



November 9, 2006

NATIONAL NO-TILLAGE CONFERENCE TRIP SIGN-UP

Southeast Nebraska farmers are invited to attend the National No-Tillage Conference which will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, January 10-13, 2007. I have made travel arrangements for up to two van loads of farmers or more and lodging at the downtown Des Moines Marriott Hotel and Convention Center.

If you have never attended a Regional or National No-Tillage Conference, here is your chance. There is a lot of farmer-to-farmer interaction with 800 farmers across the corn belt. Last year, the trip to the National No-Tillage Conference in St. Louis motivated a local producer to try some new practices on his farm. He reported to me complete success with changes he made this year on his farm eliminating the normal strategy of all fall applied fertilizer. With extensive soil sampling, he discovered organic matter levels of over 3 percent on most of his soils. I calculated total farm savings on 400 acres of \$14,000. I am not saying everyone who goes on this trip will experience the same thing, but I do see a lot of positives when we go as a group. For starters, we get a group discount in conference registration fees.

Over three days, we experience numerous sessions. Nebraska's main speaker will be Paul Jasa with a "Systems Approach To No-Till Equipment Considerations And Fine Tuning Your Equipment." The Syngenta Company will present their latest research update on "No-Till Soybean Control Ideas For Tackling Weeds, Insects And Diseases." Another speaker, Tracy Blackmer, will talk about "What No-Tillers Can Learn From Aerial Imaging."

Marion Calmer, armed with replicated on-farm research information, will talk about "Combine Settings For Better No-Till Harvesting" and Larry Murphy has a presentation on "Effectively Fertilizing High Yielding No-Tilled Soybeans." We can't forget about the out-of-the-box thinker and no-tiller from South Dakota, Dwayne Beck, who is scheduled to speak.

The Des Moines meeting will be very close to where David Miller works at the Iowa Farm Bureau. We have worked with David in the past two years for carbon payments in Southeast Nebraska to no-tillers for the greenhouse gas emission reduction program. The results of this project, thus far, that started in 2005 in Southeast Nebraska, is noteworthy.

With projections through the year 2010, the currently enrolled Nebraska land will sequester approximately 1,450,000 tons of carbon dioxide, an implicated greenhouse gas. The carbon credit program is projected to add nearly \$5.8 million to the farm income of contract holders in Nebraska. This figure is based on current enrollment figures, not projected future enrollment. The price was calculated at current prices which is in the neighborhood of \$1 to \$2 per acre per year. In all reality, it could go up or down during the life of the pilot project on greenhouse gas emission reduction. There are now over 225 companies voluntarily participating in the Chicago Climate Exchange. We will ask David to do a Southeast Nebraska update at this conference for us on carbon payments in agriculture.



For more information on the National No-tillage Conference, go to www.lesspub.com. To register and reserve your seat to go with our Southeast Nebraska group, talk to Lou Hajek, office manager at the University of Nebraska Extension Office in Saline County. Call her at 821-2151.

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