

34<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**NATIONAL  
NO-TILLAGE  
CONFERENCE**

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# What No-Tillers Should Know About Strip-Till

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# Isn't this a No-Till Conference?

## Assumptions

- Banded Fertilizer Application
- It's tillage – Conservation?
- Have to go deep
- It will wash out
- It doesn't cover every inch



# What Is Strip-Till?

*“Strip-till is a farming system that manages residue and provides controlled seedbed preparation to create the ideal seed growing environment in specific zones within a field.”*

- Andy Thompson



# Understand Strip-till

- What is & What isn't in the definition
- Different Strip-Till systems
- Strip-Till & No-Till Together
- Doesn't have to be deep
- Very customizable



# Why Strip-Till?

What interests you about Strip-Till?

What do you hope to accomplish with it?

Are there issues you are trying to solve?



# Benefits: Residue & Seedbed

## Residue Management

New hybrids leave a lot of residue

## Better Seedbed

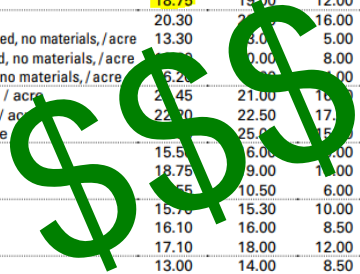
Warmer, Cleaner, Softer



# Benefits: Fertilizer Application

Tillage	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses
Chopping cornstalks, / acre	<b>\$12.40</b>	\$12.00	\$8.00 - \$16.00	27
Moldboard plowing, / acre	18.20	18.00	15.00 - 24.00	11
Chisel plowing, / acre	17.95	18.50	14.00 - 22.00	18
Disk/chiseling, / acre	20.15	20.00	14.00 - 28.00	27
Vertical tillage, / acre	<b>18.75</b>	19.00	12.00 - 25.00	36
Strip tillage, / acre	20.30	20.00	16.00 - 25.00	23
- extra charge, dry bulk fertilizer, banded, no materials, / acre	13.30	8.00	5.00 - 23.00	10
- extra charge, liquid fertilizer, knifed, no materials, / acre	10.00	0.00	8.00 - 18.00	5
- extra charge, anhydrous fertilizer, no materials, / acre	5.20	0.00	0.00 - 8.00	8
Subsoiling (8 to 15 inches deep), / acre	21.45	21.00	16.00 - 28.00	24
V-ripping (over 15 inches deep), / acre	22.70	22.50	17.00 - 30.00	16
V-ripping with tandem disk, / acre	25.00	25.00	15.00 - 32.00	31
Disking, tandem, / acre	15.50	6.00	0.00 - 23.00	34
Disking, heavy or offset, / acre	18.75	9.00	7.00 - 24.00	10
Harrowing or dragging, / acre	10.55	10.50	6.00 - 16.00	14
Soil finishing, / acre	15.70	15.30	10.00 - 26.00	31
Field cultivating, / acre	16.10	16.00	8.50 - 26.00	49
Rock picking, / acre	17.10	18.00	12.00 - 20.00	9
Cultivating, conventional, / acre	13.00	14.00	8.50 - 18.00	11
Cultivating, ridge-till, / acre	16.70	15.00	12.00 - 22.00	7
Rotary hoeing, / acre	10.35	10.00	6.00 - 15.00	13
Land rolling, / acre	7.15	7.00	4.00 - 10.00	23

FM 1698 Revised March 2020



- Better Fertilizer Placement
- Nutrient Stratification
- Reduced Fertilizer & Application Costs
- Control of application



# Benefits: Help other Operations

- Planting
- Side Dress
- Fertilizer Application
- Spraying



# Challenges: Time & Weather

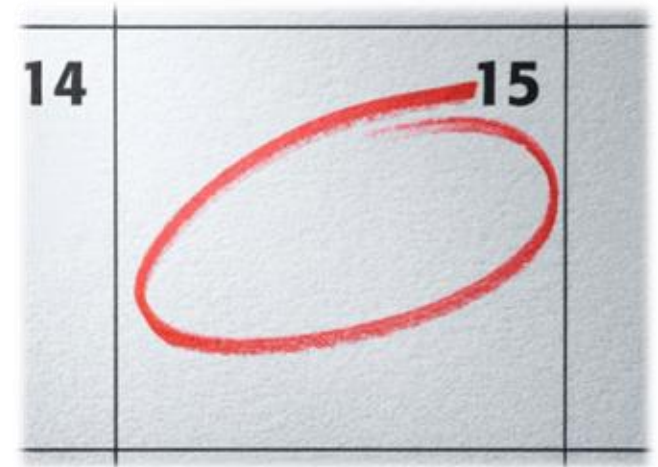


- Narrow windows in the fall
- Acres vs available days
- Timing pressure every year
- Weather can change overnight
- Warm and dry to rain or snow
- Frost
- Humidity



