No Till Continuous Cropping in the High Plains. (C03-klein113031-Oral)

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Abstract:

Can continuous cropping be profitable in the High Plains area with 40 to 55 cm of annual precipitation? What does it take to increase your success with this continuous cropping? Research has been conducted for 3 years at two locations about 200 kilometers apart. The 55 cm annual precipitation location has growing degree days for corn of 3100 vs 2800 for the area with 40 cm of annual precipitation. Continuous cropping with a no-till wheat-corn rotation with planting corn hybrids 7 to 10 days shorter in maturity than usually used in the area and harvesting the corn at 23+ percent moisture has worked well in the higher precipitation area. With a shorter growing season and less precipitation, the other area needs at least average precipitation and length of season to be a profitable system as compared to a wheat-corn-fallow rotation. The most limiting variable to crop producers is having access to a seeder that is capable of operating through the corn residue while maintaining the residue. Twenty cm or narrower row spacing is needed for the winter wheat since it does not tiller as much. The seeder also needs to be capable of placing starter fertilizer with the seed because of the later seeding date.

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