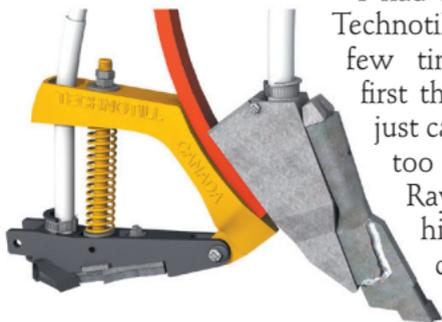


Technotill System handles heavy crop residue

When it came time to replace an older air drill, Jason and Allan Ray wanted a seeding system that could handle crop residue with accurate seed placement on their northwest Saskatchewan farm.

After studying the market and comparing equipment in their own on-farm trial, the Rays opted for a system that combined Flexi-Coil 820 cultivators with the Technotill Seeding System.

"I had looked at the Technotill system a few times and my first thought was 'it just can't work; it is too simple'," says Ray, who with his father Allan, crops about 8000 acres at



Meota, north of North Battleford. "But it does an excellent job in a wide range of conditions. With the set up I have now I won't need to look at replacing seeding equipment for a long time." Not only does the system handle crop residue, but the accurate seed placement system allows him to get excellent seed germination and high canola yields with reduced seeding rates.

"The first year we just wanted to see how it worked so we bought an older Flexi-Coil 800 cultivator set it at 15 inch row spacing and attached the Technotill Seeding System," says Ray. "We seeded canola and made a side-by-side comparison with the Flexi-Coil 5000. That year we saw at least a three bushel per acre yield improvement with Technotill and that convinced us it was the way to go."

The next year he bought a new 61 foot Flexi-Coil 820 he equipped with the Technotill Seeding

system, set on 15 inch spacing, just for canola. And the following year a 63 foot 820, set on 10 inch row spacing with Technotill, used for cereals. Ray places liquid phosphorus right in the seed row, with the rest of the liquid fertilizer blend placed just to the side and above the seed row

For the canola seed drill he uses a pull ahead liquid fertilizer tank followed by the Flexi-Coil cultivator. He mounted a Flexi-Coil 320 seed tank on the hitch of the cultivator, which distributes seed to the manifolds on the seeding unit.

"It makes for a very simple seeding system without the need for extra tanks in the unit," says Ray. And seed distribution can be adjusted in quarter pound increments.

Along with wider row spacing, Ray also targets a 3 ½ to 4 pound per acre canola seeding

rate. It's a lower rate than recommended by most canola specialists, but with good seed-to-soil contact and good germination, Ray says it produces excellent yield results. His canola program in 2013 produced yields ranging from 50 to 62 bushels per acre.

"I can't say the Technotill Seeding System is any better but it sure stands side by side with any other system on the market," says Ray. "For our operation it consistently does a great job, I have been able to seed on days with this equipment when I wouldn't have been able to with other systems, the Technotill System costs less than other systems, and it is simple and built to last. I know in just looking at some other systems out there you buy them new and then in three years they need to be replaced. What I have now is going to be working well for years."

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Technotill Seeding system