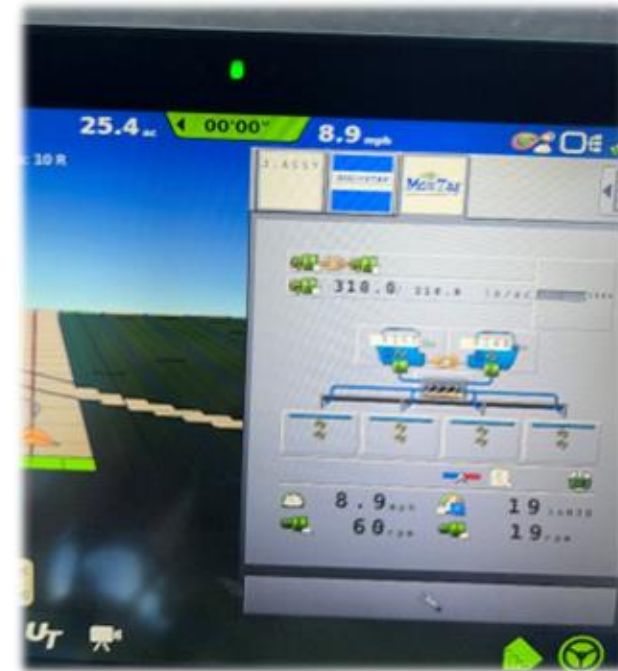
# Challenges: Logistics

- Fertilizer availability
- Tender trucks
- Shared equipment
- Everyone busy at the same time



# Challenges: Precision & Operators

- What tech do I need?
- Consistency between operators
- Operator Experience
- Planning and Organization



# Challenge: Cost

- Equipment isn't cheap!
- NRCS Programs
- Evaluate existing costs
- What equipment do you own that you may not need?
- What's the cost of NOT making a change?
- Can you put a price on what you don't know?



# Where do I start?

How many row planter and corn head do you have?

What precision ag system do you need?

What about implement guidance?

Do you want to place throughout the strip or in a single spot?

Who is going to support / answer questions on the equipment?

Will you apply fertilizer?

How deep do you want to go and why?

Do you square up the corners of your field when you apply?

Will you apply in spring or fall or both?

If you're working with a fertilizer dealer, can they help?

How much horsepower does you have?

How many acres per fill can you cover?

Do you have the equipment to handle it?

Do you need GPS?

What tractor do you have?

Do you want to variable rate apply?



# Homework & Decisions

- Attend Events – Conferences, Clinics, Demo Days Etc.
- Ask questions
- Decide how this fits in your operation
- Know your Goals



# The Variables

- ✓ Fertilizer
- ✓ Tractor capability
- ✓ Planter setup
- ✓ Timing (fall, spring, or both)
- ✓ Precision equipment



# Fertilizer – Type and How

- Do you want to apply fertilizer?
- What type? (Dry, Liquid, NH3)
- Depth?
- Handling equipment?



# Row Unit Type

- Shank / Knife vs Coulter
- Depth Ability
- HP Needed
- Resulting Strip



# Planter Setup

- Row Cleaners
- Closing System
- Coulters
- Fertilizer System
- Downforce
- High Speed



# Out of the box vs Custom Solution

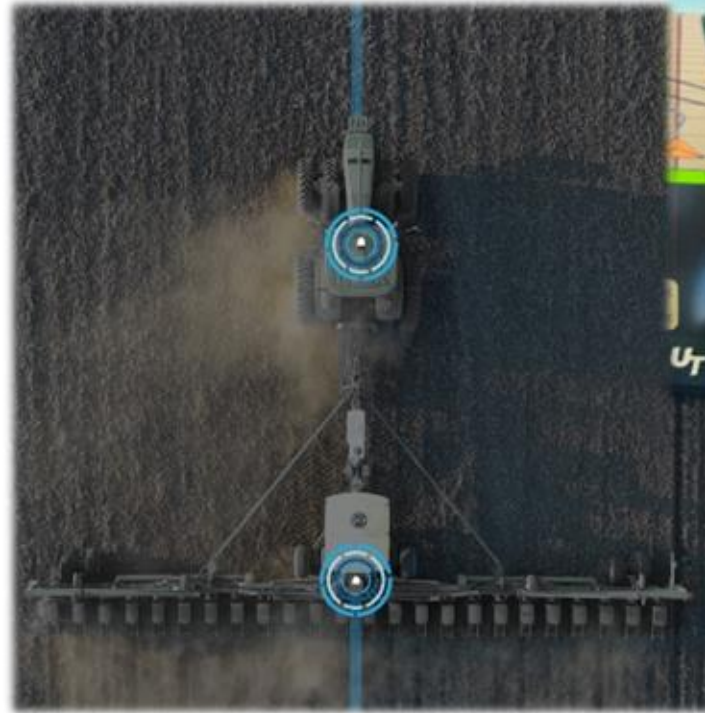


- Convenient
- Limited Options
- Nothing you can't do



# Precision Considerations

- GPS Signal
- Guidance consistency
- Rate control
- Implement guidance
- Variable rate goals



# Expect a Learning Curve

- Year 1 is not Year 5
- Adjustments are normal
- Address issues early
- Quality beats speed



# What do you really NEED to know?

- There is no easy button
- Make careful decisions
- Ask Questions
- You can always adjust
- Set yourself up for success
- Find a trusted advisor
- It's not always going to work perfectly



# Thank you!

## Questions?

