

## OKLAHOMA NO-TILL CONFERENCE

Farmers and ranchers wanting to use the latest developments in no-till cropping systems should register now to attend the No-Till Oklahoma Conference February 11-12, 2008 in Oklahoma City. The conference will take place at Oklahoma City's Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 737 S. Meridian Street, located just south of Interstate 40. The conference will begin at 10:30am on February 11th and will finish at approximately 4:00pm on February 12th.

Cost is \$75 per person if registering by January 21st, and \$100 per person thereafter. Reservation information is available at <http://oces.okstate.edu/notill> online. "The conference is the result of the growing interest in no-till cropping systems, increase in fuel prices, soil moisture savings and improved environmental awareness that have contributed to increased adoption of no-till in Oklahoma," said Chad Godsey, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service cropping systems specialist. Godsey said the conference is geared toward beginning producers and experienced producers who are considering switching to no-till cropping systems. A key advantage of attending the conference will be the opportunity to interact with both technical specialists and experienced no-till farmers, said Mike Thralls, executive director the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. "We all want to receive the highly valuable technical information, but I'm like most other producers in that we also want to hear from somebody who has made it work," Thralls said. "That interaction is critical and we've made sure it's a key component of this conference. Our no-till farming pioneers are speaking from personal experience about what it takes for a producer to learn about and use no-till effectively."


Sessions will focus on the philosophy of no-till; key considerations for crop rotation; disease, weed and insect management; equipment essentials; no-till what, cotton and grazing systems; and ways to overcome obstacles, among others. The conference is a collaboration of OSU's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma Natural Resources Conservation Service and Oklahoma Conservation Commission, with additional sponsorship from the High Plains Journal, Southern Plains Agricultural Resources Coalition and Great Plains Resource Conservation and Development.

The registration fee does not cover the cost of hotel accommodations. For persons wishing to stay at the Clarion, mention the No-Till Oklahoma Conference to get the conference rate. For reservations, contact the Clarion at 405-942-8511.



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# AG NEWS

Division of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources  
Oklahoma State University

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January 2008

## 2008 F.A.C.T. CONFERENCE

Farmers, Agriculture, Conservation & Technology Conference

January 8-9, 2008

Seward County Activity Center  
Liberal, KS

### Topics:

- Western Corn Belt's Long Term Strip-Till Study—It Really Works Beyond Just Yield
- The Effect of Strip-Till on Dryland Grain Sorghum Yields in the Southern High Plains
- Do's and Don'ts of Strip-Till
- Soil Carbon Sequestration for Mitigating Greenhouse Gases
- Nutrient Value of Manure & Application Rates
- Wheat, Milo, Fallow Rotation in No-Till
- Noxious Thistle Identification and Control
- Grown Your Own Fuel
- How Much Did Your Lawyer Cost the Family Farm
- Cellulosic Biomass Ethanol
- Know Your Sprayer Needs
- Land Value & Land Leases
- Better Sprayer Performance
- Integrated Pest Management with Emphasis on Wheat Rust Control
- You Can Buy the Farm But I Still Own It
- Sunflower Production
- GPS, Does It Pay

Pre-Register for only \$50 (until January 2, 2008)

For Registration Form go to:  
[http://www.gpa.notill.org/2008\\_reform.pdf](http://www.gpa.notill.org/2008_reform.pdf)

Contact Information: Janet White—Conference Coord  
Phone: 620-598-2459  
Fax: 620-598-2294  
E-mail: [factconf@pld.com](mailto:factconf@pld.com)



Dinner Meeting  
Wednesday, January 9, 2008  
7:00pm  
K-Bob's Restaurant

### PROGRAM:

- Great Western Feed-Out Program Details
- Program Enrollment
- Source Verifying Cattle
- Cattle Delivery Process
- Carcass Data Collection

### SPEAKER:

Greg Highfill, Ext Area Lvst Spec, Enid

Sponsored by: NW Oklahoma Cattlemen's Assoc.  
For more information call Woodward OSU  
Extension @ 580-254-3391.

