

# Exciting demos planned for sold-out show

## Manager's Memo

By MATT JUNGSMANN

**W**ITH so much buzz about vertical-tillage systems, it only makes sense to separate these tools from the others.

Last year's Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa, was the first time high-speed, vertical-tillage tools had their own demonstration period. The Decatur Farm Progress Show will continue the tradition. Conventional tools will begin running at 1 p.m. after the combine demos. In these demos, the maximum speed is 5 mph.

After the conventional tools make their passes, the show staff will back the audience up even farther and let the high-speed tools have at it. This group will be allowed to run up to 11 mph. I expect most will stay in the 7 to 9 mph range.

Many manufacturers have vertical-tillage tools that look very different. Therefore, the show staff will group the tools that look similar together. After each pass, the crowd will have an opportunity to



step forward and examine the ground. The show staff will do its best to provide similar tillage categories so farmers can compare.

### 300-bushel plot

For a couple of years now, University of Illinois Crop Sciences Professor Fred Below has been working to unlock the secrets of 300-bushel corn. He's been experimenting with what he calls "omission plots." In

these, he tosses a variety of high-end treatments at the plot, removing one in each instance. At harvest, he syncs yield data with what input was omitted to calculate the greatest bang for the buck.

This year, Below will set up his experiment in the seed technology plots. In 2010, when he presented his findings at U of I's Agronomy Day, he tested five different inputs.

1. improved soil fertility through the use of 100 pounds of well-placed  $P_2O_5$
2. the use of a triple-stack or smart-stack hybrid
3. sidedressing an additional 100 pounds of nitrogen over the base rate of 180 pounds an acre
4. planting a higher population (45,000 vs. 32,000)

5. applying a strobilurin foliar fungicide at flowering

At the 2011 Farm Progress Show, Below plans to add another two inputs.

### It's a sellout

As I write this in early May, I'm happy to report that every exhibitor spot has been booked for the show. We typically aren't sold out at this time. It's a good reminder of how robust the farm economy is.

To date, we have 28 exhibitors on a waiting list. We're working to make more room by moving things such as the Ride 'n Drive demos outside the show gates.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Aug. 30, 31 and Sept. 1 in Decatur. It's going to be a packed house with a lot of new products.

### Hay Expo

This year's Farm Progress Hay Expo takes us to a new location, and a new state — our first trip to Minnesota. The two-day event will take place just west of Cannon Falls on June 8 and 9. Gates open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.

The Hay Expo field demonstrations will feature mowing, conditioning, chopping, bagging, raking, baling and hay handling. Machines will all run side by side, making it a great opportunity to compare and shop all of the newest tools. Demonstrations will run from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.; schedules may change according to the weather.

Jungmann is Farm Progress national shows manager.



## Mark your calendar

Farm Progress Hay Expo: June 8-9, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cannon Falls, Minn., [www.HayExpo.com](http://www.HayExpo.com)

Farm Progress Show: Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Decatur, Ill., [www.FarmProgressShow.com](http://www.FarmProgressShow.com)

Husker Harvest Days: Sept. 13-15, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Grand Island, Neb., [www.HuskerHarvestDays.com](http://www.HuskerHarvestDays.com)