

Strategies to Reduce Moisture Loss and Blowing



SEEDBED PREPARATION	 Only till 1-3" deep in the spring followed immediately with a packer Helps with saline soils When planting use stingers between rows to bring up clods
COVER CROP	 Spring: Wheat, Barley, Oats seed at ½ to 1 bu. per acre Control cover crop by 3-4 leaf stage Dying cover will protect for 2-4 weeks Fall: Let cover grow in fall and winter kill Plant in spring with no tillage
RESIDUE MANAGEMENT	 Leave enough residue to help minimize blowing without leaving too much (20-30%) Use trash wheels when planting but don't run too deep
RIDGE TILLING	Ridge in fall; 2006-2011 data shows \$159/acre advantage over conventional tillage
STALE SEEDBED	 Prepare ground in fall if possible dry spring Can sidedress N in season







