

Ewing Fall Field Tour

Illinois Oldest Continuous No-Till Field Plot

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EWING, ILL.

The “Father of zero-till”, George McKibben’s field plots, were part of a feature exhibit at the recent Ewing Fall Field Tour. Dennis Epplin, Extension Educator, Crop Systems at the Mt. Vernon Center, explained, “at Ewing, we have the oldest continuous no-till plot in the state of Illinois. When George McKibben was doing his original work he started at Dixon Springs. He also came up here to Ewing to do

more interest in soil conservation, saving fuel and conserving moisture. No-till has grown dramatically in popularity and availability.”

The field day activities included a presentation by QualiSoy. According to Epplin, “the QualiSoy folks are an umbrella organization that is assisting the soybean industry by promoting and developing improved quality traits.”

The Ewing Field Day Tour also had a full lineup of extension and USDA speakers. Epplin said, “Doug Jones spoke on insect trapping at Ewing. Steve Ebelhar from Dixon Springs



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Photo by John LaRose, Jr.

the plot work as well. The reason that the oldest is here is because at Dixon Springs they had to move to a different location.”

“The key is oldest continuous no-till at the 40th season,” he said.

The exhibit included equipment. “The folks at Dixon Springs were able to bring the original planter that George and his mechanic, Donnie Morris, developed for people to view and see what was actually involved,” stated Epplin.

“At one time no-till was way out there in terms of technology. People were almost ridiculed for trying no-till. As technology of equipment and herbicides developed, there was

spoke on conservation tillage work at Dixon Springs. Diane Walsh, Natural Resource Conservation Service, gave a presentation on their programs. Mike Plummer spoke on no-till. Ruth Hambleton talked about the farm bill. Bruce Morrisson from Hamilton County FSA explained FSA programs. Larry Miller, Franklin County Farm Bureau, explained the Farm Bureau efforts.”

Epplin spoke to producers about soil fertility, he said, “I visited with folks about other topics that seem in a way to be old topics but because of price changes they suddenly have become new topics.” △

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