



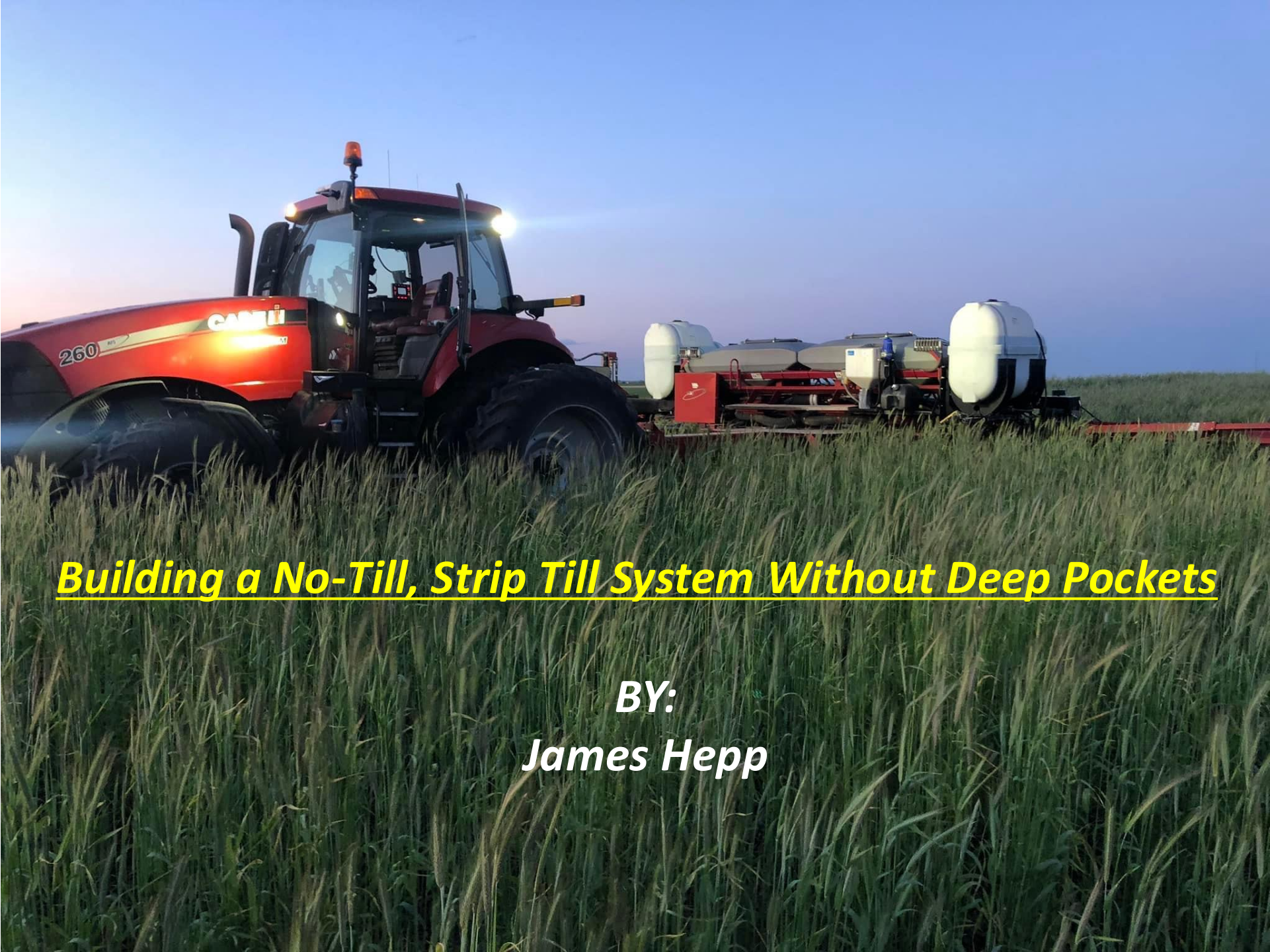
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Building a No-Till, Strip Till System Without Deep Pockets

**BY:
James Hepp**





Back Ground Info

- 1st generation farmer from Rockwell City Iowa
- Started farming 2015, started current operation in 2019 with retiring farmer
- 1400 acres, corn, soybean, rye for seed, oats
- Owner of Hepp Ag Co- Crop insurance dealer and ag retailer of regenerative products
- Bachelors of Ag from NW Missouri State, Maryville MO
- Married in 2020 to wife Paige
- Son Karsten – 3 years old , August is 10 months old
- Operation consist of:
 - no till soybeans into rye/ multi specie cover crop
 - Corn strip tilled into multi species (new to covers in corn)

Why No-Till ??







