Objective 8: Develop Awareness and Acceptance of Best Management Practices via On-farm Testing of Improved Technologies in Farmers' Fields

Title: Outreach Activities for the CP3 Project

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Abstract of Research Findings
Two Extension publications are in production.
1. Video: Reduced Tillage using the Undercutter
2. Publication: Use of Cover Crops in the Irrigated Regions

Objective
To promote grower adoption of Best Management Practices developed by the CP3 Project in both the dryland and irrigated areas.

Methods and Materials
1. BMP: Reduced tillage in the dryland regions.
   A video crew will be used to interview researchers and farmers in the extreme dry zone (9 inches annual precipitation) of the Columbia Basin. Research results on several BMPs will be reported and successes and failures of systems will be addressed. The video will be edited and duplicated for distribution. The video will be available on CD and through the CP3 and STEEP websites.

2. BMP: Use of cover crops in the irrigated regions.
   Consultants will be hired to produce a user-friendly computer based decision aid that will allow growers to answer the most pertinent questions surrounding cover crop use in irrigated agriculture. The web-based model will contain low resolution graphics to facilitate access through typical slow internet connections available in the rural areas. The model will use long-term climatic data for specific locations in the Columbia Basin, to give the most accurate estimation of cover crop growth. A probability calculator will be used to estimate cover crop growth in a good (warm), average and bad (cold) growth year. The main question to answer will be: ‘Is it to late to plant a cover crop now?’ However, the model can also be used to answer other questions such as: ‘If I need 30 percent residue cover by November 15, what cover crop do I need to plant and at what date?’ The model will be available on the web (CP3 and STEEP), on CD and in paper format (tables).
Results and Discussion
1. Video: Reduced tillage using the undercutter
   Video footage was obtained during the 2005 growing season. Researchers and farmers were
   interviewed and machinery operations in the field were taped. Video footage was secured
   from Kansas State University. The script is being finalized and editing of the footage is
   anticipated to start in February of 2005.

2. Use of cover crops in the irrigated regions
   A draft publication was produced, with maps and tables. A simplified method was
   developed to determine planting date for 4 cover crops, based on location. Long-term
   climatic data were analyzed to obtain a graphic solution. The publication is in peer review.

Publications and Presentations
Experiment Station and Extension Reports
Papendick, B., K. Saxton, R. Bolton, T. Kunch, H. Kok, and W. Pan. A guide to cover crop
planting dates. PNW Extension Publication (in review).

Oral Presentations
Kok, H. 2005. The undercutter method and cover crop planting date guide were discussed in 27
extension presentations throughout the Inland Northwest.