

# 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual NATIONAL NO-TILLAGE CONFERENCE

January 7-10, 2025 • Louisville, Ky.

## Optimizing Your Planter for No-Till Success

Clay Scott  
Precision Planting



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# Introduction



# Agenda

- Emergence
- Planter Frame
- Parallel Arms
- Furrow Creation
- Planting Depth
- Closing
- Action items



# Why do we stress emergence?

## Emergence PAYS!

- 12hrs behind=1 collar behind= ½ ear loss
- 1 collar behind=3.5bu=\$4 corn=\$1400 on 100 row acres
- How does planter maintenance effect emergence?



# Planter Frame

- First day of planting 2025
- Acre counter stays as low as possible
- Two point vs Three point vs drawbar
- Consequences of not being level
- Frame weight solutions
- Managing planter footprint



# Parallel Arms

Make sure parallel arms don't have excessive slop

As those parallel arms wear, furrow creation changes entirely

Lots of good repair options out there



# Furrow Creation- Disc Openers

- When to change disc openers?
- Most V style openers – ½" of wear from new
- AGCO 8000 – 1" of wear
- This could be every year
- Rocks?
- Shimming-Heavy duty usually means thicker, so be mindful when shimming
- Always check runout before installing

Opener Thickness	Contact
3mm	2"-2.5"
3.5mm	1.5"-2"
4mm	1"-1.5"



# Furrow Creation- Depth Mechanism

## Depth System Maintenance

- T-Handle
- Shoulder bolt
- Moustache (Kinze dog bone)
- Gauge wheel arms
- Gauge wheels



# Furrow Creation

## Seed tube guard

- Keeps discs from flexing inward to maintain furrow width
- No-Till traditionally puts more force on guards
- As the guard wears, seed trench gets narrower, seeds don't make it to the bottom
- Seed firmers will not fix worn planter components



# Furrow Evaluation

How do we evaluate a seed trench?

- Closing tail up

Things to look for

- Sidewall compaction
- Air pockets
- Are the seeds achieving depth?



No-Till Downforce Management



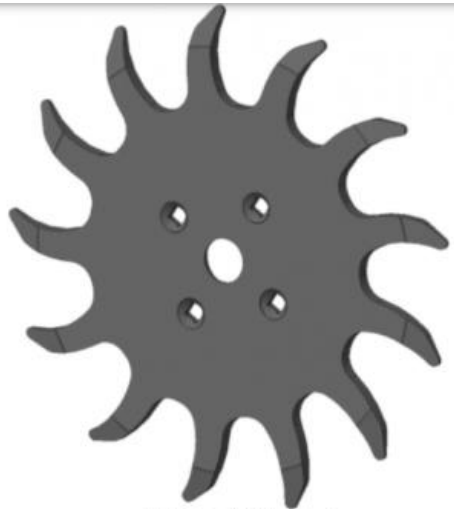
# No-Till Coulter

- Coulters aren't for everyone
- Make sure they are above planting depth
- Stamped steel vs cast row unit
- Where is that residue ending up?



# Residue Management

- Fixed vs floating
- Treader wheels/Depth Bands
- Tine vs Blade wheels



Tine Wheel



Blade Wheel



# Closing

- Make sure your closing system is centered over the seed trench
  - Do a scratch test to confirm
- Staggering closing wheels improves flowability
  - Simply moving them wider could create improper closing
- Generally, more downforce = more closing force required
- The key to proper closing is digging!



# Action Items

- Seed boxes cleaned out
- Seed meters serviced and tested
- Disc openers and seed tube guards measured
  - Take advantage of parts weeks!
- New drive chains ordered
- Check seed firmer tension



# Thank You



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