

People & Places

Second try a charm for reduced tillage

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

MONROE, Ore. — Rising fuel prices have validated farmer Eric Horning's most recent experiment with reduced tillage despite earlier difficulties with the technique.

A couple decades ago, Horning built an implement for tilling strips instead of cultivating the entire field before planting.

The intent was to prevent erosion but the implement was too heavy and unwieldy, particularly since it had trouble preparing adequate furrows of soil.

"We got frustrated with it and let it fall off our radar," Horning said. "If the soil is not conditioned properly, it's not going to work."

Horning decided to give strip tillage another chance with a piece of equipment specifically designed for that purpose, which he used for the first time last year.

The Orthman 1tRIPr — pronounced "one-tripper" — aims to perform the equivalent of six cultivation operations with a single pass across the field.

Horning is impressed with the implement's tillage functions, as well as its light weight and ability to be folded up for easier travel on roadways.

Though it's not a cheap implement, he said the fuel savings have justified the investment: By cutting the number of field passes, the machine has reduced fuel usage by about 40%.

"I probably saved 30,000 gallons running it last year," Horning said.

Cover crops, too

In conjunction with strip tillage, he's also expanding the use of cover crops on the farm.

Conventional tillage has "mined" organic matter from fields, but cover crops help restore biomass and legumes in particular enhance nitrogen content, he said.

The hope is that by turning over less ground, strip tillage will also decrease weed emergence, and thus



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

Farmer Eric Horning in a field that's being strip-tilled in preparation for planting.



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

The reduced tillage method has helped Eric Horning save diesel at a time of sky-high fuel prices.

Horning's need for herbicides and labor.

"Every time you disturb the soil, you're going to bring new weed seeds to the top," he said.

Running his machinery less frequently will hopefully result in fewer breakdowns, Horning said. Less cultivation also prevents the field from drying out too much before planting.

"You've got to get the seed started as soon as you drop it in the ground," he said. "You open it up and the moisture is gone."

Other considerations

While Horning's reprisal of strip tillage has proven effective for planting corn and squash, he

said farmers can't assume the method will work for other crops.

Harvest is one consideration, since strip tillage leaves the field in rough shape.

Corn is cut six inches above the ground while squash is rolled into furrows and lifted during harvest, but uneven field surfaces can impede the harvest of other crops.

Germination is another factor, since seeds can be particular about sprouting conditions.

For example, Horning expects bush beans will continue to require conventional tillage because they don't tolerate "lumpiness" in the soil.



Western Innovator

ERIC HORNING

Occupation: Farmer

Hometown: Monroe, Ore.

Age: Mid-60s

Family: Wife, Christine, and two sons

Education: Associate of science degree in machine tool technology from Linn-Benton Community College in 1995

Five generations

His family has farmed for five generations in Oregon's Benton County, where his ancestors arrived in the mid-1800s after leaving their native Prussia.

Though farming has always been his passion, Horning traditionally focused on the operation's mechanical side until 2006, when his brother Clifford died. Since then, he's taken on the full gamut of farm duties.

Working on equipment came naturally to Horning, but he also studied machine tool technology at Linn-Benton Community College and later taught the subject there.

His interest initially grew out of necessity, he said. "The equipment we were working on, we needed to be able to repair it."

Apart from always being "good for a chuckle," Horning has long been supportive of Oregon State University's agriculture research, Peachey said.

Growers are sometimes reluctant to participate in studies from a fear of complicating their operations, but Horning has never turned down a research opportunity, he said.

"He likes to contribute, he's got a lot of ideas and he's willing to try new stuff," Peachey said.

Farmers find a niche in Asian vegetables

By ALIYA HALL
For the Capital Press

CAMANO ISLAND, Wash. — At a farmers market filled to the brim with standard market veggies, the owners of Eternity Farm wanted to offer something different.

"I don't want to be the farmer who grows the most beautiful carrots, but rather be providing something that you can't find at the other stands that's beautiful, nutritious, unique, culturally relevant and affordable," co-owner Emma Hersh said.

Eternity Farm is a Korean and Jewish, women-owned and -operated .25-acre farm on Camano Island, Wash., that specializes in Asian vegetables.

