



**Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department**  
**No-Till Drill Rental Policy**

The Truax FLEXII 812 No-Till Drill was purchased in 2009 with grant funding from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. Matching financial and technical support came from the Land and Water Conservation Departments and Committees of Ashland and Iron Counties (LWCD), the Great Lakes Protection Fund administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin Extension, and the Pri-Ru-Ta Resource Conservation and Development Council. The purpose of the program is to provide a reasonably priced service for agricultural producers to implement no-till practices to protect soil and water quality while improving efficiency on the farm. The Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Committee (LCC), in consultation with the Iron County LCC has adopted the following policy with respect to the county's no-till drill rental program for 2010 and thereafter. Based on results and experience gained in 2009 and 2010, the policy may be revised in subsequent years.

**ACCEPTABLE USE**

- The no-till drill must only be used in the Lake Superior and nearby surrounding watershed areas of Wisconsin.
- The no-till drill must only be used on tillable soils. Equipment is not suited for rocky soil; fields with stumps, roots, and downed wood; spoil material; or for mined land reclamation. If damage occurs due to use on unsuitable soils, user is responsible for replacement costs.

**USE PRIORITY**

- Research and demonstration projects will receive the highest priority for scheduling. The second priority for scheduling will be landowners within Ashland and Iron Counties who want to use the no-till drill for conservation, forage, pasture or crop seeding. The third priority will be for landowners in Bayfield or Douglas Counties with conservation, forage, pasture or crop seeding. The lowest priority for use will be for wildlife food plots, with landowners in Ashland and Iron Counties receiving preference over landowners in Bayfield, Douglas and other Counties. The priority of use will be determined by the landowner's residence, rather than by the field location.

**TRAINING AND RENTAL**

- In order to rent and use the no-till drill, landowners or their authorized representative must attend a mandatory training and demonstration session on how to use and maintain the drill. You only have to attend a training session once. If available, contact the manager for an individual training session.
- You can sign-up by either returning your signed rental agreement along with the appropriate use fee, or by stopping in at the Ashland County Land Conservation Department in Ashland.
- A no-till drill rental agreement must be signed before transporting or using the equipment owned by the LWCD. Starting in 2010, the rental agreements will be made available during two sign-up periods in each calendar year to establish use priority, but a landowner may choose to sign up for the entire year during the spring sign-up period. During the sign-up period, the landowner will indicate the number of days they wish to rent and the week they would want to use the no-till drill. The schedule will be managed by the LCD Equipment Manager as outlined below. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate changing schedules and weather.

### SIGN-UP PERIODS

March 1 – April 15

After June 15

### USE PERIOD

March 15 – July 31

August 1 – Snow cover

- A \$50.00 or \$75.00 (dependant on County) per use fee is required with the rental agreement and must be paid prior to a use of the drill. Only checks made out to Ashland County LWCD will be accepted. Deposit will be retained by the LWCD in the event that the user does not follow through with the rental agreement. If unable to use due to scheduling or weather problems in a use period, checks will be returned to user.
- The LCD Equipment Manager will prepare a schedule based on the rental requests received and efficient routing of the equipment. The LWCD Equipment Manager will make every effort to meet the scheduling preferences of the landowner, but users must be flexible to account for possible scheduling conflicts, weather restrictions, and equipment maintenance needs. Users will be provided with the next names and numbers of all scheduled users to help manage scheduling.
- If scheduling conflicts arise, a user of the no-till drill will be limited to two (2) working days. If not used or finished within those two days, the drill will be moved to the next location and the user's name will be placed at the bottom of the rotation **unless the delay is weather related.**
- The user is responsible to accurately report start and finish acreage meter readings for their usage.
- Anyone using the no-till drill will be responsible for picking up the drill at the prior user's location and transporting it to their farm **unless delivery service has been prearranged.**

### INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

- Equipment shall be returned to the LWCD Equipment Manager or transferred to the next user in as good of condition as received, excepting reasonable wear and tear. The user will be charged for repairs at prevailing shop rates as a result of any misuse or abuse of the drill.
- It is the responsibility of the initial user to complete routine maintenance upon completion of the days work and/or prior to pick-up by the next user. Subsequent users are responsible to complete the inspection and maintenance checklist prior to transporting the equipment to their field or farm location.
- If the no-till drill requires repair or non-routine maintenance, the user must call the LWCD Equipment Manager to obtain permission to schedule service. Reimbursement for any repairs or service conducted without prior notification of the LWCD Equipment Manager will be the determination of the Land Conservation Committee.

### FEES

- Rental Use Rate: \$50.00 per use – Ashland and Iron County residents.  
\$75.00 per use – Bayfield and Douglas County residents
- Acreage Rate: \$8.50 per acre
- Delivery/Transport: \$1.00 per mile
- Late Return/Availability: \$75.00 per day
- Set-up/On-site Service: \$50.00 min.
- Clean up/Maintenance: \$50.00 min.

## **PAYMENT**

- Payment is to be made within 10 days of each use.
- Payment is by check only, and must be made out to Ashland County LWCD. Any deposit(s) collected with the rental agreement will be retained by the LWCD in the event that the user does not follow through with the rental agreement. If unable to use due to scheduling or weather problems in a use period, checks will be returned to user.
- A complete “Final Accounting” form must accompany payment. Charges in addition to the acre charge will be negotiated between the user and the LWCD Equipment Manager prior to payment. Unresolved disagreements between the user and the LWCD Equipment Manager will be forwarded to the Land Conservation Committee for final determination.
- Failure to pay the rental charge within 10 days of use will result in the loss of permission to rent the LWCD no-till drill. All accounts past due more than 30 days will be forwarded to the County Prosecutor for collection.

## **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

- User assumes all risk and liability with respect to the use of the LWCD no-till drill, and shall hold the Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department and its agents, employees, successors, and assigns harmless from all damages to property and for injuries or death to persons arising out of the use, possession or transportation of the equipment.
- The Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Department and Committee reserve the right to modify this policy as needed.
- This No-Till Drill Rental Policy was developed and adopted on August 13 2009, and signed by the Ashland County LCC chairperson and the Ashland County Conservationist. Modifications to this policy were made prior to the 2010, 2011 and 2012 planting seasons.

Funded by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Grant # NA09NOS4190107.

