

# Here are tips on no-till farming

LANCASTER — Hundreds of Pennsylvania farmers can save time and fuel while greatly reducing erosion if they switch to no-tillage farming, according to Bill McClellan, an agronomist at Penn State University.

But to be successful, he warns, they first need to practice good management.

Although no-till has been around for some time, it's only within the last decade

that it really has begun to catch on. According to McClellan, the system is currently turning in excellent yields in Pennsylvania on such crops as corn, wheat, barley, oats, forage and pasture.

Under the no-till method, farmers plant directly into mulch or stubble left from the previous crop while controlling weeds with a combination of residual

herbicides and a contact herbicide.

"When you leave a cover and don't till the soil, you're going to greatly reduce erosion," McClellan said.

"Studies conducted here at Penn State by Jon Hall have shown striking differences in erosion between no-till and conventional systems."

In Hall's experiments on run-off plots with 14 percent slope, soil loss on untilled plots was reduced 96 to 100 percent when compared to plowed plots which lost 14.5 tons of soil per acre. In addition, during 1977 and 1978, one to three inches more rainfall percolated into the no-till plots than into those plowed.

Because of data like this, the no-till system is currently being touted across the country as one way for farmers to meet increasingly strict federal pollution standards.

Also, many farmers are finding that no-till allows

them to crop land that would have formerly washed away under cultivation, and it has proved a real boon to farmers with rocky or limestone soils.



Bill McClellan

"Sometimes it's extremely hard to till these soils because it tears the equipment up," McClellan said. "So traditionally in many areas, these lands were left in permanent pasture. However, since no-till eliminates plowing and cultivation, it now makes it feasible to have more profitable production on rocky land."

Another key no-till saving that McClellan noted is manpower.

"No-till takes approximately 25 percent of the time it would require to cultivate and plant under a conventional system," he said.

"If you're in a situation where your labor supply is extremely critical early in the spring, you'll be able to get your crop in with less labor and closer to the ideal time by using no-till techniques."

He points out that no-till

also offers the farmer as much as an 80 percent reduction in diesel fuel usage and allows him to get by with smaller tractors and less equipment.

In addition, soil that isn't tilled is firmer at harvest time, which means in a wet year, equipment is less likely to get bogged down in loose mud.

Since no-till soil retains more moisture beneath its surface, it allows crops to thrive during periods of drought. This point was graphically illustrated in parts of the country this past summer when many no-till crops were still growing next to conventional crops that had already burned from the heat and lack of rain.

However, those who think that no-till is a panacea are in for a shock, McClellan warns.

"If you can't do a good job with the conventional system, you're going to have to clean up your act before you consider no-till," he said. "If your management level's too low now to grow your crop up to the standard of the area, you'd better get some of your problems ironed out first."

He continued, "Although a good manager will produce as much under no-till as he will under a conventional system, a poor manager will sometimes produce far less in no-till than in conventional."

He attributes this divergence to the fact that no-till is not a forgiving system.

"If you're not committed to learning how to do it right, or if you're prone to take short cuts in fertility and pesticide use, then no-till is not a good system for you to consider," he said. The consequences of a mistake can be very rough when you don't have the option of going in and cultivating."

For those considering no-till, McClellan says the first step is to learn good management techniques.

Farmers should also be prepared to make a slightly higher investment in pesticides, although in most cases, those going to no-till can continue a similar chemical program to the one they used under a conventional system.

The two main differences with no-till are a slightly higher rate of herbicides, and the addition of a good contact herbicide. The contact herbicide plays the traditional role of the plow or disc by killing vegetation that is present at the time of planting.

"If you're planning to go no-till, ease into it rather than putting all your acreage into the system the first year," he said. "If you jump in and have problems, it's pretty easy to blame the system and not search for your own mistakes. This way, if you ease into it, you can use your conventional land as a check."

McClellan also urges those considering no-till to seek advice from other growers and as many experts as possible. For those who wish more no-till information, it is available by contacting local extension agents, soil conservation service personnel and the Penn State agronomy department

## PUBLIC SALE

REAL ESTATE  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6  
at 1:30 P.M.

