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What I've Learned From No-Tilling: Beating Rain And Taking No-Till To Pasture

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By [Martha Mintz](#) posted on November 1, 2013 | Posted in [Cover Crops](#), [Water Management](#), [No-Till 101](#)

John Kemmeren found that purchasing his own no-till drill allowed him to tackle long-overdue pasture seeding and create a better farm system.

Check The Specs...

NAME: John Kemmeren

FARM: Angelrose Dairy

LOCATION: Bainbridge, N.Y.

YEARS NO-TILLING: 40

ACRES: 740

CROPS: Corn (grain and silage), alfalfa, grass hay and pasture

Corn isn't king on our farm, even if it is selling for \$8 per bushel. I run a 100-cow dairy along with my wife, Dianne, and our two children.

So the crops in our rotation are geared more toward providing high-quality forage for our cows than chasing down big commodity-crop payouts.

Even if we wanted corn to be the majority of our rotation, it just doesn't make sense in our area. In south-central New York, it's mostly hills and river valleys. And generally, we have more very wet years than very dry years.

An overabundance of rain can definitely limit our yields and the acres that we're able to plant to corn. The flat river bottoms flood and can stay wet. And with traditional tillage, our five 30% slope hills, covered with highly erodible soils, will wash like crazy.

Unfortunately, a normal rainfall is a thing of the past here. We no longer get rain — we get rainfall events. There are days we get 5 or 6 inches, and those aren't isolated instances.

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As a result, I've seen more erosion in New York this year than I've seen in my entire life. I've seen conventional fields cut with ditches knee deep in a matter of hours and acres and acres of corn washed away. There's no amount of tillage that will fix...

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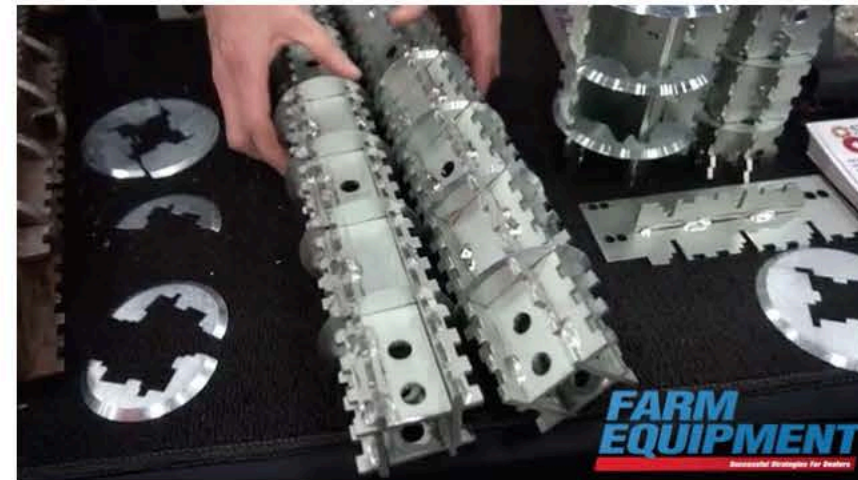
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Martha Mintz

Contributing Editor

VIDEOS



Shred Select at the National Farm Machinery Show

Rick Tomic, Business Development Director for Shred Select, gives an overview of their exciting new product at the 2018 National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Kentucky.

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