## NITROGEN APPLICATIONS WILL SOON BE UNDERWAY

By Dr. Jeff Edwards, OSU Small Grains Ext Spec  
& Hailin Zhang, OSU Nutrient Management Ext Spec

With wheat green-up rapidly approaching, Nitrogen (N) rates and application timings are on the minds of many producers. Determining the correct top-dress N application for wheat is a dynamic decision that is influenced by several factors and is specific for each individual farming operation. Therefore, in publications such as this we must make some generalizations and rely upon the producer, to decide how to apply the techniques and recommendations to your operation. Given this caveat, let us discuss some criteria that should be considered in making decisions about applying N.

**1. When should I top-dress?** Simply put, there is no clear-cut answer to this question. From a practical standpoint, the best time to top dress is when you can get the work done. Growers with soil types that are typically hard to get across, need to cover a large amount of acreage, or who rely on custom applicators that have a large acreage to cover will need to get started early and perform top-dress operations when conditions allow. Early applications of N will encourage tillering, and will be most beneficial for later-planted wheat that has not had as much opportunity to tiller and for growers whose primary emphasis is forage production. Wheat that is large in size and has a lush-green appearance when emerging from winter dormancy can generally tolerate a small amount of N deficiency stress. This is because we only require approximately 500 heads per square yard at harvest to achieve optimal wheat yield. At a one bushel seeding rate there will be approximately 200 plants emerge per square yard, so we only need around 2-3 tillers per plant for optimal yield. Most of our early-planted wheat fields in Oklahoma are well past this number, so loss of a few tillers should not affect final grain yield. Research has indicated that timing of spring N applications will have minimal effect on wheat yield. However, studies agree that N application should be made at or prior to Feekes growth stage 6 (Feekes GS 6 is identified by a visible hollow stem and node above the soil surface), as effectiveness of N applications past this point are diminished. It is also important to remember that rainfall will be required to move N into the soil profile.

**2. What is the best form of top-dress Nitrogen to use?** There are three issues to consider here, and I would consider them in the following order:

- a. **Which can be applied in a uniform fashion?** Both liquid and granular top-dress N can be applied uniformly across a wheat field; however, both can result in a streaked wheat field as well. The important thing to remember here is that properly applied N costs no more that improperly applied N, so uniform application is essential to obtain the most bang for your buck.
- b. **Which is the cheapest source per unit N?** The most common forms of top-dress N used in Oklahoma are UAN solutions (28, 30, and 32% N), urea (46% N), and ammonium nitrate (34% N). The only fair way to compare product prices is to compare the cost per unit N. An example for how to do this is shown below:

**Table 1.** Comparing the prices for different N sources

	Urea	28% UAN
Percentage N	46%	28%
Actual N in a ton of product	$\frac{2000}{920}$	$\frac{2000}{560}$
Price per ton	\$285	\$185
<b>Price per unit N</b>	$\frac{\$285}{920}$	$\frac{\$185}{560}$
	\$0.31	\$0.33

- c. **What are the weather conditions?** The first issue to consider is “burn” that can occur when broadcast applying large amounts of liquid UAN fertilizers to actively growing plant tissue, which results in desiccation of wheat leaves. I am not aware of any published research regarding yield losses associated with N “burn”, but any potential for yield loss would be more likely for wheat that is past the tillering stage. If leaf burn is a concern, then liquid N should be dribbled on using stream bars or granular N should be applied.
- 3. How much N should I apply?** Winter wheat N demands are met both by N mineralized from soil organic matter and from fertilizer sources applied by the producer. For years, the standard OSU recommendation was two pounds of N for every bushel of yield potential. Using this strategy, it is necessary for the producer to soil sample to determine the amount of N in the soil profile and then provide supplemental to-dress N to bring the total amount up to the two pounds per bushel level. In addition, dual-purpose wheat (wheat used both for grazing and grain production) will require additional N to replace N removed as beef. In other words, two pounds of N are still needed to produce one bushel of grain, but 30 lbs. N are needed to produce 100 lbs. of beef or 1000 lbs. of forage grazed. Use the table listed below to calculate the N needs for your operation:

