

IMPROVING CROP PRODUCTIVITY USING RAISED BEDS IN NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA

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ABSTRACT

Nearly level, poorly drained soils are common in Northeast Oklahoma. Subsurface drainage of these soils is not practical because they are generally comprised of silty clay surface soils and clay textured subsoil. A series of field trials were initiated to evaluate the impact of planting corn, wheat, canola, and soybeans on raised beds. The beds were constructed with a disk bedder to provide beds on 30 inch spacing. Preliminary data suggest that planting on raised beds will provide protection against water logging during prolonged periods of spring rain. In addition, crops grown on raised beds do not appear to be adversely susceptible to drought conditions. Continued efforts will focus on the persistence of the bed and using them within a conservation tillage system.