

Managing Change in Crop Production

Moisture and Drought

The following affect soil moisture storage:

- tillage and surface residue
- inter-crop period
- snow-catch ability of stubble
- crop rooting depth
- soil characteristics: shallow, sandy, clay pans
- rainfall
- Crop water use should match soil moisture availability and capacity.
- No-till management reduces water loss by evaporation and runoff, allowing crops and cover crops to use more water.
- Increasing diversity on dryland operations reduces land, family labor, and machinery costs per unit of production (not necessarily per acre); it also reduces pesticide inputs.

For more information contact:

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