

Our Experiences with Cover Crops & No-Till Vegetable Production in Southern Illinois

Nathan Johanning, University of Illinois Extension





Alto Pass, Illinois

Benefits of No-till Production

- Decreased Erosion
 - Especially important on Highly Erodible Soils
- Better soil structure/aggregate stability
- Accumulation of soil organic matter
- Increased water infiltration
- Tillage/cultivation is not exposing new weed seeds
- Fewer decrease on fuel/equipment expenses

Remember soil benefits are long term benefits!!

Challenges of No-till Production

- Finding/building equipment that is “No-till Ready”
- Managing Weeds
- Managing residue and overwintering pests
 - Increased need for good crop rotation
- Understanding field management strategies
- No-till production is not suited for all vegetable crops equally
- “But you have to work the ground!”



FARM

M

PEACHES























FARM MARKET

APPLES

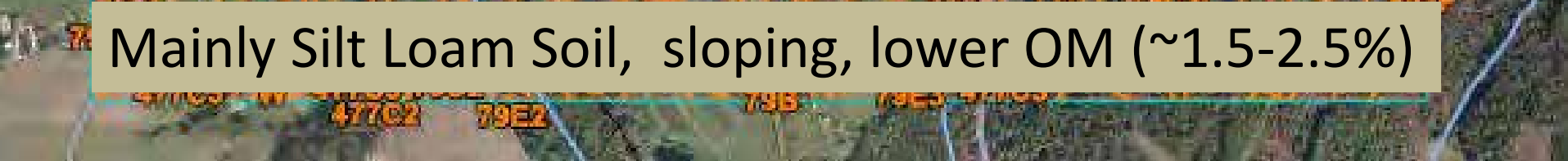
OPEN

MUN
\$6.00









Mainly Silt Loam Soil, sloping, lower OM (~1.5-2.5%)























2010 no till system

M & S REPAIR



Cover Crops Species

- At first...wheat (cover crop or double crop)
- Cereal Rye
- Radish & Crimson Clover + Cereal Rye
- Sorghum Sudan + Cereal Rye







Cereal Rye - 120 lbs/A





























Questions? Thank You!



Nathan Johanning

Extension Educator, Local Food Systems and Small Farms
University of Illinois Extension
402 Ava Rd.
Murphysboro, IL 62966

njohann@illinois.edu
(618)687-1727

