



Erwin Henderson and Sons
Producer
 Independence, IA

I had heard ripping might be beneficial, so was glad to be part of this initial study.

My experience this first year suggests that probably only 25% of the field needs to be ripped, but you need to do the whole field in order to find those areas where you'll get a yield response.

We had yield differences of from 3.4 bu per acre up to 14.5 bu per acre. The greatest response was on areas of Clyde-Floyd Complex soils, which make up about 23% of the field where we did the strip trials. On Readlyn soils, where we normally see our highest yields, the ripped strips outyielded those not ripped by 5.5 bu per acre.

On the average, there was an 8.1 bu advantage on the ripped strips.

I think the next step is a link between the tractor engine rpms and our GPS, so we can locate areas in the field that require the greatest horsepower when we're ripping. That will let us monitor those areas and do additional site specific deep tillage if needed later.

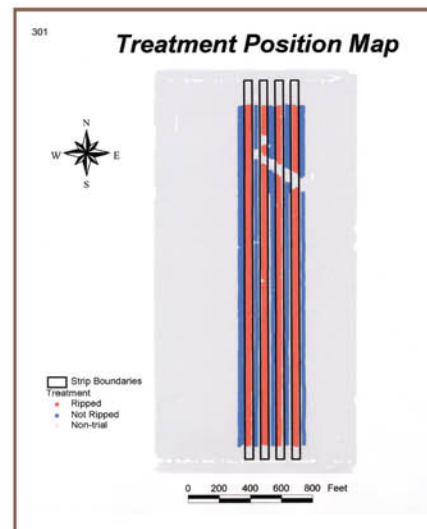


Dennis Lindsay
Producer
 Masonville, IA

I asked Tracy about doing a study on deep ripping because it seemed to be a hot idea in our area. I couldn't believe the number of people who were jumping into it without data showing whether it would really pay. I wanted to see if there was any economic advantage to it.

We had tried deep ripping on a few acres – mostly headlands and other areas we felt it might be needed. We probably ripped 10 acres in one field we thought was compacted. The thing that struck us most was the amount of rocks one of those things can bring up. We spent a lot of time picking rocks in fields that had been relatively clear of rocks.

We didn't see enough yield advantage to justify ripping entire fields. Where we tried it on Kenyon soil, ripping actually cost us 2.2 bu. per acre. On some Readlyn soil, the deep ripped strips yielded slightly more per acre than the normal strips. When you combine that with the time and cost involved in ripping and then picking rocks, it was hard to come up with an economic advantage.



The tractor pulling the ripper for the On-Farm Network Ripper Study used GPS to record the position of the plots within the field so growers can collect and compare yield data from the treatment in subsequent years.