



What goes together like ham and eggs?

Modern cotton production and no-till cultural farming in Oklahoma, particularly at Alan Mindemann's farm north of Apache, Oklahoma.

First, Mindemann believes in no-till farming. He has practiced it for 10 years and believes in it so strongly, he doesn't own any tillage equipment.

"No-till farming allows me to utilize every drop of moisture we get," he said. "That is very important because all of my farming is dryland and we can't afford to lose any water."



Farming 4,000 acres, Mindemann crops cotton, wheat, grain sorghum and corn. He even has canola this year. "The canola is a cooperative test plot with Oklahoma State University," he said.

Cotton is an important part of Mindemann's agricultural program for several reasons, he said. "Growing cotton with modern varieties has done away with many management problems that we used to have," he said. "We make money with cotton and it allows me to keep weeds out of fields where we grow cotton behind wheat."

Rotating cotton with wheat to keep weeds out of the fields has allowed Mindemann to start a seed wheat production program.

The 2005 cotton season started out well for Mindemann. His cotton got off to an early start without having to replant any of it, he said. He did have to spray for stinkbug and fleahopper problems. He planted Fibermax 960 and Paymaster 2280 varieties. On land where he was double-cropping cotton behind wheat, he planted Fibermax 5035.

A dry weather period from July 1 to early August tested Mindemann's no-till moisture saving farm program, he said. But rains in August and September have given him hope for harvesting a good cotton crop this fall.

"All of my cotton was planted in heavy residue and I think this has been helpful in keeping water from running off the fields," he said. "While our 2004 cotton crop was outstanding, we averaged 1.5 bales to the acre, I think we will have some 900 pound per acre cotton this year and certainly will have 600 to 700 pounds of lint cotton per acre yields."

Mindemann is preparing to defoliate his cotton prior to harvest later this fall. He hires a custom harvester to harvest his cotton. His cotton is ginned at the Farmers Cooperative Gin at Carnegie, Oklahoma.



