

Preparing for Planting Corn



Preparing for Corn Means

- Tillage- often lots of it
- Weed or vegetation control
 - Via cultivation or chemicals
 - Prepare a seedbed suitable for the planter
 - Or equip the planter for no-till
- And don't forget- fertilizer & lots of it too!
- Fasten your seat belt !!

This is a Different Approach

- Location is Millersburg, OH; north central
- Dairy operation with corn/alfalfa/wheat rotation
- Goal to become Biological System, maybe
- Certified Organic?

First we tried to kill winter wheat



Then we ran in corn stalks



Nice job in 180 bu. Stalks; Weeds
gone here too!

**Next Harold went after a four year
old alfalfa field; did ½ of it**



We were after some of these...



**Next spring Harold would have liked one of these but it
wasn't in the budget**

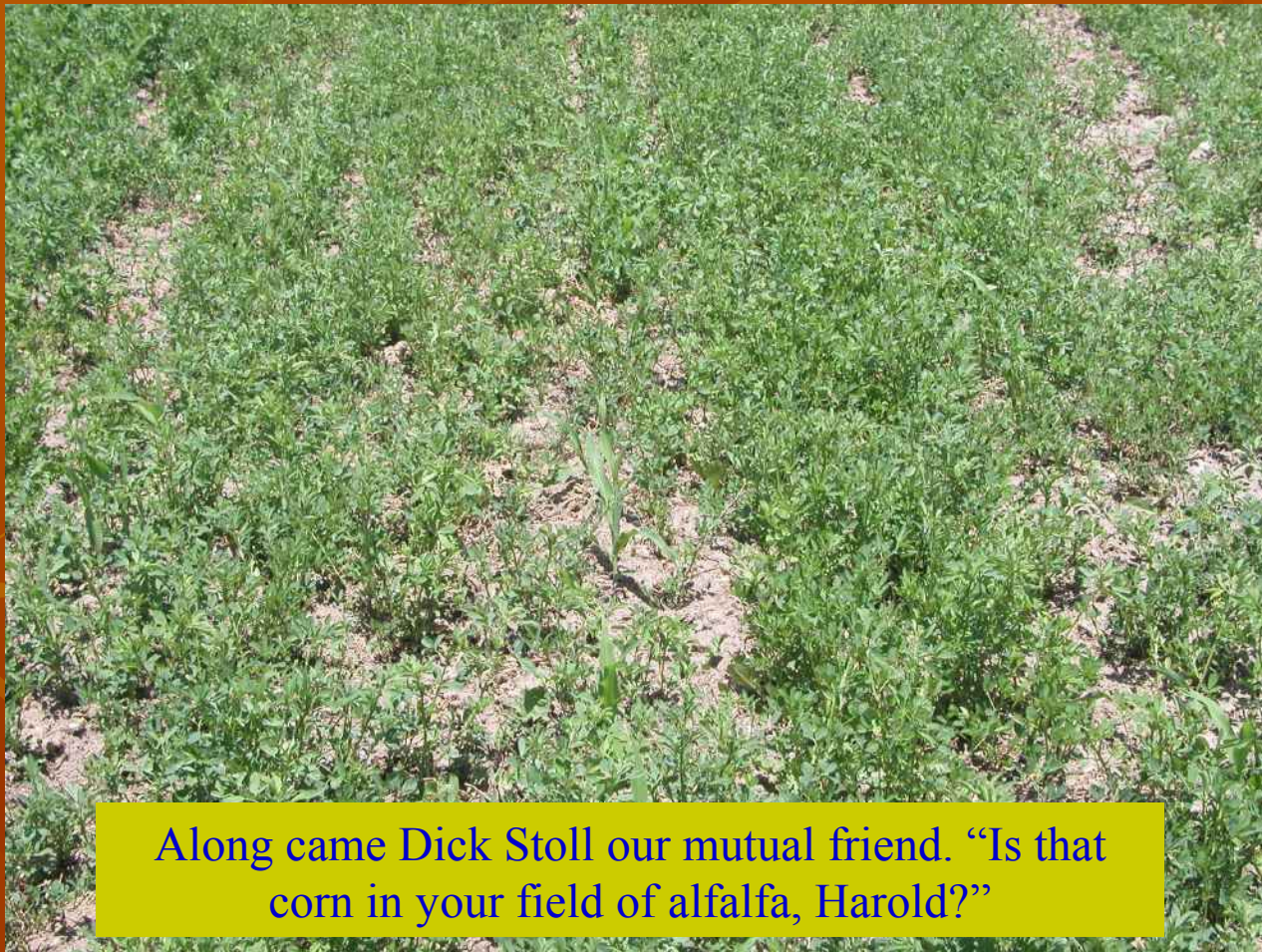


Hay didn't improve that much but the weeds were a lot less
on the half he ran the aerator and harrow on.

