



KENTUCKY



PROFILES IN soil health

Brent Cornett

London, Kentucky

855 cropland acres

Crops: burley tobacco, corn, soybeans and wheat

Planting: 100% no-till

Cover crops: cereal rye, crimson clover, vetch and diakon radish

"I truly feel I was called to this profession and feel it is my responsibility to take care of the land of which I farm." - **Brent Cornett**



Healthy Soil - no-till tobacco produces better yields

Brent Cornett was raised on a farm and returned to farming full time after college. He was already focused on conservation and practicing no-till on the grain fields, but in 2012 he was offered an opportunity to use a no-till tobacco setter to experiment on 18 acres of the 105 acres of tobacco. The rest is history. He has been practicing 100% no-till ever since. "It was by far the best yielding and quality tobacco I grew that year," Cornett said.

Cornett knows that having healthy soil is key to having a productive crop. "Just as a building needs a good foundation, a crop needs a healthy soil," he explained.

The proof that practicing no-till and using cover crops works is in the quality and quantity of the final yields. "Since implementing a soil health program in my tobacco, I have seen an increase in yield and decrease in labor to grow the crop. Obviously this equates to a more profitable enterprise," Cornett said.



Benefits of No-Till and Cover Crops

- Protects field from extreme heat in the summer
- Enables soil to act like a sponge and hold water longer into the season
- Better weed and insect control
- Increased organic matter