

Crop Rotation and Tillage Studies

In southwestern North Dakota, the tillage method and cropping history of the land during the previous year have a most important effect on crop production. Crop yields in this area are dependent upon the moisture provided by seasonal rainfall plus the moisture which is stored in the soil at seeding time, and any farming practice that will aid in holding and storing moisture in the soil and which will make maximum use of that moisture for crop production is recommended practice for this area.

In recent years, the recognition of the importance of the use of commercial fertilizer on some crops has resulted in the inclusion of several trials designed to study the effects of commercial fertilizer on crop production when used along with different crop rotations and tillage methods.

In these experiments, tillage in preparation for seeding usually is begun within two or three days of the earliest work on farms in the community. The average seeding date is about the middle of April. Average harvest time is the first week in August.

Grain yields in these experiments are no better than yields harvested on the better farms in the area and for the most part reflect fairly well the annual yields for this area.

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