



**HIGHER YIELDS:** Bruce and Sandy Teubner and their children, Bryce and Kelsey, enjoy higher yields through reduced tillage.

## Teubners do 180 on no-till

**I**N the second year of his participation in the Conservation Agriculture program, Bruce Teubner, Cando, N.D., informed his Resource Analysis Team that he intended to prove no-till would not work on his farm.

By the final year of the program, he had purchased a no-till drill and fitted it with an application system that allows him to apply seed and anhydrous in one pass. Today, Bruce is using minimum-till practices on about two-thirds of his farmed land, and he continues to experiment with no-till on the remaining third.

The reduction in wind erosion has been noticeable.

"I've got some fields that have blown

### Key Points

- Conservation Agriculture program turns no-till doubter into a believer.
- Reduced tillage cut erosion and helped increase yields.
- Closer nitrogen management helped reduce costs and maximize yields.

when I've cultivated too deep," he says. "Now that I've left residue, it has stopped blowing away."

The change in tillage reduced fuel use and wear on machinery. Combined with improved nitrogen management, reduced tillage practices also increased yields.

"We're paying a lot closer attention to the amount of nitrogen and trying not to overapply," Bruce says. "With the price of nitrogen, we can't afford to do that. It definitely pays to soil test."

The farm management program that was part of the CA program was a "big help" says Sandy, who also holds a full-time job as chief financial officer of a local hospital.

"Ray [Sletteland, a farm management instructor who was on their Resource Analysis Team] helped us with the farm management program, and seeing the reports he generates really puts everything in perspective as far as income and expenses. He even helped us save money on our taxes," she says.

## Odegaard family improves pasture, reduces fall tillage

**D**ARRELL and Deborah Odegaard, Egeland, N.D., adopted a mulch tillage and grazing system with Conservation Agriculture's help.

They cut back to one tillage pass in the fall, which not only leaves more residue but also cuts down on fuel inputs and equipment usage. They also have improved the effectiveness of fall weed-control practices. The result was a decrease in wind and water erosion and an increase in soil organic matter. Wildlife benefited, too. The number of breeding birds on the Odegaard farm has increased by 14% during the project.

The Odegards cross fenced a large, continuously grazed pasture that had different types of grasses. Some cows would overgraze and others wouldn't eat at all. By installing the cross fence, they separated the pasture into two paddocks. The rotation system optimized grazing efficiency by stimulating grass growth and regeneration, providing better soil structure, increasing water infiltration, and giving the cows a second



**CONSERVATION PROGRESS:** Darrell and Deborah Odegaard with sons Jason and Eric participated in the Conservation Agriculture project.

opportunity to graze the same ground during one season. It also kept cows away from a section of tall grass around a wetland during key nesting periods. More importantly for the Odegards, it increased the capacity of the pasture, and adding more cows to their operation

is now a real possibility.

"I look at the marginal areas, and I wouldn't say I've got them all conquered," Darrell says, "but you can see what you can do with them and avoid dumping money into them and getting nothing back."

## Langemos use new tech tools

**M**UCH of the land that Tom and Kathleen Langemo farm near Fingal, N.D., has been in the family for more than 125 years. Through all 12 of those decades and half way through the 13th, the goals have been the same: Make a decent living and leave the land in good shape for the farmers who come later.

Through the Conservation Agriculture program, the Langemos learned new ways to make it happen.

With the help of a CA Resource Analysis Team, the Langemos changed their tillage practices, altered their rotation system to avoid troublesome reoccurring crop diseases, set aside more acres of wetlands and wetland buffers, and adopted new technologies that maximize the benefits of their work.

Tom began using technologies provided through CA, including an IPAQ with Arc Pad software and satellite imagery for identifying more productive acreages, and a GPS measurement and guidance system for measuring field sizes and wetland areas. He also uses GPS for parallel tracking when applying sprays.

They also changed from a farm management accounting system that required double entry to software that makes it easier to find information and generate reports.



**TOM AND KATHLEEN LANGEMO**

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