

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOUTHERN REGION NO-TILLAGE CONFERENCE**

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**Edited by**

**Ronald E. Phillips  
Agronomy Department  
Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station  
Lexington, Kentucky 40546-00914**

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## PREFACE

We at the University of Kentucky welcome you to the ninth annual Southern Region No-Till Conference. The body of research on no-till crop production has grown dramatically since inception of the practice about 20 years ago. At that time, University of Kentucky scientists and farmers were among the first involved in development and spread of the practice. Following the early work by S. H. Phillips, now Associate Director for Cooperative Extension at the University of Kentucky, and Harry Young, an innovative Christian County farmer, acreage of no-till corn and soybeans has spread throughout Kentucky to where it presently represents about one-fourth of the total corn acreage and just over one-third of the total soybean acreage. Corresponding growth of the practice has also taken place in other states and no-till is now recognized in this country and around the world as an important planting and production technique for conservation of soil and water which often results in better yields than from traditionally prepared seedbeds, and as a fuel, time and labor saving practice of major importance.

Much has been learned about the principles and techniques of no-till farming during this short 20 years. This conference was designed to provide "state-of-the-art" discussions on some of the broader technical components of no-till farming by speakers widely recognized for their knowledge and experience about the practice. Proceedings of the conference contains the papers presented by those speakers, together with a summary of on-going research in no-till production by most of the southern states. We appreciate the opportunity to host this important annual conference and to show our on-going no-till field research with corn, soybeans, tobacco, small grains, and forages.

Ronald E. Phillips  
Professor of Agronomy  
April 24, 1986

Kenneth L. Wells  
Extension Professor of Agronomy  
April 24, 1986

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