Right after the hay was chopped...



**The race was on and it didn't look
good for the corn... but**



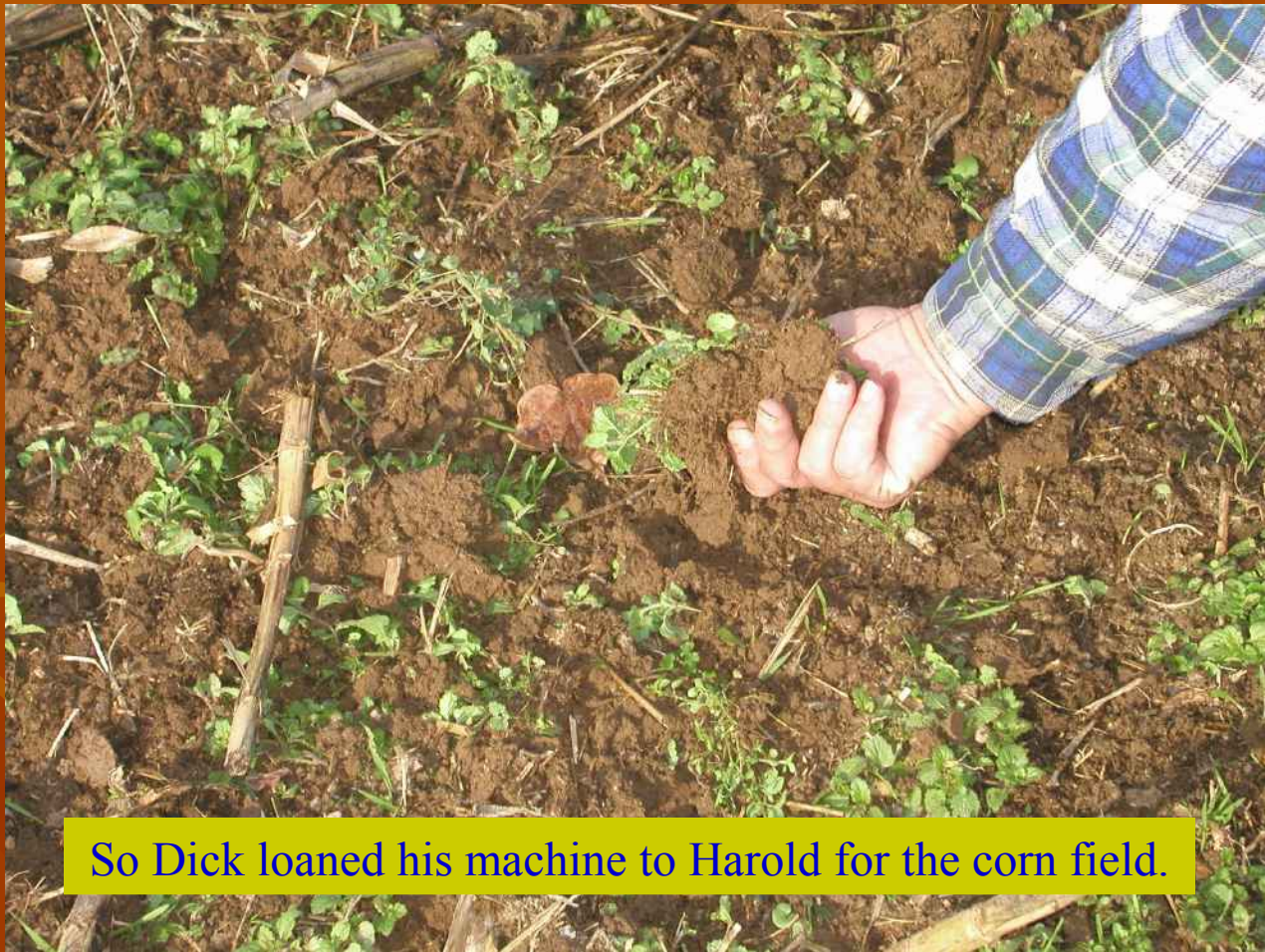
Along came Dick Stoll our mutual friend. “Is that
corn in your field of alfalfa, Harold?”

