The Economics and Environmental Sustainability of No-Till Organic Sweet Potato Production

Tom Buller
My Experience with SARE Farmer Rancher Grant

- FNC10-830 - Evaluating the suitability of low-trellises and various hop cultivars for small organic farm production in Northeast Kansas
- 2013 Growing with Biochar
- Food Hub - Failed application
- FNC17-1093 - Food Hub Development in the Rural Midwest
- **FNC16-1029** - Exploring the Economic and Environmental Sustainability of No-Till Organic Sweet Potato Production
Why

- inSOMnia
  - Soil Organic Matter
  - Eudora- Kimo Complex
  - Tillage heavy organic systems

- Why Sweet Potatoes?
  - Long season
  - significant weed control time/expense
  - Later planting date amenable to rye/legume roll down
What I learned?

- General Challenges-
  - Challenge managing heat buildup on straw surface
  - Oh Deer!
  - Perennial weeds (johnsongrass) in rolled cover crops
  - Expense/trouble sourcing straw
  - A roller crimper is needed for terminating hairy vetch
- Conclusion-
  - No-till?
  - Not yet…
Questions??

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