

Montgomery offers no-till planter

NORRISTOWN — The Soil Conservation Service in Montgomery County is aiding farmers who want to try No-Till farming this year," says Stephen Hill, soil conservationist. The Montgomery County Conservation District is sponsoring the use of a John Deere Max Emerge Corn and Soybean No-Till Planter. The cost is \$9 an acre to the farmer.

"We have a lot of interest in the planter," says Hill. "We have 15 farmers who have committed 250

acres to no-till who have never done it in the past. Most of the interest has come from dairy farmers who just don't have the time in the spring.

"No-till will help to get the corn in early enough so as not to miss spring rains and early growth," says Hill.

Most areas have only a few days to get corn planter, or face yield loss. According to the Pennsylvania State Agronomy Guide, it may be as high as 1 bushel per acre

per day past this ideal planting time.

"Our major goal in promoting this program is to increase farmer productivity, and in the process, reduce soil erosion up to 95% in some fields," says Hill.

"Although most fields will benefit by no-till, a further evaluation of the area may dictate the use of other measures, such as waterways, terraces, and drainage of wet areas, all of which the engineering, layout, and proper

installation are assured to the farmer by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) at no cost", explains Hill.

Farmers or landowners interested in no-till or conservation practices may contact the Soil

Conservation Service at 1725 Markley St. Norristown. Phone 279-1178, or the Montgomery County Conservation District, One Montgomery Plaza, Norristown, Phone 278-3618.



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