No-Till Farming
An Overview
The Symbol of Agriculture
Common Scene less than 80 years ago
A Thousand Years of Evolution
An Oklahoma Invention
What is No-Till?
Why No-Till?

- Reduced fuel consumption
- Reduced machinery investment
- Reduced labor
- Reduced wind erosion
- Reduced water erosion
Why No-Till

- Improved soil structure
- Increased water uptake
- Reduced evaporation
- Absorption of rain energy
- Clean Runoff
“Don’t make farming more complicated than it is. All you are trying to do is turn a drop of rain into a kernel of grain”

-Dr. Jewel Crabtree
Water Conservation

- 2-4” water saved on an annual basis from evaporation
  - Over 100,000 gallons / acre
  - More than average rainfall of July and August
- Increased absorption from each rainfall event
- More rapid distribution through soil profile
A Relatively New Idea

- Effective, environmentally safe herbicides
- Genetics
- Innovative machinery
  - Hydraulics
  - Improved steels
  - New plastics
Why Not?

- Tradition
- Uncertainty
- Tillage is a great equalizer
- Other conservation options
Other Conservation Options

- Conservation Tillage
- Reduced Tillage
- Vertical Tillage
- Strip Tillage
“Commercial Stewardship”

- Economics Drives Agriculture
- Conservation is essential to Economic Success
  - Energy
  - Soil
  - Water