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New Subsurface Drip Irrigation Installation (Field 6)

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Objective: The objective was to install subsurface drip irrigation in a 46-acre area.

Methodology: Installation on the 46-acre, eight zone drip system was begun in April of 2002 and completed in June. SDI was installed on 60-inch spacing. Soybeans were planted in July, but the massive soil disturbance caused by the new SDI installation and very light rainfall following the installation resulted in poor plant stands.

Expectations: This subsurface drip irrigated field will provide an area to investigate crop response to varieties, plant populations, weed management options, conservation tillage, ultra-narrow plantings, fertility management, etc. using SDI as the water delivery tool.



Figure 1. Plowing drip tape into alternate 30-inch furrows, TAES,



Figure 2. Installing water lines to different SDI zones, TAES, Helms,



Figure 3. Zone lines going to SDI filter station, TAES, Helms, 2001.



Figure 4. SDI filter station, TAES, Helms, 2001.