the District's no-till yield contest. The entry fee is \$15. The deadline for submitting the names of entrants is July 31, but anyone needing a residue measurement should contact the District as soon as the field is planted. Last year's local no-till winners were Gary Larson (201 bushel corn) & Mark Schnepel (52 bushel beans).

NO-TILL SIGNS

As you are driving around the country side and you spot a sign stating the advantages of no-till, don't be afraid to stop and take a look. Six signs will be posted around the country showing fields that were planted in no-till.

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