

# Continuous No-Till Plot Benefits

## Currently Taller Than Other Area Plots

**REGINA LAROSE**  
MidAmerica Farmer Grower

**EWING, ILL.**

**M**ike Plumer, Natural Resource Management Educator, explained the benefits of change in soil productivity on continuous no-till. Standing in front of a 43 plus years continuous no-till plot, Plumer summarized the popularity of no-till in Illinois, “we have had a huge increase in no-till acres. Soybeans we are looking at probably 85 to 90 percent of all the soybeans in southern Illinois are no-till. Corn is quite a bit less than that, it depends on the county and the soil type but some of the areas are at 40 and 50 percent no-till corn.”

“The soil quality from a long term no-till system can facilitate organic matter change from one percent to 3.2 percent. We have sequestered just a little over 99,000 pounds of carbon per acre on this trial over the 43 year time period. We are looking at the density of the soil. We have really loosened the soil up and it is real mellow.”

Plumer has noticed an increase in earthworms, “now, when we are planting you can go out and reach in and pull up a handful of soil and you’ll find six to eight to ten earthworms.”

Plumer explained the continuous no-till plot in currently in corn. The rotation for the last 18 years has been corn/soybean. “You will notice this corn is about a foot taller than the rest of the corn in the area.”

According to Plumer growers can drive by and look at the no-till plot anytime, “it is located north of Ewing, Illinois,

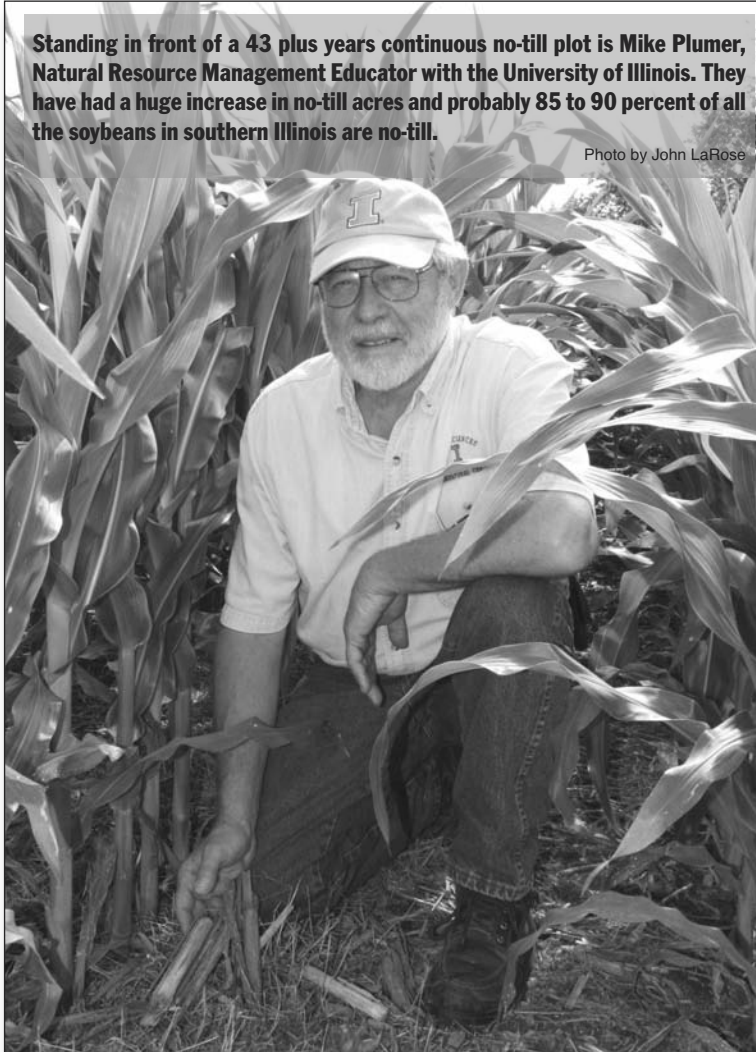
turn right on the first road outside of town. The field is ¼ mile east and the plot is located on the north side of the old barn.”

Grower can also visit the extension website, <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/regions/ag/ag2.htm> for yield information. Δ

*REGINA LAROSE: Associate Editor, MidAmerica Farmer Grower*

**Standing in front of a 43 plus years continuous no-till plot is Mike Plumer, Natural Resource Management Educator with the University of Illinois. They have had a huge increase in no-till acres and probably 85 to 90 percent of all the soybeans in southern Illinois are no-till.**

Photo by John LaRose



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