

Ohio No-Till News

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



August no-till field events, with Paul Jasa

Our three No-till Field (half) Days on August 19 & 20 will feature an Extension Ag. Engineer from the University of Nebraska at all locations. Paul Jasa has worked with no-till equipment since the 1980s. The title of his presentation is "No-till Seeding Equipment: Adjustments and Operation." The goal is successful stand establishment.

Of course, successful planting in no-till starts with the combine: spread the residue uniformly. For soybeans, the combine must spread residue across the whole width of the header. For corn, the header should pull most of the stalk down, leaving very little coming out the back of the combine.

Paul will cover several ideas for planter and drill attachments and adjustments to get the right depth and eliminate hairpinning. Residue movers? You may be surprised as his tips. For

corn planting depth, he is known for "Go deep." He suggests that next spring set the planter one-half inch deeper than normal for a couple of passes. Then check yields. Don't be surprised if the yield is higher. Each year experiment with another half-inch deeper until there is no yield advantage for planting deeper.

Paul Jasa will bring a pickup truck load of various equipment to support his presentation. He will also use the planter and/or drill at the host sites as a teaching tool.

Here are the dates, host and location for the three events: Aug. 19, 6:00 to ~9:00pm., **Nathan Brown**, 6110 Panhandle Road, Hillsboro, OH 45133; Aug. 20, 9:00 am to noon, **Fred Yoder**, 7050 Butler Avenue, Plain City, OH 43064-9694; and Aug. 20, 6:00 to ~9:00 pm., **Keith Kemp**, 959 Georgetown-Verona Rd., West

Manchester, OH 45382.

At each location, about an hour of the program will be specific for that site. Nathan Brown "planted green" and will likely have cover crops. The Yoder farm will have strips of a dozen cover crop mixes, provided by Bird Agronomics and Walnut Creek Seeds (similar to the August 2019 field day at Nathan Brause's). The Yoders will also plant some corn in 60-inch rows with a cover crop interseeded. Keith Kemp plans to have corn variety trials of Pioneer Seed.

The Ohio No-till Council thanks The Nature Conservancy for covering Paul Jasa's expenses. The plan for three locations is new for us. And issues with COVID-19 are a concern. We are confident we can safely gather 50 to 75 at each site. We'll stay outside if necessary. Look for more details in the mid-July issue of *Ohio's Country Journal*.

Upcoming No-Till Events

Aug. 19, 2020

Ohio No-till (Summer) Field Evening, Nathan Brown Farm, Hillsboro

Aug. 20, 2020

Ohio No-till (Summer) Field Morning, Fred Yoder Farm, Plain City

Aug. 20, 2020

Ohio No-till (Summer) Field Evening, Keith Kemp Farm, W. Manchester

Dec. 3, 2020

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

Compaction and corn roots

At CTC in March, Sjoerd Duiker, Penn State U. Soil Scientist, discussed soil compaction and its effect on roots and crop growth. When seedlings try to emerge in tilled soil, breaking through a crust often slows development, increasing the likelihood of disease and pest attacks. Compaction restricts root growth and nutrient uptake. In one research example he cited, twice as much nitrogen was needed in compacted soil to get the same yield.

Infiltration is reduced, increasing the effects of drought.

Continuous no-till with living roots (including cover crops) builds soil structure which helps resist heavy axle loads. No-till helps increase organic matter which means the soil also holds more water.

The full presentation is available at ctc.osu.edu. Click on "CTC 2020 Archive" on the upper left side. Then scroll down to the session "Cover Crops, No-till and Soil Health" to find Dr. Duiker's presentation.



Dr. Sjoerd Duiker spoke about compaction at CTC in March.

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