The Milewski Farm
Field Management Chart
Year

A Field Management Chart accompanies this post. It has taken decades to combine all the work we do in each field into a simple chart which can be easily used from year to year. Combined with our Crop Rotation Chart which simply states what was planted each year we have some powerful tools to make good decisions and be flexible in our winter decisions when we are walking our fields each spring.

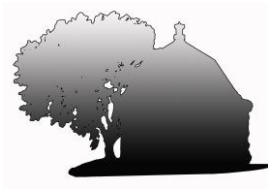
The weather is always a consideration and we are working on a chart for that too!

The Field Management Chart has easy to fill in boxes asking questions like what crop is in which field, date planted, nutrients applied on what date. Harvest and Yield are always on our minds and we realized just having that was not enough. If we get a bumper crop we want to know why, if a stand of alfalfa doesn't survive the winter we want more information than just weather (which we can't control). Over the years we have come to a deeper understanding of what goes into good farming. Since we are surrounded by trustfarian farmers who say they are happy if the silo "looks full" we have to go our own way in order to treat farming like a business and the goal of any business is profit.

But we won't jeopardize the future for a present profit.

The Field Management Chart also assists us in thinking about the fields in different ways. Watching the soil erosion in one field we recognized that a simple change in the angle of plowing meant the headland would not be in the same "exact" place each year and that meant the different between watching our top soil roll downhill and seeing it stay in place. We also have seen that some nutrients just don't work for us and that looking down the road with nutrients means the most. We all know how a corn, soybean, corn rotation does the soil and crops good since the soybean garbage left on the field has a high cation exchange rate for the nitrogen corn needs. But when I read some nutrient packages explain that the product stays in the soil for 2-3 years I no longer have to guess why a "herbicide" applied for corn wreaks havoc on the alfalfa stand the following year so if we decide to apply this herbicide then we have back to back years of corn.

I can go on about this chart but give it a try and let us know if it helps with your decisions and with your choices. Of course any improvement you make let us know too!



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Characteristics	**Field 8 acres**	**Field 9 acres**	**Field 10 acres**	**Field 5 acres**	**Pasture 11 acres**
Crop Date Planted					Each time heifers are put in or taken out show here
Tillage Angle Choose number 1--8					Number of heifers_____ Date:
Spring Tillage and Date Done					Number of heifers_____ Date:
Fall Tillage and Date Done					Number of heifers_____ Date:
Other Tillage and Date Done					Number of heifers_____ Date:
Row spacing					Number of heifers_____ Date:
Manure Amount and date					Number of heifers_____ Date:
Composted Manure amount and date					Number of heifers_____ Date:
Liquid Manure amount and date					Number of heifers_____ Date:
Improvements to field					
Soil Test date done					
Other Nutrient type, amount and date					
Herbicide type, amount and date					
Pesticide type, amount and date					

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Any other applications made to field					
Cultivation dates					
Field planting date					
Harvest Dates List each date					
Yields					
Conservation Practices If needed write on ba					

Notes:

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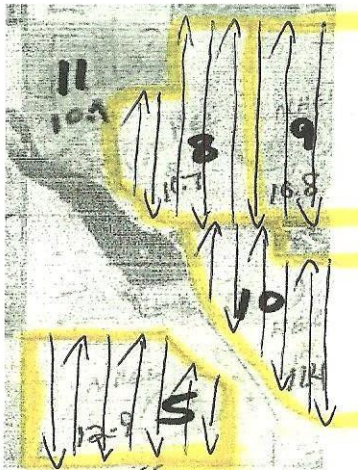
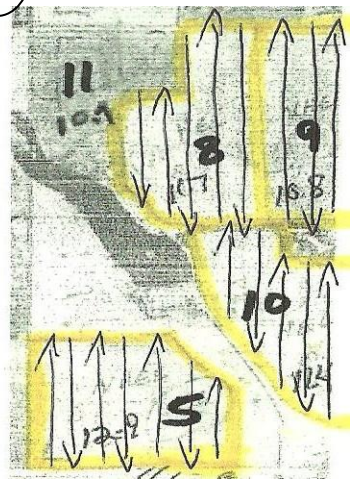
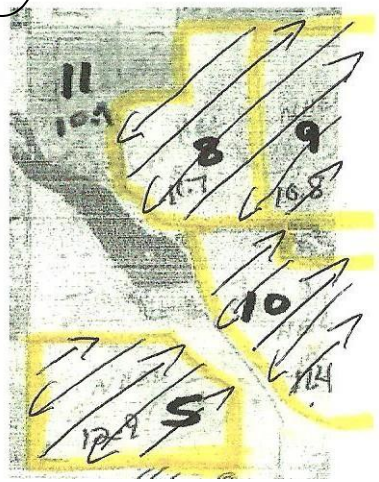
1. Starts North to South corner



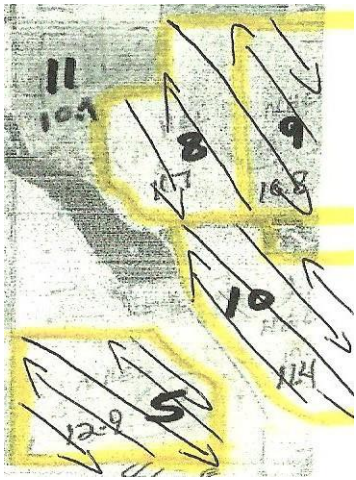
2. Starts South to North



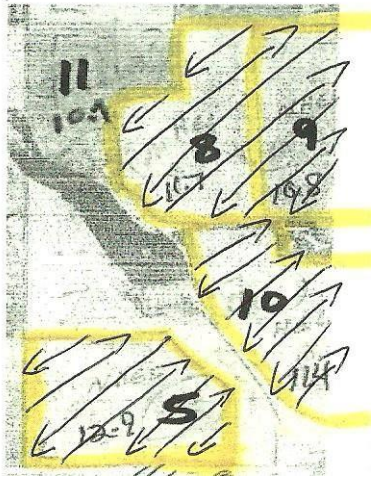
3. NE corner to SW corner



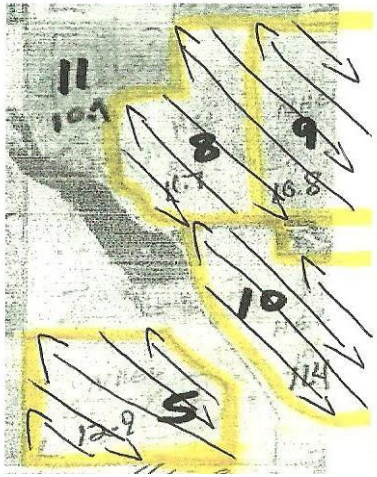
4. SW corner to NE



5. NW corner to SE corner



6. SE corner to NW corner



Tillage Angles

Tillage angle means the direction of tillage and starting point. Each time tillage takes place a different angle is needed.

Each time hay is cut angle of cutting should follow this chart as well.