

# Weather Boosts Intercropping System

COLUMBUS, Ohio — This year's unfavorable weather conditions may give a little-known yet efficient farming technique a boost of recognition among farmers.

Ohio State University researchers are taking advantage of the overly wet conditions to demonstrate the effectiveness of Modified Relay Intercropping (MRI), a system in which soybeans are inter-

planted into standing wheat.

"The concept of intercropping itself is not a new practice, but has not been a consistently good practice," said Steve Prochaska of OSU Extension in Crawford County. "Modified Relay Intercropping is a different approach."

Unlike relay intercropping in which soybeans are planted into standing wheat in May, MRI involves planting soybeans into wheat in June at or past the head-

ing stage of growth — 20-35 days prior to harvest.

That planting date lets the soybean plant grow 6-8 inches by wheat harvest.

"MRI allows farmers to hedge production risk by growing two crops in one year. This year's weather patterns have given us the perfect opportunity to show farmers that the technique works," said Prochaska. "While some farmers without MRI are tearing up

their wheat crop with very little profit, those with MRI are assured that they have soybeans to fall back on if their wheat crop fails."

MRI, which has been practiced for over five years, is not widely recognized by Ohio farmers. Prochaska said only 2 percent to 5 percent of the state's farmers use the system.

"Many are skeptical about the fact that you can drill soybeans 3 feet through standing wheat and not injure the crop, but you can," he said. "Also, many farmers think they need special equipment to utilize the system, but they can use regular farm equipment."

In addition to better utilizing farm labor, time and equipment, MRI lowers fixed costs for land and machinery, increases crop profitability and is environmentally friendly, said Prochaska.

A recent report released by the Crawford County Extension Office shows that with variable costs (seed, fertilizer, herbicide, repairs) and fixed costs (land and machinery), a typical budget in total costs per acre for wheat and soybeans in the MRI system is \$168 and \$155, respectively.

By comparison, the total costs per acre for wheat and soybeans in a monoculture is \$226 and \$242, respectively.

"One interesting fact to note is that with the MRI system, 2,4-D ester is the only herbicide used for the production of both crops, which makes it environmentally and economically favorable," said Prochaska. "Modified Relay Intercropping also reduces soil erosion and improves water quality."

Prochaska said Modified Relay Intercropping also takes advantage of the wheat plant's adaptability to stresses during its life cycle.

"We have to slightly widen the rows from the normal 7 inches to between 10 and 15 inches when we interplant the soybeans," he said. "But the wheat is remarkable at adapting, and research by Jim Beuerlein (Ohio State agronomist) shows that there is only a three bushel difference between 7 and 14 inches. So we are not taking a yield penalty."

It's now too late this year for farmers to interplant soybean and wheat. The last date to intercrop wheat is when stems begin to break.

But Prochaska said farmers who use the MRI system successfully intercropped through June 22.

## Ethics Symposium Announced

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — In keeping with its history of addressing issues of concern in animal agriculture, the Livestock Conservation Institute will facilitate a Youth Livestock Program Ethics Symposium Dec. 6-8 at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.

The symposium, designed to help livestock show competitors, educators and others deal with the problem of isolated unethical activities, is the second such symposium facilitated by LCI. The first, held last December, attracted some 250 representatives of ani-

mal agriculture from more than 40 states.

This year's symposium will include two "Super Sessions" (one each on Saturday and Sunday) keying on the topics "Adult Involvement — What's Excessive?" and "Jackpot Shows — How to Make Them Part of the Solution."

The symposium which begins with the opening general session on Friday evening, Dec. 6, will also include break-out sessions on individual youth livestock issues

and workshops that will include information about innovative programs that are addressing ethical issues. LCI is facilitating the symposium in cooperation with the American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Animal Industry Foundation, the National FFA Organization, the USDA Cooperative Extension Program (4-H) and other key agricultural organizations.

Information on registering for the symposium will be available soon. For more information, call LCI at (502) 782-9798.

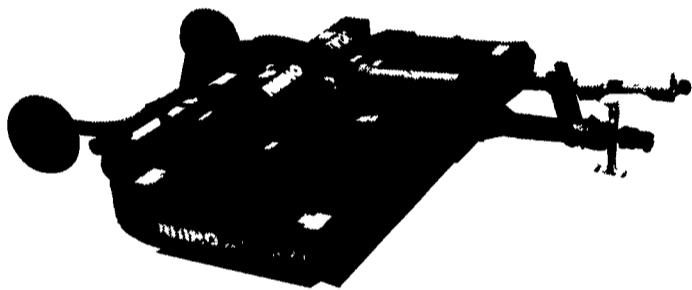
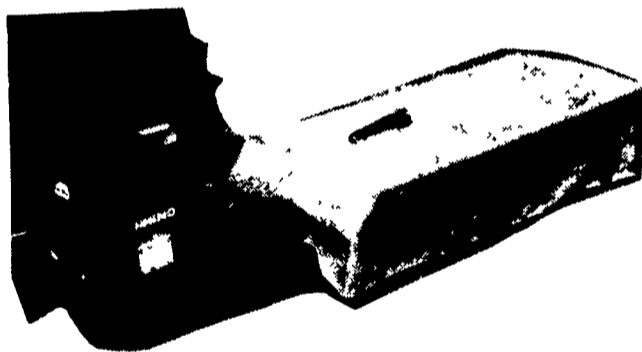
## Servis-Rhino®

"SOME THINGS ARE JUST BUILT TOUGHER THAN OTHERS"

### RDM 7, 8, 9

Durable and Innovative Disc Mower!

