Yield of Winter Wheat in a Long-Term Continuous No-Tillage Rotation of Corn, Wheat and Double-Crop Soybean John H. Grove, Agronomy Department

Research Objective:

Determine the economic contribution of wheat to the long-term productivity of the 3 crops/2 years rotation.

Method:

Location Fayette County/Spindletop
Soil Type and Drainage Maury silt loam - well drained

Previous Crop Corn

Tillage No-Tillage (Lilliston 9680)

Cultivar Pioneer 2552

Planting Date/Rate Oct. 23, 1997; 28 seed/sq. ft

Harvest Date June 26, 1998

Fertilizer: Nitrogen - 40 lb N/ac as 34-0-0 on 11/4/97

40 lb N/ac as 34-0-0 on 3/15/98 80 lb N/ac as 34-0-0 on 4/13/98

Herbicide: Harmony - 0.6 oz/ac on 3/19/98

Fungicides: Bayleton 50WP - 4 oz/ac on 4/24/98

Tilt 3.2EC - 4 fl oz/ac on 5/11/98

Results: Average of 4 replications - 62.4 bu/acre

Conclusions:

Yields were good, but not great. Historically, the yield of no-tillage wheat in these plots has been negatively related to the yield of the previous corn crop. Average yield losses appear to be about 1 bu/ac of wheat for every 10 bu/ac in the preceding corn crop, with corn yields ranging between 90 and 190 bu/ac. The extremely low wheat yield observed in 1990 was excluded from the relationship. This relationship exists probably because greater corn yields are associated with greater corn residue levels, which hinder wheat stand establishment and may also reduce/delay wheat tillering.