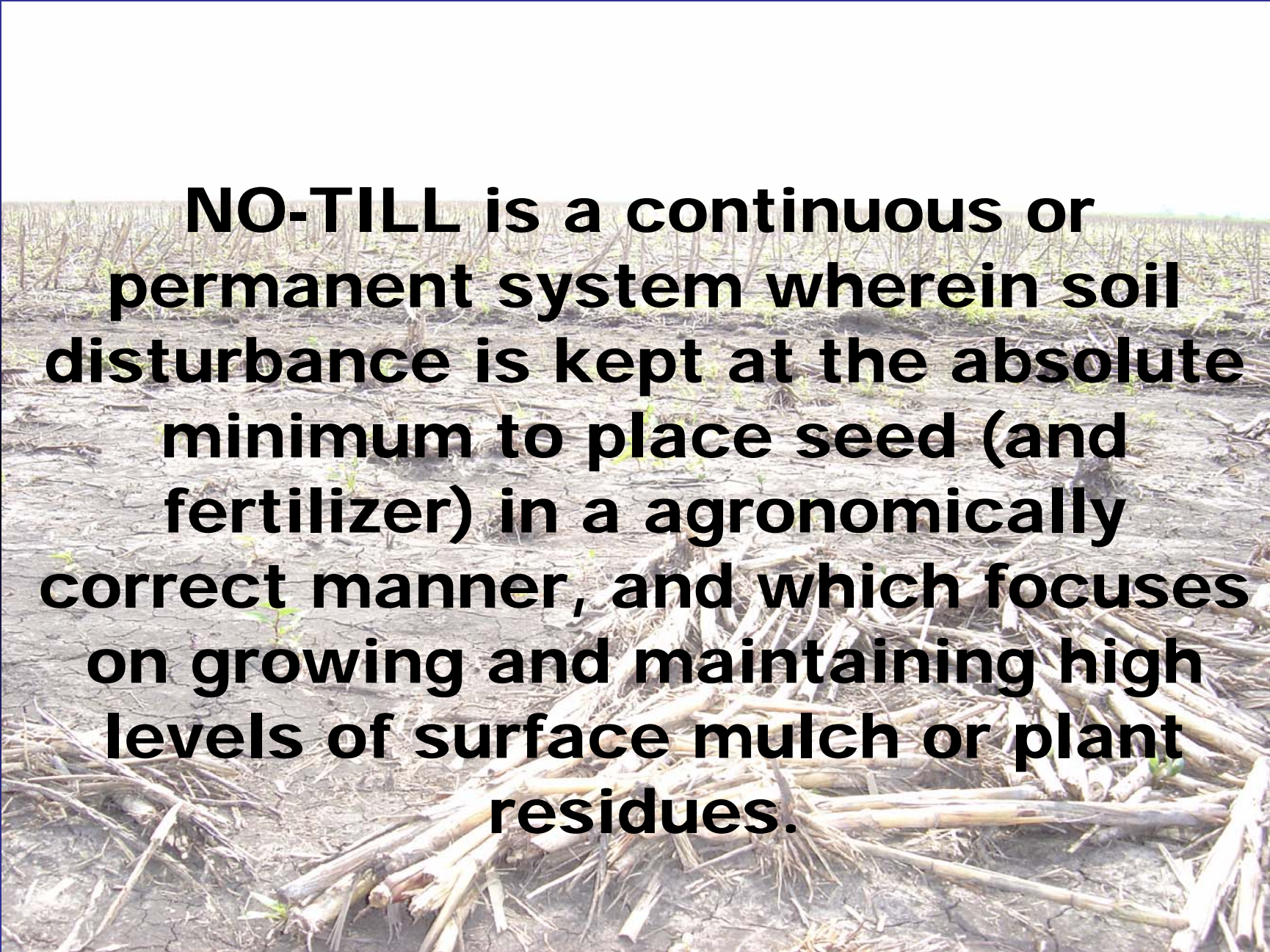


Git-R-Done With No-Till

By Newton, Ks FFA

So what is NO-TILL
anyway?

