

BECK'S Strip-Till vs. Conventional-Till Corn after Soybeans – 2008

Location:	B2 plot	Previous Crop:	Soybeans
Planted:	April 21, 2008	Tillage:	Various
Harvested:	September 22, 2008	Herbicide:	Pre: 1.6 qts. Bicep II Magnum 1 qt. Princep
Soil Type:	Clay Loam		
Population:	33,674 seeds/A.		Post: 1.67 qts. Lexar
Rows:	Four 30" rows		6 oz. Stinger
Replications:	Three	Insecticide:	None

RAINFALL	
April	1.63 in.
May	4.91 in.
June	4.80 in.
July	3.50 in.
August	<u>2.94 in.</u>
Total	17.78 in.

Purpose: Strip-Till has become of interest to many farmers that want to reduce tillage and focus on the fertility in the zone where the crop is growing. This study compares strip-till to conventional-till in both corn after corn and corn after soybean environments. The corn after corn study is not being published due to erratic data. In the future, we plan to apply banded fertilizer in the strip-till zone at full and reduced rates to compare to full rates in the conventional-till area.

Yield Rank	Brand	Harvested Population	Test* Weight	Percent Moisture	Bushels* Per Acre
STRIP-TILL					
1	BECK 5684VT3	32,500	58.0	23.6	197.2
2	BECK 5555VT3	32,333	58.0	27.1	170.8
3	BECK 5616VT3	32,833	59.3	24.0	164.8
4	BECK 5444VT3	<u>32,250</u>	<u>57.6</u>	<u>25.1</u>	<u>155.7</u>
	AVERAGE	32,479	58.2	25.0	172.1
CONVENTIONAL-TILL					
1	BECK 5555VT3	32,667	57.7	25.4	179.1
2	BECK 5444VT3	33,667	57.3	26.0	175.4
3	BECK 5684VT3	33,000	56.2	23.9	175.3
4	BECK 5616VT3	<u>31,500</u>	<u>57.1</u>	<u>23.6</u>	<u>157.9</u>
	AVERAGE	32,709	57.1	24.7	171.9

*Bushels per acre and test weight corrected to 15% moisture.

Summary: In 2007, the first year of testing, we saw a consistent pattern of higher yields in the strip-till areas. This year, the yield averages were nearly equal, but we observed that the two healthier products, BECK 5684VT3 and BECK 5616VT3 performed better in the strip-till versus the average yield.

One of the lessons learned is the importance of using auto-guide technology with strip-till. Many of the areas strip-tilled in the fall were difficult to distinguish at planting time due to weathering and residue movement back into the strips.

In addition, strip-tilled areas on sloping ground were more subject to erosion when the strip was located in an area where water ran. This created a non-uniform seed bed at planting time and erosion continued to occur.

