

Technotill shines in extremely muddy conditions

Mike Jensen has become a firm believer that as long as you can keep the tractor moving forward in a water-logged field, a seeding system equipped with Technotill will get the crop in the ground.

Jensen, who farms at Plentywood in eastern Montana (straight south of Regina) had his second experience in 2010 of seeding crop in extremely muddy conditions with his John Deere air seeder equipped with the Technotill seeding system.

"There was mud flying off every tire, and we did have to stop and put scrappers on the tires on the seeding tool," says Jensen. "But even in those wet, muddy conditions the Technotill system performed absolutely flawlessly.

"I seeded 600 acres of river bottom land for my neighbor and it was saturated last spring. He ended up with a 60 bushel crop of spring wheat in the fall which is pretty darn good for our country, so he was extremely pleased."

Jensen who crops about 800 acres of durum, peas and lentils on his own farm, converted his air seeding system to Technotill four years ago. He has a 33 foot wide, John Deere 610 air seeder with shanks set on nine inch spacing, and pulls a John Deere 787 tank. He pulls the equipment with a four-wheel drive John Deere tractor.

As it was in many parts of Western Canada, that region of eastern Montana was extremely wet in the spring of 2010. Jensen had managed to get his own crop seeded, but a neighbor still had 600 acres of saturated river bottom land to seed in late May.

The neighbor owns a drill equipped with paired row openers and packer wheels. "He had tried to seed this field but the equipment just mudded up too bad," says Jensen. "It was getting late in the season and I offered to give it a try."

Jensen says they waited for the field to dry out only enough so the tractor could travel without getting stuck. "It was muddy, but we could move,"

he says.

He placed the seed at about 1.5 inches deep and sidebanded about 175 pounds per acre of a granular fertilizer blend.

"The muddy conditions didn't seem to affect the Technotill seeding system a bit," says Jensen. "The only time the runs might plug is when the tractor was spinning and we had to lift the tool bar out to get moving, and then when you put it back down there might be some plugging. But as long as you were moving it worked just fine."

A key feature of Technotill is even though the opener can be set to run shallow or deep in any soil condition, there is still only a thin layer of soil packed on top of the seed. As some Technotill users have noted, the actual seed placement changes, but in reality seeding depth is consistently shallow.

Jensen says he had experience seeding in muddy conditions on his own farm about three years ago. He had 100 acres to finish and conditions were very wet, "We had mud flying off the duals that year too," but he got the field seeded "and we had a really good crop."

Last spring, seeding this land for his neighbor, part of the challenge was to see just how much water and mud he could seed through. "Most of the time we could go, but one day I just about buried the tractor," he says. "I did manage to get out, so I waited a day and it dried out enough that I could start again.

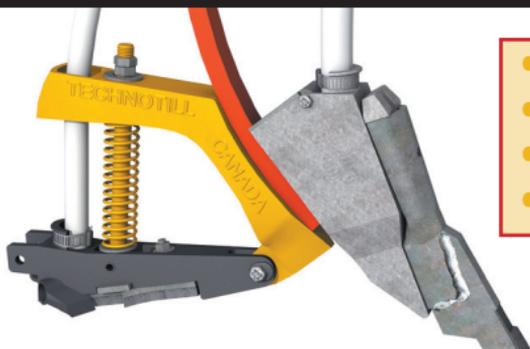
"I think my neighbor would never have gotten that field seeded with his own equipment," says Jensen. "And since I plan to be seeding more land this spring, I may not be available, so he is seriously looking at converting his machine over to the Technotill system as well."

For more information on the Technotill seeding system phone 780-352-9890 or visit the company website at: www.technotill.com

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