High Residue Farming

Benefits of Using a Stripper Header

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A Little About Our Farm

• Farm in Bickleton, WA
• 6-10 inch rainfall
• Majority of moisture comes in winter
• Shallow soils (average 24 inches)
• Short growing season (3000 ft.)

• Crops we grow:
  • Wheat/Barley
  • Alfalfa (single cutting)
  • Forage Wheat/Barley/Triticale
  • We are trying to figure out oilseeds (Flax & Canola)
A Little About Our Farm

- Canola
A Little About Our Farm

- Alfalfa
A Little About Our Farm

- Wheat
Why We Bought a Stripper Header

• The majority of our winter snow comes with a hard driving wind.
• Increased moisture retention with rain and mist
• We now have the seeding equipment to handle the residue.
  • Cross Slot Drill
Snow Retention
How A Stripper Header Works

- Hood and Rotor
- Auger
- CVS vs XCS models
- Header Adapters
- Combine Settings
Myths About Stripped Straw

• The ground won’t warm up.
  • Research does not support this.

• The straw will build until you have a huge problem.
  • The straw will go away faster than you think.

• The headers are complicated.
  • These headers make a draper header look complicated.
Advantages of a Stripper Header

- Significant increase in moisture retention.
  - Catching moisture in the fall, winter, and spring.
  - Shading and cooling the ground in the summer.
  - Plants do not transpire as much in hot weather.

- The cost.
  - Comparable to all other header types (new and used).

- They are adaptable to all major combine brands.
  - Most require an adapter change and perhaps a gear box.

- Combine wear is greatly reduced.
  - Only a fraction of the plant material passes through the combine.
Advantages of a Stripper Header

• The HP requirement for your harvesting is reduced.
  • Significantly less material being processed by the combine.
  • Only chaff goes through the straw chopper.

• Your combine can cover 50% more acres in high yielding wheat.
  • This is due to the higher harvesting speed.

• You get two chances to thresh the wheat.
  • 80% of your threshing is done in the header.

• It works better than a conventional header in heavy, down wheat.
  • It will suck the crop matt up and in.
Disadvantages of a Stripper Header

• Residue Management
  • If your drill will not handle heavy residue, you may have to mow ahead of the drill.
  • However, in lighter residues, our neighbors are able to seed with hoe drills on 12 inch spacing.

• Parts Availability
  • Only two dealers in the PNW carry parts.
  • Parts are also expensive (imported).

• Header Weight
  • On smaller or older combines, you may need to improve their lifting capacity.
Any Questions?