



COUNTY *of* CUMBERLAND



Public Information Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAYETTEVILLE - Cooperation and partnerships between city and county governmental bodies is on the increase of late. One of the more recent examples is the partnership between the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), a county agency, and the Storm Water Services of the City of Fayetteville.

Storm Water Services is funding the purchase of a ten-foot "No Till Grain Drill" for the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District to rent out to area farmers and other land users. This seed drill, which eliminates the need for tilling cropland, as is done with conventional planting, will plant through the residue of previous crops. This allows residue to remain on the surface, protecting the soil from the detrimental aspects of wind and rain. Planting by no-till also helps conserve soil moisture because a layer of "mulch" is left on the surface. This can also reduce weed and grass populations in crops. Time, labor, fuel costs, and machinery wear and tear are also some other savings realized when using the "no-till" method.

The agreement to fund the purchase of the 10-foot "No Till Grain Drill" came about when Clifton McNeill, who serves as a director of the Storm Water Advisory Board, realized that the issue of storm water seemed to be focused entirely on urban settings and concerns. Mr. McNeill is also a member of the Board of Supervisors of Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District. He saw the opportunity for the Storm Water Advisory Board to unite with Cumberland SWCD to help promote the no-till practice in rural locations of the county.

The new John Deere 1590 No Till Grain Drill will be rented out by the Cumberland Soil and Water Conservation District to area farmers and other land users at a nominal charge on a "first come, first served" basis. Interested persons can call (910) 484-8479, Option #3 for more information regarding the drill and to reserve it.

The new drill will be demonstrated on at the McNeill farm in Grays Creek on Thursday, September 2, at 2PM. (Take Hwy 301 south to the Hope Mills/Hwy 59 exit. Make left and follow Hwy 59 to Chicken Foot Road. Travel 1 .5 miles, and take a left on Clifton McNeil Road. First house on right.

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