A photograph of a field with a large pile of crop residues in the foreground and rows of young plants in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

NO-TILL is a continuous or permanent system wherein soil disturbance is kept at the absolute minimum to place seed (and fertilizer) in a agronomically correct manner, and which focuses on growing and maintaining high levels of surface mulch or plant residues.

But Why start NO-
TILL?

NO-TILL will result in:

- ✘ Improved water storage and crop extraction
- ✘ Higher yields
- ✘ More intensive cropping
- ✘ Reduced machinery overhead
- ✘ Reduced risk via diversified rotations
- ✘ Reduced labor inputs
- ✘ Long-term improvement to soils
- ✘ Dramatic reductions in erosion, and higher land values

What NO-TILL is not

NO-TILL does not include
ripping, para-till, vertical-till,
cultivators, or burning.

Difference between NO-TILL and...

Strip-Till

Mulch-Till

Ridge-Till

Strip Till

Strip tilling is a hybrid combination between no-till and conventional till. This includes tilling 7 inch strips of the field

Mulch-Till

Mulch till is managing the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year-round while growing crops where the entire field surface is tilled prior to during the planting operation. The residue is partially incorporated using chisels, sweeps, field cultivators, or similar implements

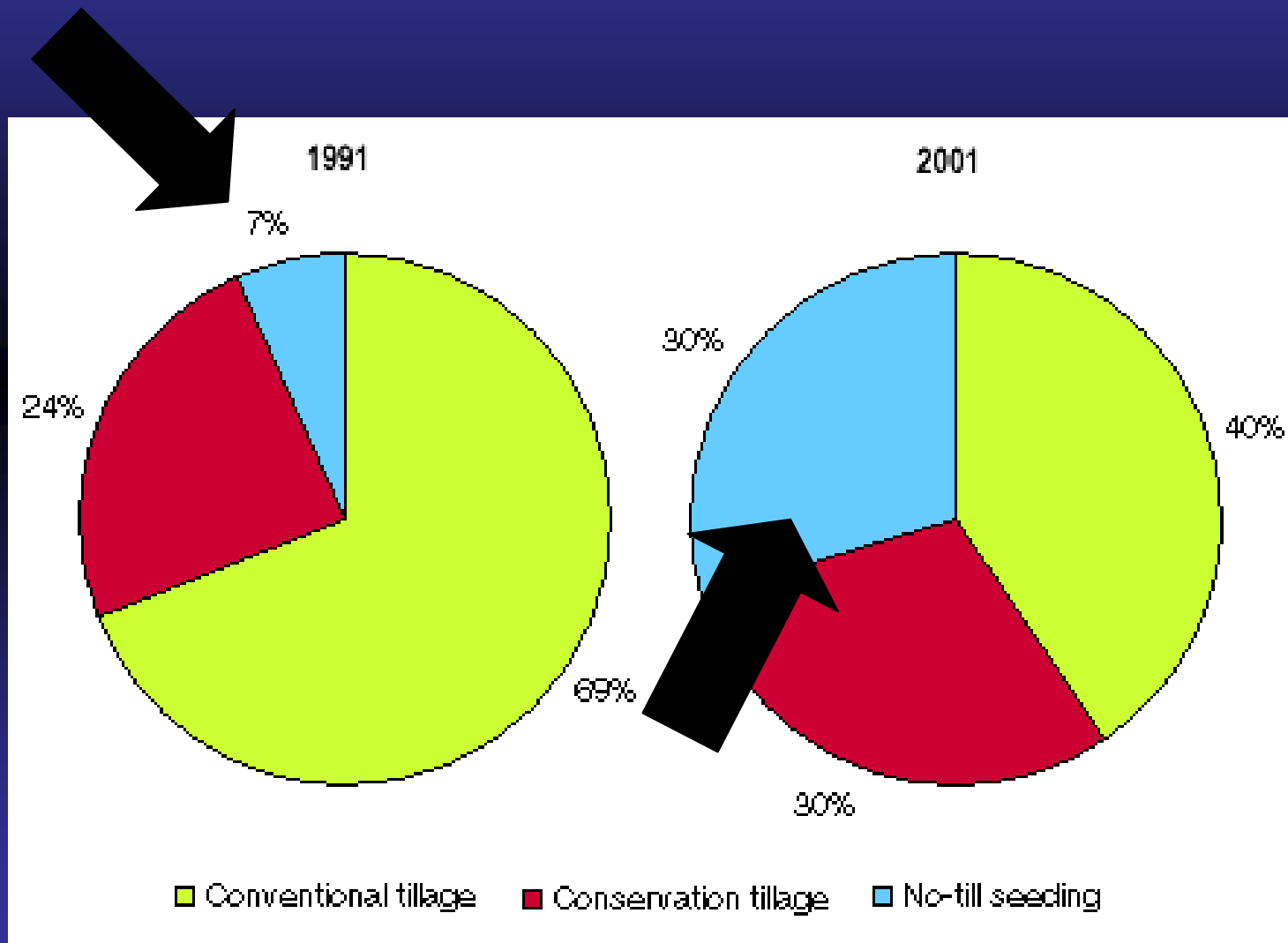
Ridge-Till

