



KENTUCKY



Richard Hughes
 Schochoh, Kentucky
 3,420 acres
 Crops: tobacco, corn, soybeans, and small grain
 Planting: 100% no-till
 Winter cover crops: primarily cereal rye and tillage radish or turnip

PROFILES IN soil health

Healthy Soil - leaving a legacy in Logan Co.

Richard Hughes grew up farming on his family farm near Schochoh, Kentucky in Logan County. His family first began using no-tillage to plant soybeans and later began no-tilling corn and small grains.

In 2011, Hughes was an early adopter of flying cover crops over standing soybeans which allowed time for the seed to germinate and provided a head start for cover crop growth following soybean harvest. The corn, wheat, double cropped soybean rotation with the addition of a cover crop provided year-round soil protection and also continuous plant growth in crop fields. He continues to experiment with different cover crop mixes and finding the right fit for cover crops in this region of Kentucky.

In 2015 he planted his first no-till tobacco. He states, "Conventional tobacco is one of the worst crops on the health of the soil. When you review the yield monitors on crops following tobacco, you can clearly see how much damage tobacco tillage has done to the soil."



Logan County has always been a leading small grain producing county in Kentucky. This allowed some of the early adoption of no-tillage by planting soybeans into harvested wheat stubble.



Benefits of No-Till and Cover Crops

- Soils store and cycle crop nutrients
- Reduces soil erosion
- Reduces fuel costs and labor costs
- Suppresses weeds in the growing season



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