Remember Jim said you could go through corn with the machine.



Dick and his Smart-Till tine & roller equipped machine.

By now Harold had observed the wheat was great where he had run.



So Dick loaned his machine to Harold for the corn field.

In a few days the change was evident.



That's when my phone rang the second time.

One Pass with Smart-Till Tine - corn was 5" tall

Preliminary Preparation: One pass in the Fall with Rotary Harrows attached



This is what I found when I arrived about 3 weeks later...35 days after alfalfa harvest.

No tillage for 4 years

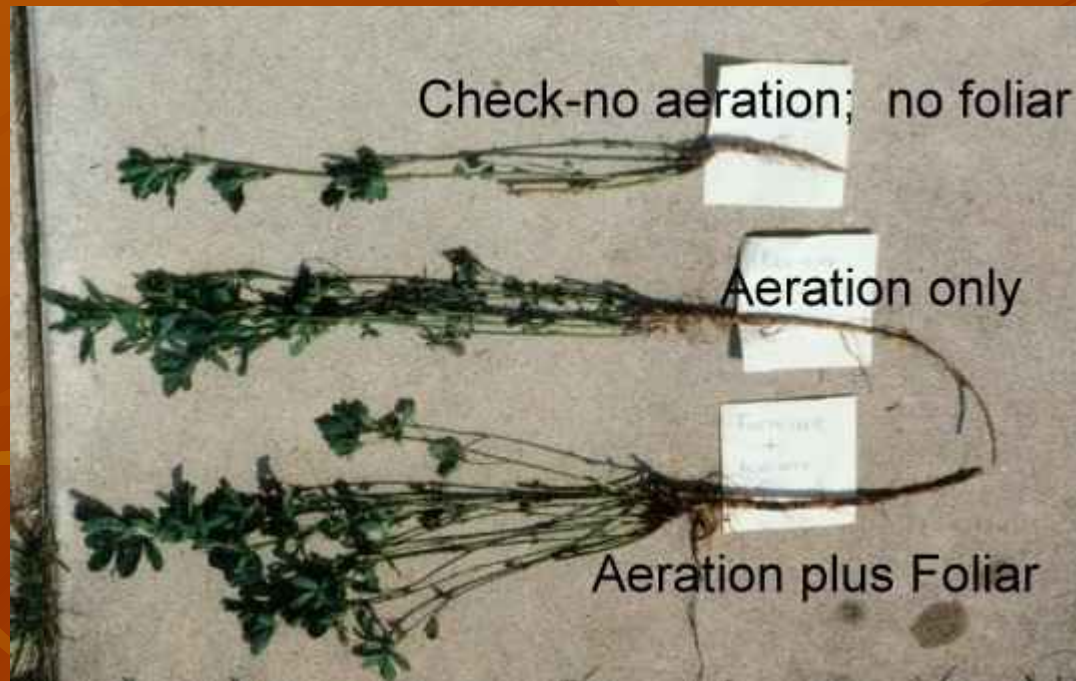
Where there had been no tillage, fall or spring, there was a struggle that the corn never overcame. The stand wasn't there and it wasn't uniformly emerged either.

Fall Tillage was the Start



This is the recently introduced Smart-Till 15' machine.

These are the type of plant responses to expect from alfalfa.



And then...

- Move into corn
- No weeds, they never got started in the hay
- Plenty of nitrogen for 150 bu. corn or more
- Good stands without expensive planter upgrades for no-till, won't need 'em
- Harvest options open from picking to grazing or any combination including corn/legume stalklage in big bales

Think I was kidin' about bales...



This the mowed aftermath following the combine pass in central Michigan. Over 8 weeks of no rain on sand.

I couldn't believe it either, so...



I took the windrow apart and here's what I found.



Wonder if my phone's gonna ring again.

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