83", 97", and 110" Mowing Widths; 540 RPM; Heavy-Duty CAT I-II Three-Point Hitch; Cat 3 Driveline With Overrunning Clutch; Easy Access Gear Drive Cutterbar; Hardened Discs and Rock Guards; 15,814 FPM Blade Tip Speed; Hydraulic Lift and Fold; Fully-Shielded Driveline Standard; Safety Deflector Curtain Standard.



### TW 120/144

Performance and Durability for Larger Acreages! 120" and 144" Cut; 120 HP Center Gearbox; 100 HP Outboard Gearboxes; Pan Blade Carriers; Updraft Blades; Cat 4 Driveline with Slip Clutch Protection; 540 or 1000 RPM; Lift, Semi-Mount, or Pull-Type Hitch; 10-Gauge Deck; 1/4"x10" Side Skirts; Replaceable Skid Shoes; Rated for 2" Diameter Material; Safety Deflectors Standard.

### SE 15-4

Economy and Performance in One Machine!

15' Cut; 540 or 1000 RPM; Cat. 5 Main Driveline; Cat 4, or 5 Wing Drivelines; 180 HP Divider Gearbox; 110 HP Center and Wing Gearboxes; Pan Blade Carriers; Updraft Blades; 6" Blade Overlap; Mechanical Level-Lift Axle; 10-Gauge Deck; 1/4"x9" Side Skirts; Full Swivel Clevis Hitch; Replaceable Skid Shoes; Wing Operation 90° Up and 22° Down; Rated For 1" Diameter Material; Fully-Shielded Drivelines; Safety Deflectors Standard.



Shown with Optional Front and Rear Chain Guards

Operator Protective Screen Removed to Show Detail

### SERVIS® 1348, 1548, 1948

Versatile Boom Flail Cutters!

12'10", 15' and 18'8" Maximum Horizontal Reach Respectively; 37" Head Rated for Up to 4" Diameter Material or 48" Head Rated for Up to 1 1/2" Diameter Material 540 RPM; Cat II Three-Point Hitch; Independent Hydraulic System; Hardened Flail Knives; Minimum 32 HP to 55 HP Tractor Required With Adequate Front and Side Weights; Safety Deflectors Standard.

See Your Nearest Servis-Rhino Dealer Today

Binkley and  
Hurst Brothers  
Inc.  
Lititz, Pa.  
717-626-4705

Ceresville Ford  
New Holland, Inc.  
Frederick, Md  
301-662-4197  
800-331-9122

O.C. Rice  
Inc.  
Biglerville, Pa.  
717-677-8135

Smith's Farm  
Equipment  
Newport, Pa.  
717-567-3562

Starkey Farms  
Co. Inc.  
Galena, Md.  
410-648-5105

Forrester Farm  
Equip. Inc.  
Chambersburg,  
Pa.  
717-263-0705

**RHINO**  
Servis-Rhino®  
An Alamo Group Company  
P.O. Box 712, Seguin,  
Texas 78156  
210-372-3080

©1996 Alamo Group Inc, Servis, Rhino & Twister are registered trademarks of Alamo Group Inc.

**KEYSTONE GUN-KRETE**

**CONCRETE  
PUMPING  
SERVICE**

---

Featuring

- Sidewinder 45 Concrete Pump • Up To 40 Cubic Yards Per Hour
- Pump Up To 150 Ft. Vertical And 800 Ft. Horizontal

---

**CONCRETE SPRAYING SERVICE**  
*A Proven Way Of Applying Concrete*

- Repair Retaining Walls
- Strengthen Existing Masonry Walls
- Reseal Manure Pits
- Manure Pit Construction
- Trench Silo Construction
- Silo Repair

---

**KEYSTONE GUN-KRETE**  
61 Poplar Street      Gordonville, PA 17529  
(717) 768-3641

## All-Plant

### LIQUID PLANT FOOD

# 9-18-9

PLUS OTHERS!

- Contains 100% white ortho phosphoric acid. Made in USA.
- Non-corrosive. Won't settle.
- Top quality. Excellent service.
- Newest equipment.
- Financially sound... and growing!

---

**Big Demand Requires  
More Distributors!**

I sell to farmers.  
How do I become your distributor?

I'm a farmer.  
What's the price?  
Where do I get it?

**CALL or SEND FOR FACTS:  
Phone: 814-364-1349**

**ALL-PLANT LIQUID PLANT FOOD, INC.**  
821 State Rd. 511 N., RFD 3,  
Ashland, Ohio 44805