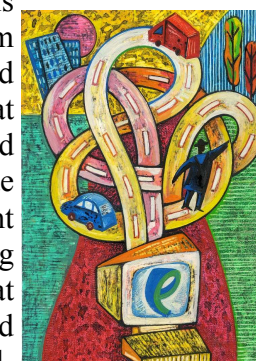
Table 2. Determine your N needs by subtracting N credits from N requirements				
		Example	Your Farm	
		N budget —lb/ac—	N budget	
Yield goal * 2	=50 bu * 2	100	[Green bar]	
Beef removed <sup>1</sup>	=200 lb * 3	60	[Green bar]	
<b>N required</b>		160		
Soil test N		30	[Pink bar]	
Fall applied N		80	[Pink bar]	
<b>N Credits</b>		110		
		160 lb required -110 lb credit	[Blue bar]	
<b>Top-dress N to apply</b>		50 lb/ac		

<sup>1</sup>N removed for forage production is replenished at a rate of 30 lb of N for every 100 lb of beef removed (i.e. 0.3 \* lbs of beef removed).

While this methodology is much better than guessing the proper amount of N to apply, OSU researchers have developed a much better method called the Green-Seeker system. This method compares sensor measurements from an area treated with normal practices to measurements from a strip where plant N is not limiting (generally 2 times the regular amount of N was applied the prior fall). A top-dress N rate recommendation is then generated based on a predicted yield potential and the “greenness” of the crop.

### ONLINE BANKING: IS IT FOR YOU?

We occasionally get questions about online banking, mostly from people who have not yet ventured into it. Let’s first clear up that online banking is a rather broad term. Online banking can include purchases, bill payments, account tracking or Internet banking using an account in an institution that does not have a physical brick and mortar place to visit. Here we address some basic concerns that go along with using the Internet for financial purposes.



#### Is It Safe?

The theft of personal information is often associated with online activities. But, people who want information about you don’t always have to travel the information super-highway to get it. Everyone is familiar with how to physically protect cash: don’t leave your wallet or purse unattended in a public place, put your wallet in a front pocket to be less likely to be pick-pocketed, etc. All good advice, but the most cautious person can be foiled by someone who really wants to get your money

or financial information. Some basic safeguards are also required to keep your information safe online.

- Take these basic precautions:
- Limit access to your computer
- Don’t use public computers for financial activities—even a secure website can’t keep hackers from logging your keystrokes.
- Don’t use “remember my password options” online
- Don’t respond to unsolicited e-mails that ask for private information with a link. This is called “phishing” for information.
- Don’t list account details in an e-mail as e-mails are easily hacked.
- Find reputable and secure companies with whom to conduct business. If you aren’t sure about an entity, check for information about the business using an online search or customer rating service. The Better Business Bureau is another source of information. Be aware that unscrupulous people will often mimic legitimate companies using names and logos that are hard to distinguish.
- Use credit cards or a Paypal-type account to make purchases online. They offer more layers of security for you.
- Read the privacy policy before entering information online.
- Check into discrepancies immediately.
- Cancel accounts that have been used fraudulently.
- Don’t have more than one browser open when conducting financial transactions.
- When making a financial transaction online, make sure it is a secure site (data should be encrypted, that is, private information should be scrambled to prevent others getting the information in transit). Encrypted sites will display a padlock icon in the lower right of the screen. Sometimes hitting the submit button on a blank login screen will display the security symbol. If you do not see a padlock, don’t enter your information.
- Use FDIC insured banks whether brick and mortar or virtual. Go to [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov) to check on a bank’s standing.
- Keep firewall and virus protection software running and updated for more online protection.
- Use a password or PIN (personal identification number) to access online accounts. Change them regularly and do not use obvious personal information such as birthdates. Use passwords that combine upper and lowercase letters and numbers.
- Log out and close the browser you were using after completing transactions. (Remember: do not conduct financial transactions on a public computer.) If others have access to your computer, clear the browser history.