



COMMON SENSE IN ZERO TILL

Jack Swainson

During his part of the “Leading Edge Farmer’s” session, Jack will discuss and elaborate on:

- His history and commitment to the Zero Till philosophy and the “challenge of the change”.
- A systematic and sustainable approach to the diversity and diligence required in a successful zero till system.
- The economics of reducing his equipment investment to four basic units.
- Why pulses, forages and winter cereals are viable and essential crops in a zero till practice.
- The distinct advantage of incorporating winter cereals in the rotation to spread the workload, increase equipment efficiency, reduce herbicide dependency and capture premium market opportunities.
- Leaving a “bail out” option in your cropping strategy to deal with challenging and unusual situations.
- Making equipment decisions, based on the environment you work in that will accommodate trash clearance challenges during seeding and straw and chaff management during harvest.
- Keeping the soil surface covered with crop residue and using minimum disturbance openers to reduce and often prevent the germination of “undesirable species”.
- Being aware and understanding of the microscopic world of biodiversity that exists on and below the soil surface and your role in its nurture and stewardship.
- Taking a cautious and informed approach to any commitment you would make when considering a sell/lease contract for carbon credits that evolve from your farming system.
- Utilizing any and all resources and assistance available to you in your quest for production excellence!