

**No-Till Vegetable Transplanting Shows Promise**

**Satellite Teleconference Looks At Critical Aspects Of No-Till**

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Principles of no-till not only work well with corn, soybeans, and alfalfa with proper planning and management, but also with vegetable crops.

Nearly any crop that can be transplanted can benefit from no-till technology as long as the grower understands and applies the basics of no-till management, according to experts during the Mid-Atlantic Tillage Teleconference on Wednesday evening.

Broadcast throughout the region, the teleconference, originating from Penn State, was connected by satellite to many extension and other downlink sites in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. This year, the teleconference replaced the annual conference attended in person by speakers and company representatives at annual sites either in Pennsylvania or Maryland.

According to Joel Myers, state agronomist with the Pennsylvania Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), work with no-till vegetable transplanting began about five years ago. At that time, "We recognized some of the problems that we were having with soil erosion control in vegetable production," said Myers.

Field research began three years ago with a single-row planter. In 1994, a grant was provided to obtain three double-row no-till planters.

The planters will "do a good job of getting these plants into the ground and maintaining cover," said Myers.

The planters are available in the Lackawanna County area, the Bloomsburg, Columbia County

area, and in Lancaster and York counties through the NRCS. Hoffman indicated that "probably the newest innovation in no-till crop production is moving no-till into the vegetable crops," especially into the greenwrap tomato production areas of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Steve Groff, tomato grower in Holtwood, Lancaster County, said, "I was really impressed in my first use of this planter, how well it was able to cut through the residue and be able to do the job."

Groff indicated that his farm is contoured and didn't encounter any problems using the transplanter. It is important, he advised, that there is enough weights on the press wheels to provide an excellent job of penetrating the cover crop.

Myers said that when using no-till for vegetables, it is important to achieve the right kind of weed control.

Another portion of the teleconference examined the importance of planning when using no-till forage and pasture renovation.

Dr. Harlan White, Virginia Polytechnical Institute, and Dr. Lynn Hoffman, Penn State extension tillage specialist, explained to growers how no-till seeding is the preferred way to make new forage and pasture seedings.

Key factors, according to White, are:

- Fertility. Soil pH and fertility through soil testing must be correct for seedings to be successful.
- Killed sod. All competitive sod and weeds must be taken care in advance by the appropriate herbicide.
- Depth of seeding. This is vital. The biggest problem Hoffman encounters is that the seed is

placed in the ground too deep and germination doesn't occur. Hoffman indicated that seed depth is critical for successful forage establishment. "Do whatever it takes to get good soil-to-seed contact," said Hoffman.

• Inspection of seeding. The grower must get down off the tractor and inspect the seedbed to make sure the seed is at the correct depth and the soil contact is firm.

• Planning is vital. Better management is needed in most no-till operations.

Hoffman also conducted a presentation on making sure the right kind of maintenance on no-till

equipment is done at the right time. He emphasized the importance of not waiting until March or April to do the necessary equipment inspections and repair when the equipment needs to be in the field, planting. Growers should make use of winter months to perform the maintenance.

Dr. Bill Curran, Penn State weed expert, spoke about some of the new herbicides available for no-till systems. Curran noted that Roundup Ready soybeans will be available on a limited basis in 1996.

During the live portion of the teleconference, Hoffman and guests answered questions from

the audience through a toll-free telephone number. Hoffman and Penn State Extension speakers fielded calls on the pasture renovation segment from Washington County, Md. and Washington County, Pa. They answered questions regarding new herbicides from Lebanon County, Montgomery County, the state of Maryland, and Lehigh County. Questions on the no-till vegetable equipment were handled from Lehigh County, Dauphin County, and Washington County. Additional questions were answered on a variety of conference topics from Tioga and Northampton counties.

**Select Sires Names Marketing Coordinator**

PLAIN CITY, Ohio—Chris Sayers has been named marketing coordinator for Select Sires Inc., Plain City, Ohio.

In her new role, Sayers will publish all of Select's domestic dairy sire directories and produce other promotional pieces on Select's newly proven dairy bulls after each sire summary.

Furthermore, Sayers will coordinate the domestic tour program and supervise student interns who help conduct the tours through the Select Sires' facilities. In addition, Sayers will facilitate international semen orders and assist with the development of semen bid orders for international distributors.

Sayers is no stranger to the Select Sires family. Before joining Select's headquarters staff, she served as director of promotional

programs for COBA/Select Sires Inc., one of Select's 11 member co-ops.

While at COBA, Sayers was editor of the bi-monthly newsletter which was sent to all the co-op's patrons and designed the monthly staff newsletter which was distributed to all COBA employees. Sayers also coordinated all dairy and beef advertising efforts, wrote press releases and prepared visual aids for use at membership meetings.

A former Select Sires student intern, Sayers began her A.I. career while attending The Ohio State University. Upon graduation in 1988, she joined COBA as member and public relations coordinator. Sayers continued her education while working full-time and received her master of science degree in agriculture from OSU in

1990. She was promoted to director of promotional programs in July of that year.


Sayers resides in Marysville, Ohio with her husband, Mark, and their infant son, John. She is an active member of The Ohio Holstein Association, having served as secretary and an elected delegate to the National Holstein Convention. Sayers has been a trustee for the Ohio Council of Cooperatives and served on the Council's Public Relations Committee. She is also a member of the Ohio Agriculture Communicators Association.

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**Special Notice!**

We will be closed Saturday, December 23 and the week between Christmas and New Year. We will reopen on January 2, 1996.

Regular Hours: Monday — Thursday 7:00 — 5:00;  
Friday 7:00 — 7:00; Saturday 7:00 — 12:00

Sale Day Hours: 8:00 — 7:00 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Dec. 18, 20, and 22  
Sale Day Hours: 8:00 — 5:00 Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 19 and 21

