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# Leading Edge

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No·till  
On The Plains

## Ceiling Unlimited

by Matt Hagny

Tom Cannon certainly thinks differently. This gentleman farmer of north-central Oklahoma questions everything—*everything*—with the incisive mind of a skilled businessman. A few minutes with him, and you'll soon be re-examining your own deeply held conclusions. Self-proclaimed active environmentalist,



an avid hunter and outdoorsman, and devoted family man are crucial aspects of the man who's also a highly successful farmer and cattleman.

The Cannon operation, Goodson Ranch, has been in the family for 4 generations, and is headquartered southeast of Blackwell along the confluence of the Chikaskia ('cheh-KAS-kee') River and Bitter

Creek, and also extends on into the hills farther east and north. In the early 1900s, this farm—along with Oklahoma as a whole—grew more corn than wheat, a trend that has resurfaced in recent years on the Goodson Ranch. While the deep bottomland soils along the Chikaskia were perhaps less ravaged by a century of tillage and erosion than were the hills, long-term no-till and other new techniques deployed—and sometimes invented—by Tom are helping rejuvenate the depleted land whatever its topography.

A sizeable field near the Chikaskia prompts commentary from Tom:



Photo by Matt Hagny.

2008: Another prosperous dryland corn harvest on Cannon's farm.

### Contents

<i>Ceiling Unlimited</i> .....	445
<i>Nutrient Export</i> .....	450
<i>Runoff &amp; Erosion</i> .....	458
<i>Controlling Erosion</i> .....	466
<i>Fine-Tuning</i> .....	468
<i>Forever a Student</i> .....	469

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