It's a no-till farm that doesn't use synthetic pesticides or fertilizers.

The farm originated out of a desire for co-owner Emily



Eternity Farm

"Kimmy" Kim and Emma Hersh of Eternity Farm in Camano Island, Wash.

"Kimmy" Kim and Hersh to build the world they want to see, including providing nutritious, delicious and healing food to people and pollinators.

"I realized that our society is so removed from the natural world in some ways that I had to go and find it on my

own in my mid-20s to try and find that connection again," Kim said.

Eternity Farm is starting its second season and putting more emphasis on growing perennials and Asian vegetables. Kim said at the beginning of their first season she was nervous about growing

culturally relevant produce because they live in a majority white area and were unsure if it would be profitable.

"But as we continued growing I found myself feeling a lot of joy and connection," she said.

They grow multiple varieties of Korean red peppers, balloon flower, as well as Asian greens such as mizuna, kamusta and Korean mustard. Their seeds are sourced from Second Generation Seeds in California and Kim's grandmother.

"Last summer growing things, our all-star crops that were most reliable and most delicious through the heat of summer and chill of spring and fall were Asian vegetables," Hersh said.

Many of these vegetables are also perennials, which Kim said has been of special interest to her, along with propagation and seed saving.

She said in the future one of their goals is growing into a nursery as well as adding educational programming, about which Hersh is passionate.

Although their vegetables are finding a market with all customers, they have been able to build more connections with Asian customers and are now contracted with a food bank that serves a largely Chinese immigrant client base.

The farm's connection with people is one of the most gratifying aspects for Kim and Hersh. Meeting customers at the market and seeing the camaraderie and community between vendors and consumers made Kim feel like they were "supposed to be there."

"It's humbling and not easy to be a farmer," she said, "but when people are excited and want to eat it, it's very rewarding."

CALENDAR

Submit upcoming ag-related events on www.capitalpress.com or by email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY JULY 6-9

National Onion Association Summer Convention: Grove Hotel, 245 S. Capitol Blvd., Boise. Discussion topics to include updates to food-safety guidelines for dry bulb onions, immigration reform, USDA National Potato and Onion Report methodology. Industry facility tours planned. Registration price to increase after June 15. Website: <https://bit.ly/3M85gH7>

JULY 15-31

California State Fair & Food Festival: Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, Calif. The California State Fair is dedicated as a place to celebrate the best the state has to offer in agriculture, technology, and the diversity of its people, traditions, and trends that shape

the Golden State's future. Website: <https://calcxpostatefair.com/>

TUESDAY JULY 19

Transitioning Your Ag Business to the Next Chapter: 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. City of Vale Library, Vale, Ore. Attorney Maria Schmidlofer will present on the topics of succession and estate planning, and how to prepare your operation to be resilient for future generations. She will review the steps of estate and succession planning, how to address taxes and corporate farm structuring, and more. Easement specialist Marc Hudson will answer your questions about working lands conservation easements — what they are, what they aren't, and how they may be helpful in executing your agricultural business plans. These in-person events are part of a free 6-workshop series in Lake, Harney and Malheur counties. All are welcome, and the events are free. RSVP for these or any of OAT's other

events and refer any questions about the event to diane@oregonagtrust.org 503-858-2683

Intro to Good Manufacturing Practices (online): 8 a.m.-noon. Dr. Janna Hamlett & Catherine Cantley of TechHelp and the U of I will help participants learn and understand the revised current Good Manufacturing Practices or cGMPs according to the final rule for FSMA's Preventive Controls for Human Food. Contact: 208-736-3610 Website: <https://bit.ly/3y35Nq9>

WEDNESDAY JULY 20

Blueberry Field Day: 1 p.m. North Willamette Research & Extension Center, 15210 NE Mile Road, Aurora, Ore. This annual field day will inform participants about the latest research in blueberry propagation and breeding. Contact: Amanda Davis, (971)-801-0394 or amanda.davis@oregonstate.edu Website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/NWREC/>