Located in Salisbury Township, Lancaster County, PA. 1 mile Southwest of White Horse, 2 miles North of Gap on School House Road.

REAL ESTATE consists of an 8 room frame & brick house, 5 bedrooms and full bath on 2nd floor with kitchen, dining room, living room, den, full bath and laundry room on 1st floor with full basement. 2 story barn, 2 box stalls, work shop, forebay, 2 car garage, drilled well, electric and gas heat on half acre lot with nice shade trees.

For inspection of property call for appointment 717-442-4387.

10% down day of sale - Final Settlement by March 1, 1981.

Terms By:

**AMOS K. & RACHEL K. STOLTZFUS**

Attorney:

Wentz & Weaver

AUCTIONEERS:

Steve Petersheim

215-869-2508

Everett Kreider

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Improvements in nice condition.

## FEEDER SALE!

WED., NOV. 12  
7:00 P.M.

Four States'

HAGERSTOWN, MD.  
call: 301-733-8120

## MAR LEE FARM "HERDSMAN'S CHOICE" CLUB CALF SALE

50 TOP SHOW STEERS-ANGUS &  
MOSTLY BLACK CHIANINA X BREDS  
WESTERN & HOMEBRED  
10 SHOW HEIFERS - ANGUS  
& ANGUS-CHI

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

7 P.M.

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING

FAIRGROUNDS, FREDERICK, MD.

Lee E. Miller, DVM  
301-898-7274

Wes McAllister  
301-898-5691

## PUBLIC SALE

Of Valuable Farm Machinery, Antiques,  
Household & Misc.  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

at 9:30 A.M.

Located approx. 1 1/2 miles W. of Dover on S. Salem Church Rd. between the Admire & Davidsburg Rds. (Watch for Sale Signs).  
(Farm Machinery & Misc.)

D-15 (48 H.P.) A.C. Series II diesel tractor - very good cond., Massey Ferguson 16 H.P. Hydra Speed lawn tractor w/elec. start & 48" mower, A.C. loader to D-15 tractor w/bucket & 7' Myers snow plow, A.C. 314 plow w/getters, A.C. 7' side mount mower, A.C. sub soiler, 2 A.C. Hyd. rams, A.C. cultivator fenders, A.C. 5' cut combine w/bin & spreader, A.C. combine, clover seed attachment for shatterable seed, J.D. 3 section lever harrow, 3 sect. rotary hoe, J.D. hay conditioner, J.D. 18x28 hyd. disc; J.D. 14-T baler, Case side delivery hay rake; J.D. 494 corn planter - like new, J.D. 17 disc grain drill, 28' Smoker elevator w/swivel head, 18' alum. conveyor, 14'x7' Case & Grove farm wagons, 13'x7' farm wagon, 6' Bush Hog heavy duty rotary mower, A.C. W-D Pulley, chain & load binders, Buffalo thresh machine bag scales - good, chicken crates, tractor chains, hay rope, hay forks, dung forks, hay hooks, wire stretcher, new grass sythe - never used, push pails, 275 gal. tank & pump, 10' metal water trough, old-horse plow, horse ground scoop, fence posts, approx. 50' endless belt, extra mower knives, bag truck, tractor tool box, circle saw w/several blades, Unico 10 hole self hog feeder - like new, 4 cast iron hog troughs, 5 butcher kettles & stands, long poles, hay & straw, baler twine, elect. fence wire, saw mill lumber, beams, 12'x8"x10" beam, misc. lumber, oil cans, misc. tools, drag-chain, deep well piston type pump w/1/2 H.P. motor, Weed Eater - like new, Hawn-Eclipse 4 H.P. rotary tiller - good cond., Craftsman 14" chain saw & case - like new, elect. cable & motors, scrap iron, log chains, lawn roller, and many misc. items.

(Antique, Household & Misc.)

