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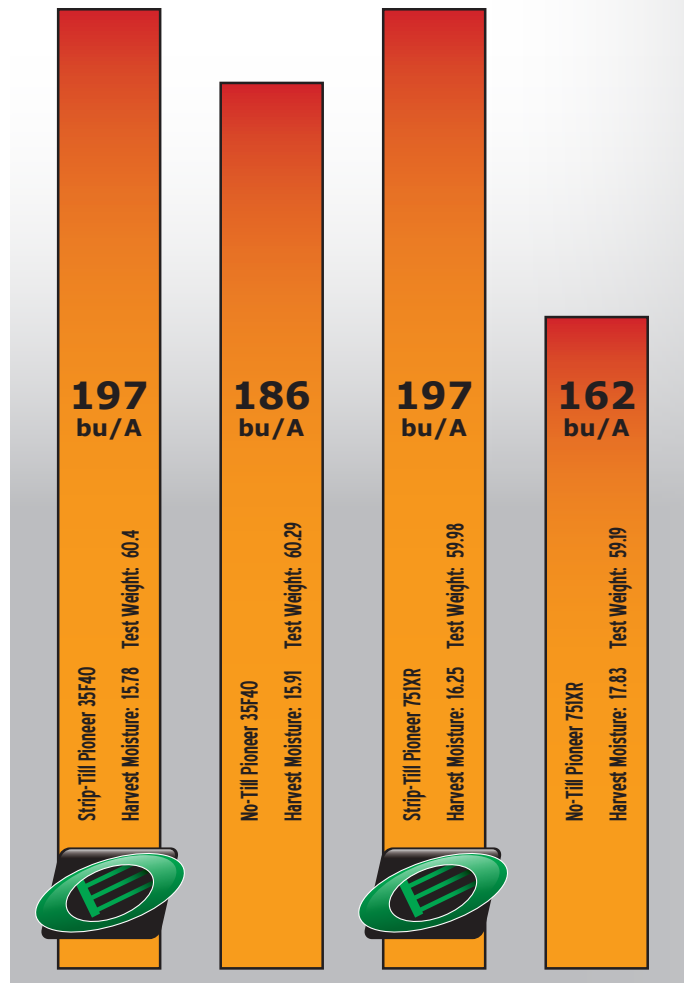
We with the Orthman Agronomy team have been challenged by growers across the Corn Belt to evaluate the Orthman method of strip-till compared to No-Till (Direct Seeding) in irrigated corn with varieties that do well in both environments. This year, as in the past three years have put side-by-side plots to compare which systems approach will do its best. The Platte River Valley does have to contend with seasonal water table issues and this year was nothing different. On the Orthman Research Farm we deal with a water table within 24 inches of the surface from May 1st until mid to late June. Soils remain cool to almost cold and root development is slowed during those two months with high remaining residue amounts on the soil surface, especially after 200 bu/ac continuous corn yields.

This year (2011) we planted May 3rd for this trial using two Pioneer hybrids we felt could stand well and take on the residue and yield well. Both are similar day length corns but have different rooting habits and that was part of what we wanted to determine in this No-Till to Strip-Till study. The Pioneer 35F40 is a relative deep rooted hybrid and has shown some good things to us across the entire Corn Belt. The 0751XR is more of an intermediate rooted plant and has great potential. June was an extraordinarily wet month with two big rains (3.5" and 6") that caused some waterlogging and stand loss in the low lying spots. These plots were not immune in a portion of the trials.

Both Strip-Till and No-Till were fertilized with the same amounts of our liquid fertilizer program sponsored by Kugler Fertilizer Co. (McCook, NE). Total amount of N applied was 172lbs in split applications via the strip-till, banded spray over the row, In-furrow with the planter and four times via the Pivot. Essentially we spoon fed these plants!

Look at the data and see what compares to the tillage system you use.

R E S U L T S



From left:

1. Strip-Till Pioneer 35F40
2. No-Till Pioneer 35F40
3. Strip-Till Pioneer 751XR
4. No-Till Pioneer 751XR

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