SATURDAY-SUNDAY JULY 30-31

Great Oregon Steam-Up: 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Powerland Heritage Park, 3995 Brooklake Road NE, Brooks, Ore. Enjoy a steam-powered day with train and trolley rides, a parade, steam sawmilling, traditional tractor pulling, machinery demos, threshing, flour milling, fire apparatus demos, museum tours, kids pedal tractor pulling and a youth passport program. Website: www.antiquepowerland.com/steam-up Phone: 503-393-2424

SATURDAY-SUNDAY AUG. 6-7

Great Oregon Steam-Up: 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Powerland Heritage Park, 3995 Brooklake Road NE, Brooks, Ore. Enjoy a steam-powered day with train and trolley rides, a parade, steam sawmilling, traditional tractor pulling, machinery demos, threshing, flour milling, fire apparatus demos, museum tours, kids pedal tractor pull-

ing and a youth passport program. Website: www.antiquepowerland.com/steam-up Phone: 503-393-2424

MONDAY AUG. 8

Transitioning Your Ag Business to the Next Chapter: 12:30-4 p.m. Paisley Community Center, 705 Chewaucan St., Paisley, Ore. Farm and Ranch succession counselor and accountant Diana Tourney will prepare you for the human and financial elements of succession planning. Easement specialist Marc Hudson will answer your questions about working lands conservation easements — what they are, what they aren't and how they may be helpful in executing your agricultural business plans. These in-person events are part of a free 6-workshop series in Lake, Harney and Malheur counties. All are welcome, and the events are free. RSVP for these or any of OAT's other events and refer any questions about the event to diane@oregonagtrust.org 503-858-2683



Capital Press
EMPOWERING PRODUCERS OF FOOD & FIBER
Established 1928

Capital Press Managers

Joe Beach Editor & Publisher
Anne Long Advertising Director
Carl Sampson Managing Editor
Samantha Stinnett Circulation Manager

Entire contents copyright © 2022
EO Media Group
dba Capital Press

An independent newspaper
published every Friday.

Capital Press (ISSN 0740-3704) is
published weekly by EO Media Group,
2870 Broadway NE, Salem OR 97303.

Periodicals postage paid at Portland, OR,
and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to
Capital Press, P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR
97308-2048.

To Reach Us

Circulation 800-781-3214
Email Circulation@capitalpress.com
Main line 503-364-4431

News Staff

Idaho

Carol Ryan Dumas 208-860-3898

Boise

Brad Carlson 208-914-8264

Western Washington

Don Jenkins 360-722-6975

Eastern Washington

Matthew Weaver 509-688-9923

Oregon

George Plaven 406-560-1655

Mateusz Perkowski 800-882-6789

Sierra Dawn McClain 503-506-8011

Designer

Randy Wright 800-882-6789

To Place Classified Ads

Telephone (toll free) 800-882-6789
Online CapitalPress.com

Subscriptions

Mail rates paid in advance
Easy Pay U.S. \$4 /month
(direct withdrawal from bank
or credit card account)

1 year U.S. \$ 65

2 years U.S. \$115

1 year Canada \$230

1 year other countries call for quote

1 year Internet only \$ 52

Visa and Mastercard accepted

To get information published

Mailing address:

Capital Press
P.O. Box 2048
Salem, OR 97308-2048

News: Contact the main office

or news staff member closest to you,
send the information to
newsroom@capitalpress.com
or mail it to "Newsroom," c/o Capital Press.
Include a contact telephone number.

Letters to the Editor: Send your

comments on agriculture-related public
issues to opinions@capitalpress.com, or
mail your letter to "Opinion," c/o Capital
Press. Letters should be limited to
300 words. Deadline: Noon Monday.

Capital Press ag media

CapitalPress.com
FarmSeller.com
MarketPlace.capitalpress.com
facebook.com/CapitalPress
facebook.com/FarmSeller
twitter.com/CapitalPress
youtube.com/CapitalPressvideo

Index

Markets 14
Opinion 8

Correction policy

Accuracy is important to Capital Press
staff and to our readers.

If you see a misstatement, omission or
factual error in a headline, story or photo
caption, please call the Capital Press news
department at 503-364-4431, or send
email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

We want to publish corrections
to set the record straight.