Zinc lined dry sink w/RH drw. & back, fancy oak buffet w/back, oak conference table w/drw., Victrola talking machine - like new, set of 6 pressed back oak chairs, Singer treadle sewing machine, early wooden press, wooden measures & barrels, Bentz Mill desk, Bentz miniature iron trough, old wooden corn meal table, old wooden mill pulley, Ford magneto, several sets of shoe lathes, old chandler, wooden wheelbarrow, butcher bench, old books - The Better Little Books, golden leaf mirror & old pictures, 2 wash bowls & 1 pitcher, old light shades, oak pedestal, child's rocker, camel back trunk, Necco candy jar, Lance cracker jar, old hanging scales, baskets, old 78 RPM Records, slaw board, wash board, 5 gal. & 1 gal. crocks, 4 gal. H.B. & C.B. Pfaltzcraft crocks w/blue letters, purple carnival bowl, depression platter, new cast iron parlor wood stove, Lazy Boy recliner, solid cherry drop leaf coffee table, dbl. maple bed, Odessey home video game, cosmetic mirror, costume jewelry & watches, ladies emerald cat eye ring, service for 8 of Homer Laughlin egg shell china, service for 8 of Royers 1881 silverware, other silverware, hand made Cavalier wooden sail ship, runners & throw rugs, 8x10 carpet, vacuum cleaner, what not shelf, ping pong table, Kirby sweeper - like new, guitar & case, elect. heater, camp stove, books, screens, glass pie case, antenna controls, roasting pans, 48 cup coffee maker, cold packer, card tables, lot of restaurant dishes, kitchen utensils, jars, baskets, chrome rails for 8' Chev. pickup - new & many items not listed.

Terms: Cash or Approved Check. Not Responsible For Accidents Day of Sale. Lunch Available at Sale.

Owner:

**MR. RALPH STINE**

Auctioneer: John Kline

Ph. 843-8292

Clerks: Bolton & Kline

## REAL ESTATE AUCTION

2.9 ACRES m/I BARN, STREAM  
2 MOBILE HOMES - GUNS  
1/2 TON TRUCK - TOOLS  
SEASONED LUMBER - ELEC. DRILLS  
SAWS ETC. - 7' GRASS MOWER  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

at 9 A.M.

LOCATED on Route 895 east of Village of Rock, approx. 5 miles west off Route 183, 5 miles east off Route 501 Washington Township, Schuylkill County.

REAL ESTATE AT 1 P.M.

2.9 acres m/I with 30' x 50' bank barn, Route 895 road frontage, fishing stream. Property offers homesite, camping, hunting and/or income potential. Inspection Sunday, October 26th, 1-4 P.M., or by appointment. 10% down balance upon settlement.

MOBILE HOMES - TRUCK - GUNS

1-8'x40', 1-10'x38' each unit can be moved easily. 72 custom 10 Chev. piv. 336-30-30 cal. marling, Octogan barrel Rem. Mod. 12 C 22 pump, Savage 22 Mod. 8 single shot, old 22. Sold at approx. 1:15 P.M.

TOOLS - LUMBER, ETC.

Homelite XL auto. chain saw 16", 2 Shopmate 7 1/4" saws, 1/2" air wrench, 3/8" elec. drills, 1/2" ram drill, 7" disc sander, heavy duty vice, Craftsman 1/2" drive socket set, (plus many more), heavy chains, ram sabre saw, 4-6"x7" I beams, air compressor, Craftsman table saw and benchgrinder, rubber tire wheelbarrow, ext. ladders, creeper, 6-20' tele. poles, H.P. ext. cords, hand trucks, approx. 75' service wire, elec. hack saw, 2-275 gal. oil tanks, 2-5 gal. cans alum. roof coating (new), rear mt 7' mower, 2 hole corn sheller, old corn cracker, old butcher box, old pulleys, tires, wheels, staple guns, levels, bars, saws, hammers, approx. 500 sq. ft. rough seasoned lumber-oak, pine and spruce. Old lard press, shovels, nails, nuts, bolts, tubs, sewing machine, wringer washer, radios, elec. heater, leather change purses, kerosene lamp, many other items too numerous to mention

TERMS: Cash or approved check. Lunch available. Not responsible for accidents.

Estate of

**CLAYTON SCHWARTZ**

JAY RIEGEL JR., Auctioneer

717-739-4718