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# Leading Edge

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No-till  
On The Plains

## So Much from So Little

by Roger Long

Whether it's because of a need for networking when developing new practices or due to some quirk of their personalities, no-tillers typically share a true desire to help their neighbor—and consequently their competitor—in adopting their newfound techniques for greater productivity and profitability. Maybe it's the underlying notion that those same neighbors have such an enormous impact on the very neighborhood where those



no-tillers reside, or perhaps they're just so thrilled with the results that they can't contain themselves. Possessing that same philanthropic spirit, Mark Watson of Alliance, Nebraska, exemplifies it with both humility and zeal. While many no-tillers have given freely in presentations, interviews, and neighborly discussions, few full-time commercial growers put forth the time and effort that Watson does.

Mark began assisting his local NRCS district office last year with presentations that not only expound the financial rewards of no-till but also highlight the benefits of protecting and conserving natural resources. Watson's simple, powerful message not only says, "You can do it!" but also, "I know *you* can do it because *I've* done it!" No-till principles are the fabric of Watson's presentations, with proven real-world examples woven throughout to provide the audience with tangible data for planning their own no-till systems. Gregarious by nature, Watson's speaking schedule looks like that



Photo by Mark Watson.

Watsons harvesting 100-bu/a wheat following edible beans, which is a fairly typical yield for their irrigated wheat. Mark likes the stripper head, since he doesn't have to worry about getting the straw spread uniformly behind the combine.

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