

Ohio No-Till News

Randall Reeder, OSU Extension Agricultural Engineer (retired), writes this page, with input from the Ohio No-till Council members.



Conservation Tillage Conference funds 10 mini-grants

Each year the Conservation Tillage Conference funds mini-grants, usually \$3000 each, for research that supports the goals of CTC. On April 27, we selected 11 out of 18 proposals (two funded at half rate, by Peter Thomison and Harold Watters). You will see in the list below that they are mostly on nutrient management and cover crops. Most are on-farm projects, and nearly all are no-till.

- Effect of Starter Fertilizer, Sulfur and Zinc on Corn Yield, by Sam Custer, OSU Extension, Darke County.

- Nitrogen Management: Improved Strategies using Data, by Elizabeth Hawkins, Extension Field Specialist ; and Jason Hartschuh, OSU Extension, Crawford County.

- Late Season Nitrogen Application in Corn, by Mark Badertscher, OSU Extension, Hardin County.

- Sidedressing Emerged Corn with Swine Manure at an Angle, by Glen Arnold, OSU Extension, Manure Nutrient Management Field Specialist.

- Manure as a fertilizer substitute, by Harold Watters, OSU Extension Field Specialist.

- Cereal Rye Termination for Soybean Planting: Crimping versus Herbicide, by Eric Richer, OSU Extension, Fulton County.

- Exploring the use of cover crops for forage, by Allen Gahler, Jason Hartschuh, and Michael Gastier, OSU Extension Educators in Sandusky, Crawford and Huron Counties, respectively.

- Do short season corn hybrids offer advantages in cover cropping systems? Peter Thomison, OSU Extension Corn Specialist.

- Evaluating the effect of long-term no-till (55 yrs) and crop rotation on soil health,

by Steve W. Culman, OSU Prof., Soil Fertility, and Noely Gonzalez, grad student.

- Will Gypsum with cover crops minimize Phosphorus loss? Rafiq Islam, OSU Extension, Soil Scientist.

- Transitioning CRP to Crop Production: BMPs to Retain Soil Health Gains, by Dave Libben, NRCS District Conservationist; and Mary Griffith, OSU Extension, Madison County.

Since CTC began funding mini-grants about 15 years ago, the total is \$244,000.

The last two years we have also invested in providing free access to videos of our CTC speakers. (Go to: ctc.osu.edu and click on the colored box in the middle. The "2017 Archive" videos are in the list on the left side.) We also provide timely information on [Facebook.com/Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference](https://www.facebook.com/ConservationTillage&TechnologyConference). Plan now to attend CTC 2019 next March 5-6, at Ada.

Upcoming No-Till Events

Aug. 29, 2018

Ohio No-till (Summer) Field Day, Wooster

Dec. 11, 2018

Ohio No-Till Conf., Der Dutchman, Plain City

Jan. 8-11, 2019

National No-till Conference, Indianapolis

March 5-6, 2019

Conservation Tillage Conf., Ada

Heavy planters compact pinch rows

Wide planters typically place extreme weight on the main tires under the center

section. Depending on soil type and weather conditions during the growing season,

the corn rows beside these tires (pinch rows) can suffer substantial yield loss.

In 2017, OSU agricultural engineers compared two similar 16-row planters. One with tires, the other with rubber tracks. Overall, corn yields were statistically equal but Rows 7 and 10 appeared to be impacted by the effects of compaction. Ideal growing conditions in 2017 probably helped even out the yields. (Other compaction research shows that stressful weather usually reduces yields more on compacted soils.)

More information on this research is available at: <https://fabe.osu.edu/programs/eFields>. This 2017 eFields book

includes 27 research projects. Print copies are available; over 6000 have connected with the reports online.



Planter tires in the center section can result in lower yields for the "pinch rows."



Rubber tracks can reduce pinch row compaction. However, in 2017 research, corn yields were statistically equal.

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