**Reduced Tillage Project Verification Form**

Participant Name:\_Pete Reading\_\_ Farm Name: Billingsgate Farm

Mailing Address: 6 County Road Rte.106 Plympton, MA

Phone: \_781-293-6144\_\_ Email: farmer1pete@yahoo.com Date: 12/7/11\_

Years using RT: \_1\_\_ Total Veg. Acres: \_60\_ RT Veg Acres: \_2.5

Plan to expand vegetable acreage Reduced Tilled: YES x NO \_\_\_

If yes, to how many acres: \_~15\_

Make/Model of Reduced Tillage Equipment Purchased/rented: Unverforth 3-row

Estimated Costs:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Costs per acre ($)** | |
| **Item** | **Conventional** | **Reduced Tillage** |
| Fuel for primary and secondary tillage |  | Reduced both time & fuel by ~30% due to fewer passes through field |
| Labor for primary and secondary tillage |  |  |
| Equipment Costs for tillage |  |  |

Yield Estimates:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Yield per acre ($)** | |
| **Crop** | ***P. capsici* present?** | **Conventional** | **Reduced Tillage** |
| Sweet Corn | n/a | 70-80 bu/A | 70-80 bu/A |
|  |  |  |  |

***Benefits observed of reduced tillage system for vegetables:***

Saved labor & fuel

***Challenges or concerns of reduced tillage for vegetables:***

Weed control, especially in crops other than sweet corn.

***Other comments:***

They had lousy yield in both the conventional and the DZT plots because wind and rain had knocked all of the corn flat. He did try a small patch of beans with the DZT equipment, and felt that they came out great.

They also had comparatively poor stand in the DZT plots due to excess trash in the seed bed. The field his trial is in is old marshland, and there are heavy clods and many half-decomposed tree pieces in the soil. Pete feels confident that if he had more time fiddle with the machine he could overcome this problem. We’ll be working with Pete prior to the upcoming growing season to come up with a list of crops that he wants to try this on and a suite of cultivation tools & herbicides that will work for these crop & residue situations.

Pete also found *Phytophthora capsici* on his home farm for the first time this year, and we will be working with him on using DZT as part of a management strategy in that field.