

## Level terraces tested in county during 1978

Are level terraces something new for farmers in Morrow County? The answer is "yes" and "no."

Level terraces were one of the primary conservation practices which helped end the dust bowl of the mid-thirties in the high plains states. In the past few years a limited number have been tried in Morrow County with a good success reported. The Soil Conservation Service Staff assigned to the Soil and Water Conservation District designed two major systems of level terraces in 1978 which were applied to the land during the first six months of the year. Both systems were tested during the past summer with water-spout type of rainfall, and both systems performed very effectively, storing field runoff on the channel of the terrace. No runoff water was lost through diverting excess water from the land.

Level terraces store water on cropland acres. In more recent designs for terrace systems we find the distribution of runoff water which is caught by the terraces is equal to .25 inches of moisture for the entire field. This benefit happens each time a storm of this magnitude occurs. The benefits of water

conservation alone justify the costs incurred constructing level terraces and one does not sacrifice erosion control protection by using these types of terraces. The total protection provided is equal to that provided by diversion type structures plus the added value of storing runoff water that might otherwise be lost.

There are other points favoring level terrace systems. The need for protected outlets are eliminated; they can be farmed either parallel or cross-slope, allowing adjustment to your farming pattern to protect against prevailing winds.

The alternatives in your farming operations are many. The decisions you make must be based on the best and latest technology available and consideration of installing level terraces on your property should be tied to the soil and its capability. The slopes of the land, the depth of the soil and the intake rates are all major considerations.

Level terraces do have an important part to play in our total program of soil and water conservation. Will they find a place in your operation?

Protection equals that of diversion terraces, plus provides for water storage



Level terraces—running with the contour of the land store water rather than diverting it.

## Chemicals have essential role in farming

The use of agricultural chemicals to assist wheat growers in the management of their cropland is essential, reports Harold Kerr, Morrow County Extension Agent.

The history of the use of chemicals in the production of wheat goes back at least to the 1940's when 2,4-D was released for control of broadleaf weeds in the growing crop. A number of chemicals, including 2,4-D are still available for selective control of weeds in the growing crop. A new chemical named Metrabuzin, sold as Sencor and Lexone, is available this year for control of cheatgrass in the growing crop.

A new concept in the use of chemicals in dryland wheat has surfaced the past year or two. This concept is to spray the stubble in the fall or winter and to control cheatgrass, volunteer wheat, rye and other weeds so that

tillage can be delayed and reduced.

This practice is recommended for a number of reasons:

1. Reduced tillage lessens the risk of erosion due to both wind and water, principally because more residue is left on the surface.
2. Reduced tillage should increase moisture saved in the profile, thereby increasing the yield potential.
3. Reduced tillage conserves energy because less fuel is used in the number of tillage operations required.
4. The economics of minimum tillage

or chemical fallow improves each year as the cost of fuel, equipment and labor increases faster than the price of chemicals.

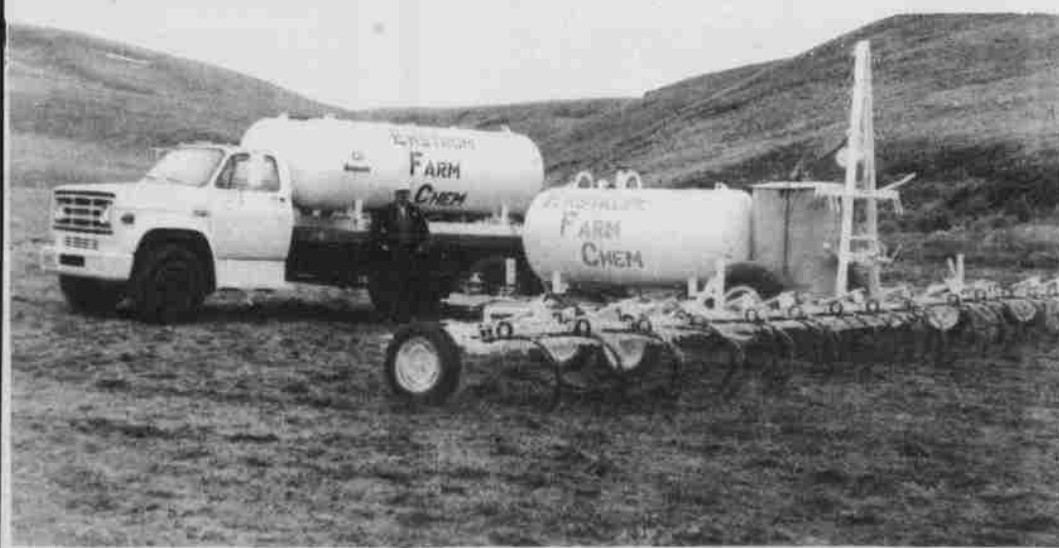
Wheat growers in Morrow County are urged to consider minimum tillage combined with the use of chemicals as a viable alternative in their management plan. Chemicals which currently are registered for chemical fallow include Chem Hoe-135, Paraquadt, Roundup, Bladex and Atrazine. Follow the label for rates and other restrictions. All of these chemicals must be used correctly to insure that they are not taken off the market.

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