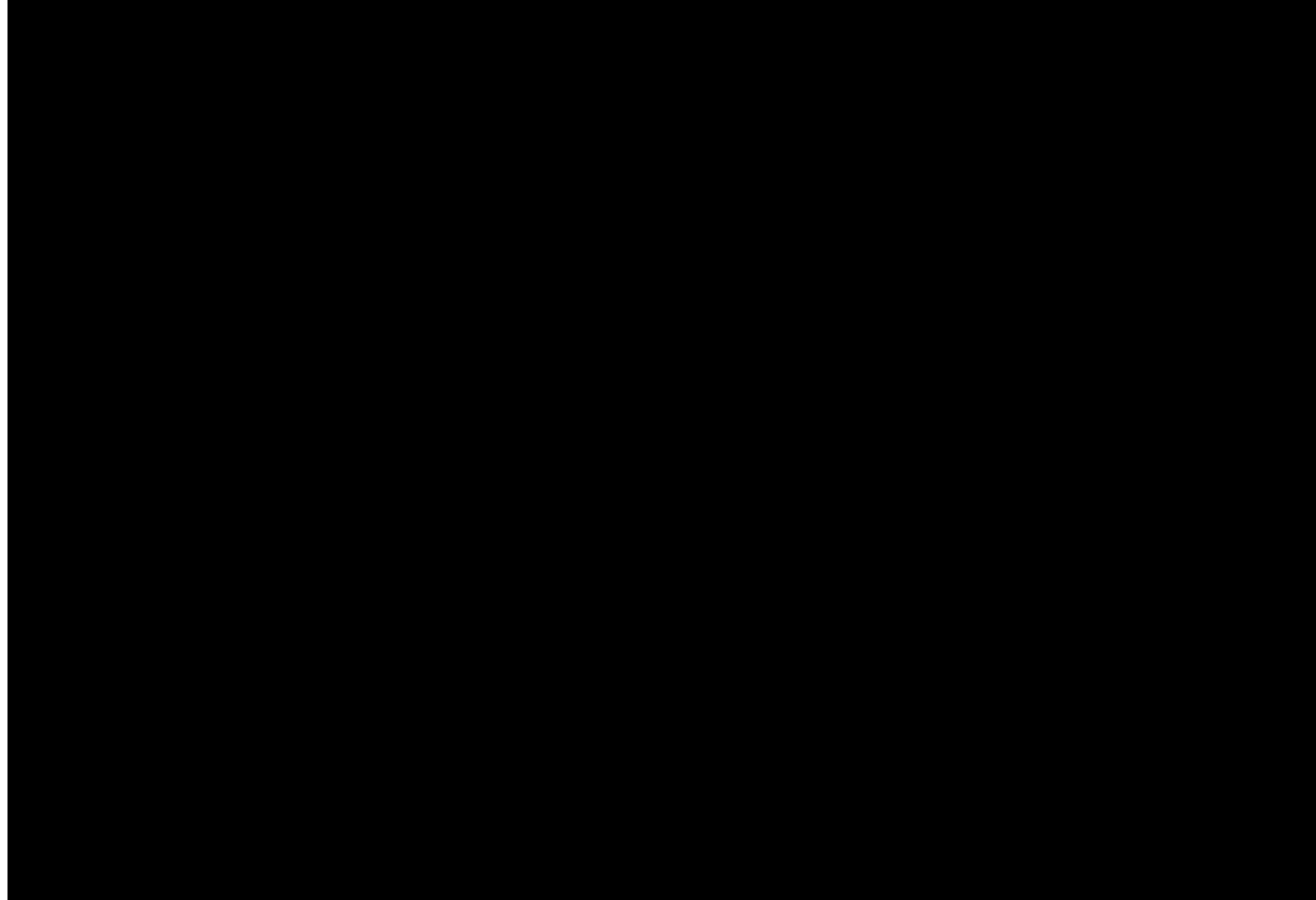
My Reasons!

How to get started?



- Leave your stalks alone!
 - Park the ripper!
- Begin reallocating money spent on tillage to residue management

Residue Management starts with the combine!



- **Invest in a chopping style stalk roll like Calmer, this is what I have.**
 - **Note how it chops it into tiny pieces = easy break down**

Planter Modifications Needed



- You will need some type of trash whipper setup like shown.
- The air adjust style is the best if you don't enjoy getting out of the tractor 500 times to Adjust!
- This will prevent hairpin issues and help seed to soil

Down Force



- Hydraulic Down force is the best vs spring or air
- Improves consistent seed depth = faster emergence and better roots vs being too deep or shallow
- Lots of brands out there I run Delta Downforce from Precision.



My planter rebuild



Planter Stats

- Was a Case IH 1200 planter
- Now it has John Deere ME5 row units
- Precision vset 2 meters
- Delta Down force
- Spiked closing wheels
- Narrow Gauge wheels (helps with Strip till)
- Drag Chain
- Infurrow w/ insecticide dosatron setup
- SUMMARY: you can upgrade your planter easy

Cover Crops



Weed Suppression



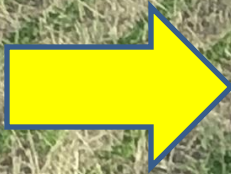
Rye in corn stalks



Planting Green



Weed suppression



Strip Till









Fall strips shown nice and mellow in the spring



My Strip Till Rig Facts

- Old Bluejet NH3 bar repurposed for banding dry fertilizer. 16 row 30"
- Done Simply by changing out knives and adding cart and hose
- Knife has a dry fertilizer tube on it
- ** Could apply nh3 with your dry if you wanted
- Cart – 8 ton Montag high output with scale
- Ideal depth run- 5"
- Can reduce fertilizer application with banding vs broadcast
- Fall applied , depending on soil type spring can be done
- Fall strips warm up better then just no till, also less trash in the way of the planter

Types of Strip Till

Knife Style, can band dry fertilizer deep 4-12" deep, primarily used in fall. NH₃ can be used also.



Coulter Style



- Multiple coulters, higher speed action increases soil mixing , creating a fresh warm strip in the spring.
- Can apply liquid or dry
- Depth can vary mostly 2-5" deep

How Do I Pay For This???

- Liquidating traditional heavy tillage is a good start, it will get rid of your temptation to go do recreational tillage.
- Go talk to your local NRCS or FSA , lots of cost share programs
LOTS OF MONEY available
- Carbon programs- watch for upcoming 45z items
- Start small, lots of cost effective ways to start

Goal Of This Presentation

- To get everyone to think outside the box, challenge the status quo .
- Look at ROI not just high yield, you can achieve high yield and high ROI
- Leave your land better for the next generation
- Not break the Bank doing this.
- Look into Xtreme Ag, high yield High ROI group think .



Thanks for being here!

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