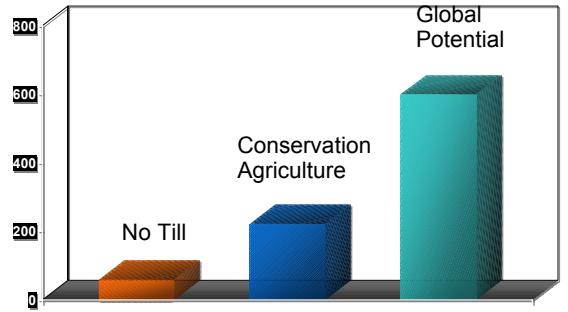


GLOBAL CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

A CANADIAN GROWERS' PERSPECTIVE

Ernie Sirski
Dauphin, MB

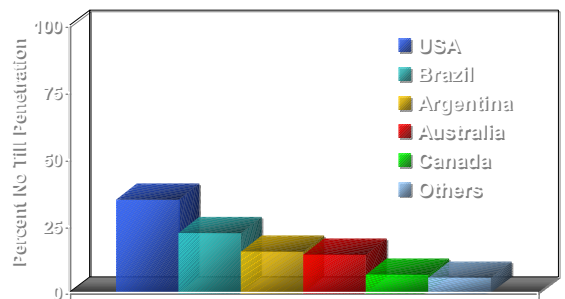
GLOBAL STATUS OF CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE
MILLION HECTARES

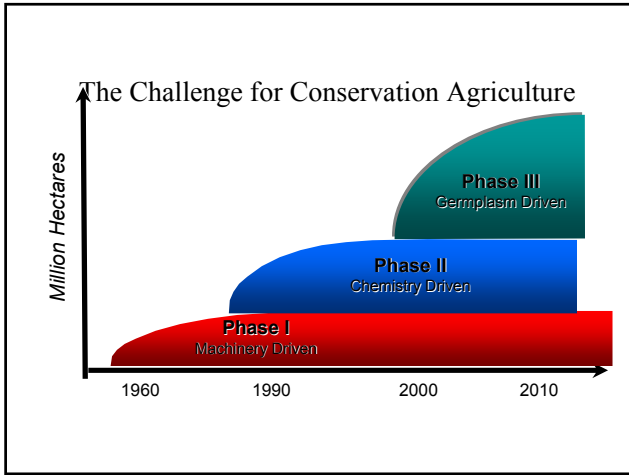


Saving Precious Resources

- Up to 30 tons/ha from water erosion
- Up to 10 tons/ha from wind erosion
- Over 5 cm irrigation water/ha
- 2.5 tons organic matter/ha saved

The "Top 5" Represent 94% of Global Ha's





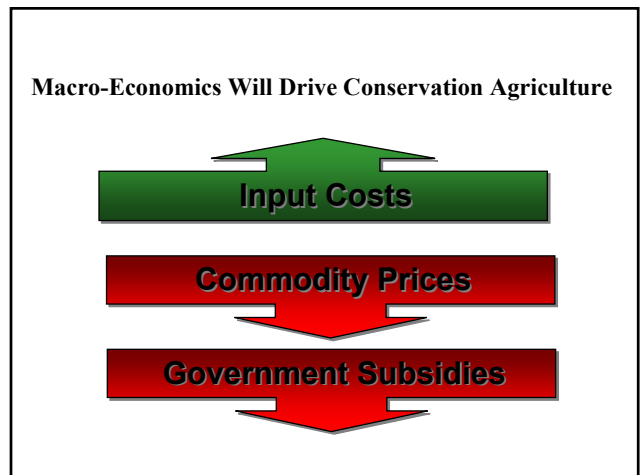
Significant Societal Benefits

Significant Societal Benefits

Water quality protected

Carbon trapped = 75 liters fuel/Ha

- ### DRIVERS OF C.A.
- Economics
 - Reduced Equipment Costs
 - Decreased Labour Requirements
 - Environmental Concerns
 - Reduced Inputs
 - Need for Increased Production
 - Year 2000, 790 Million hungry people



Overcoming Technology Access Barriers

IMPACT OF TRANSGENIC CANOLA

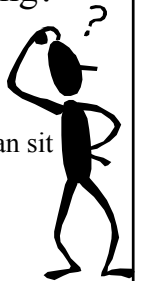
- Increased Yield, Decreased Dockage
- In Canada, Extra 2.6 million acres in Reduced Tillage System
- Fuel Usage Down 31.2 million L. -
Saving of \$13.1 million @ 0.42/L
 - Reduced Herbicide Use of 6000T/YR

WHY NOT?

- TRADITION-in Canada, 100 years; in Europe, 1000 years
- FEAR OF UNKNOWN
- EXPECTATIONS (of self, neighbours and community)

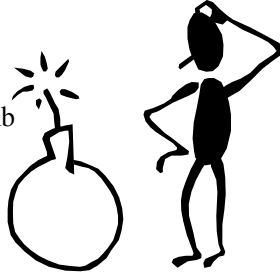
Why Zero-till/Direct Seeding?

- Likely World's Laziest Farmer
- Easy Way is my Way
- Rather Golf, Fish, Play with Kids, than sit on a Tractor
- Little use for Recreation Tillage



Why Zero-till/ Direct Seeding

Had a Ticking Time Bomb
Known as
Soil Erosion



Farm Cost Comparison

- My Farm-390 H.P. for 1700 Ac
- Tractors-835 Versatile/1175Case/8N ford
- Seeding-8800 Bourgault Cultivator w/115s tank
- Inland Sprayer
- Total Seeding Equipment Cost-\$80,000.00

Farm Cost Comparison

- At \$80,000 investment-Cost/Ac
@20%CCA=\$9.41/ac/1700=0.235/bus
- Repairs-\$3000/yr=0.17/bus
- Total Seeding Equip Costs 0.41/bus

CONCLUSIONS

- Canadian Advantage
 - Development of Technology
 - Use of New Innovations
 - Ability to Adapt
 - Need to Remain Competitive