

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMING AND RANCHING  
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I am writing to address a different look at farming and ranching today. And what I mean by that is look at how we approach the decisions we make when we plant our crops or hay our fields; the equipment and methods have changed. Is it because that is our only way to be productive or are there more options on how we run our operations.

The answer is yes, we have more options or opportunities to work with and just because, “the old saying- that’s the way my father and grandfather did it” does not mean there are not other ways of farming and ranching. Examples are:(1) to till the ground or to spray the ground for weed control, (2) to till the ground for seed preparation or to direct seed into existing conditions. Just a few of these practices have been going on the past decade, and the main point I want to stress is there are other benefits available to the farmer and rancher. Because of these changes there are programs (government) that has recognized the benefit to the land and landowners and offering financial assistance for people that are using: Zoning soil samples, variable rate fertilizer, Gps guidance systems and soil- erosion practices. If you are not aware of such programs talk to your local NRCS office and see what programs are available and when. To me as an Agronomist, looking at how input costs are rising and having some of these programs available to make your operation more efficient is a process that every farmer and rancher should evaluate.