



# Direct Seed & No-Till

*Where Profitability & Conservation Meet™*

## Fact Sheet

### Direct Seed & No-Till Farming Operations

Direct seed and no-till farming practices are less invasive than conventional operations. Conventional methods require several passes over the field, leading to soil erosion and loss of soil moisture and organic soil matter. Direct seed & no-till practices fertilize and plant directly into undisturbed soil in only one to two passes over the field. The fewer passes offer producers numerous benefits to both their crops and their wallets.

#### Ecological Benefits

- Improved soil tilth
- Reduced soil erosion
- Improved water quality
- Increased moisture savings
- Improved air quality

#### Economical Benefits

- Reduced labor costs
- 50% reduction in fuel costs
- Decreased maintenance & repairs
- Increased crop yields

*“We’ve improved our soil and water quality by keeping the water in the fields. As a farmer, ... I would never go back to a conventional drill.”*

*—Chuck Schmidt, Spokane County  
Direct Seeder for 20 Years*

**The Difference** between conventional tillage and direct seeding/no-till is often obvious.



**Conventional** - Poor soil structure due to heavy tillage inhibits water infiltration. Topsoil from the hilltops is eroded into the low areas and ditches ultimately making its way to the region's waterways.



**Direct Seed** - Straw residue from the previous crop remains on the field while the new crop grows. There is virtually no chance of soil erosion occurring in these situations with heavy residue and good soil structure that enhances water infiltration.

### Start Your No-till Operation with Spokane Conservation District

Take advantage of our low-interest loan program for eligible agricultural equipment and our mentoring program. See a current list of districts participating in the program and apply online at [www.directseedloans.org](http://www.directseedloans.org) or call Ty Meyer for more information.

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