Ridge tillage resembles contemporary and traditional cropping systems in which plants grow on a hill or bund. Cotton, for example, is often grown on ridges for purposes of irrigation. In ridge tillage the ridges are a product of cultivation of the previous crop and are not tilled out after harvest. The planter may remove part of the ridge top, but before planting there is no tillage. This provides potential advantages in soil conservation and weed management.

**What do I have to do
to make NO-TILL
work on my farm?**

You need to have a thorough understanding of water infiltration into the soil, an understanding of how soil works, weed management, proper equipment and how to adjust it, crop rotations, and nutrient and pest management

NO-TILL is a Growing Process



**What kind of
equipment does
practicing NO-TILL
require?**



Air Seeder



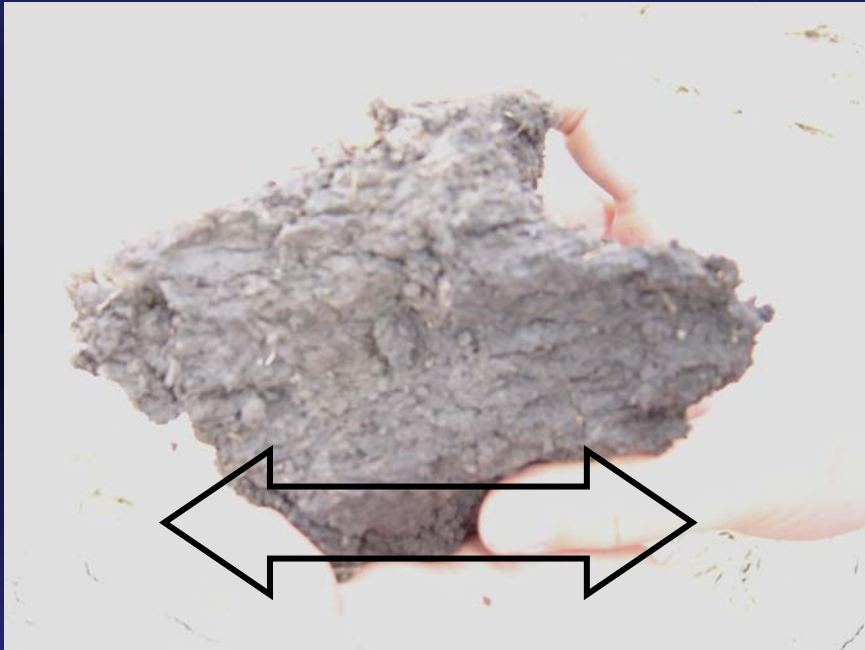
Fertilizer Tank



Tractor



Soil Structure- Conventional Till



As you can see in this piece of conventionally tilled soil, the lines run horizontal. This makes it more difficult for water to flow into the soil, thus making saturated soil only 3-4 feet deep.

NO-TILL soil will have vertical lines with decaying organic matter to help send moisture down deep into the soil.



Residue Management



**Managed properly,
residues from the previous
year's crop will:**

- protect soil from erosion
- improve seedbed quality, by adding organic matter
- increase soil moisture, by trapping precipitation.

Managed poorly, residue can:

- delay seedbed warming and cause uneven drying
- Interfere with seed and input placement
- inhibit seedling emergence

Got NO-TILL?