

**Ken Lund, Polk City
2.8 and 6.6 bu. disadvantage**

I had deep tillage strip trials on two different fields in 2004. This was my first experience with in-line ripping, but I expected to see some yield improvement from it, particularly on one of the fields. Drainage could be better on that field and there was a pond all the way across it from all the rain we had last spring. I assumed the water would drain away from the ripped strips more quickly. Both fields are gently sloping heavy prairie soils.

When I saw the results – a 2.8 bu. loss on one field and a 6.6 bu. loss on the one with the pond – my first thought was that we'd somehow reversed the data and the ripped strips actually yielded better. A recheck showed that wasn't the case, though.

Years ago, when we were still doing a lot of tillage and making more trips across the field, we tried deep ripping and thought it had probably made a difference. I have to wonder whether we've solved whatever compaction problems we might have had then by cutting back on tillage and trips across the field.

