Subsoiling Decision Guide

Decision guide for deciding whether subsoiling is warranted, based on confirmed compaction, soil conditions and the likely benefit compared with the cost. Work through the steps in order and keep notes on what you find along the way.

Farm / unit: _____ Date: _____ By: _____

1. Confirm compaction with a probe or spade
2. Find the depth of the restrictive layer
3. Check soil moisture condition
4. Review past traffic and tillage
5. Consider alternatives such as cover crops
6. Decide on equipment and settings per the operator's manual
7. Plan follow-up cropping
8. Evaluate result after one season

YOUR NOTES

TIP Do not subsoil until you have confirmed a layer exists, because unneeded deep tillage costs fuel and can damage soil.