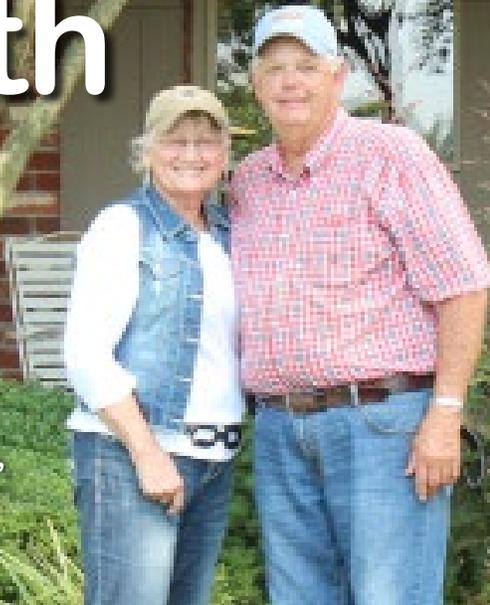




KENTUCKY

PROFILES IN soil health

Jerry Peery
Clinton, Kentucky
1750 acres
Crops: corn and soybeans
Planting: 100% no-till
Cover crops: cereal rye, tillage radish,
Austrian winter pea, crimson red clover,
and hairy vetch.



Healthy Soil - thriving business is the difference

Jerry & Valarie Peery started out farming in the conventional tillage way like every other farmer in the 1960's, but it didn't take long for Jerry to see that their farm was not going to be sustainable using that method. He discovered that implementing a soil health management system of no-tilling and cover crops was the solution. Seeing the benefits, the couple adopted a 100 percent no-till practice in 1980.

Jerry explained, "We think that no-tilling with the cover crops is the only way to stay in business. When we started out and were farming conventionally, the soil was leaving here at such a rate I don't think we'd be in business today if we had continued farming with conventional tillage."

Like a growing number of farmers across the nation, Jerry recognizes that healthy soils are his operation's most important asset.



Jerry and Valarie Peery started with seven acres in the 1960's and have grown their farm and their family together for over 55 years.

Benefits of No-Till and Cover Crops



Jerry Peery has been using cover crops and no-till for decades. He's learned that healthy soils mean increasing organic matter, good soil structure, increased water infiltration and available water content, and better control of weeds and insects. All of this adds up to a better bottom line at the end of the year.



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