

Commitment To No-Till

(Continued from Page A1)

higher cash income per acre because of lower production costs, if it isn't done correctly a practitioner can be ruined quickly.

And one of the most repeated reasons for no-till failure was soil compaction, followed by poor planning and poor pre-no-till soil nutrient preparation.

Overall, the conference was designed with a morning and afternoon general session featuring a total of three speakers.

Just after the morning general session's two speakers finished, and before lunch, three shorter duration discussions were held in side breakout rooms, or conference-goers could visit commercial exhibits by seed, equipment and chemical and technical support businesses.

Again after lunch, three breakout sessions were held, followed by the afternoon general session.

During the morning general session, William Rohrs, coordinator of the Conservation Action Project in the Maumee Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area SCS, in Defiance, Ohio, was the speaker.

Rohrs provided 30 different tips or observations that can help with successful no-tilling.

According to Rohrs, there are

several reasons for the use of no-till and in Ohio, some of the reason was a problem with nitrogen and phosphorus getting into the Maumee River, which flows right through main population centers, while others have gone to no-till to try to farm more competitively.

Rohrs prefaced his remarks with the statement that he is not an expert, just experienced in some aspects that seem to be necessary for success.

Among his recommendations were to choose no-till for the "right reasons."

He said to choose it to improve soil structure, increase water penetration, reduce soil erosion and to improve the economics of the farming operation, but not to choose to try it because it is easier.

He also said that mapping is important, and by that he stressed planning, at least six months ahead.

The other morning speaker was Dr. Richard Fawcett, and environmental specialist with the Farm Journal, in Huxley, Iowa. While his overview was the promotion of the use of no-till to reduce the contamination of water supplies, he also emphasized the need to plan properly.

Fawcett, who directed his talks

more toward the chemical pesticides, especially herbicides such as atrazine, said that all real-condition studies of the effect of no-till practices and strip filters show a benefit to the control of chemicals from farms.

According to Fawcett, who had previously taught at the University of Iowa, there are studies that show the opposite is true — that no-till

fields with good soil cover actually promote the loss of chemicals applied to fields.

However, Fawcett said that those studies are the result of artificial conditions which simulate rainfall on plots of ground soon after chemical application. In those studies, simulated rainfall is such as would occur in rare cir-

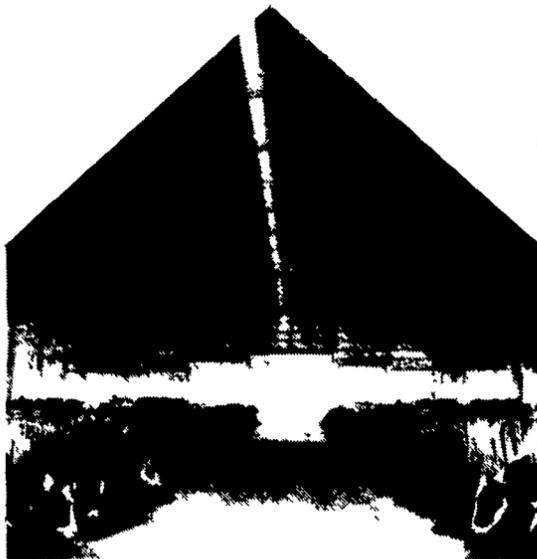
cumstances, approximating heavy, sustained downpours as might occur with severe storms.

Under those conditions, he explained that the deluge of water is too heavy and fast for it to soak into to the soil, and carry any chemical dissolved with it into the plant-active zone.

(Turn to Page A22)



From the left, farmer-panellists Joseph Hottel, Jere Hissong Sr., Lyle Tabb, and panel moderator Lynn Hoffman discuss practical aspects of nutrient management and farming during the Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference. The panellists represented a variety of nutrient uses, such as treated municipal sludge, composted dairy manure being spread as a soil amendment, and liquid application. Other speakers discussed various aspects of successful conservation tillage farming.



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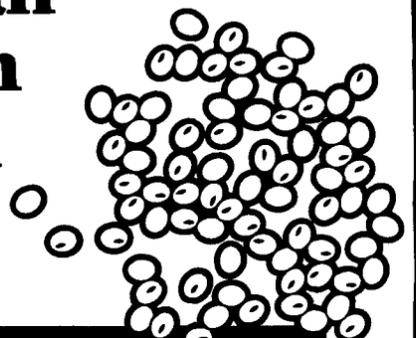
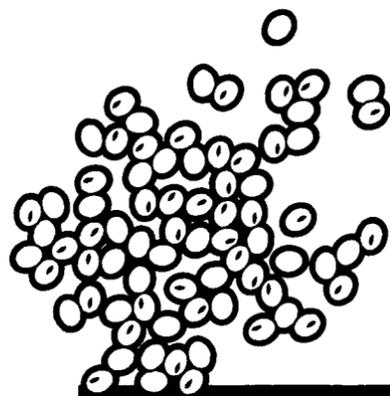
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Average yield advantage: 6.6 Bu/A

1993 MD Soybean Variety Tests

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