

September 14, 2015

NO-TILL ON THE PLAINS

The No-Till on the Plains conference on January 26-27, 2016 in Salina, Kansas is celebrating their 20th Anniversary this year with a star lineup of speakers. To make things even better, there is a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant that is offering a \$150 discount for first-time attendees (first 25) and a \$50 discount for repeat attendees (first 50) to the conference to defray some of the registration cost. Attendees and farmers from Nebraska qualify.

Randy Pryor, Gary Lesoing and I have qualified for a mini-grant to pay for the transportation to and from the conference. Early Bird signup to save registration costs is by September 30th for the January 26 and 27, 2016 trade show and meetings. There is no question that no-till farming has changed the face of agriculture and helped protect our soil. We look at the devastating storms in May and June of this year. Every field touched by tillage including vertical disk and row openers had significant increases in soil loss.

The No-till on the Plains conference is farmer to farmer sharing designed to increase knowledge on soil health, cover crops, decreasing crop inputs, finding markets direct from the farm, transitioning farms to the next generation, information on insect pests and pesticide use, and grazing livestock in continuous no-till systems. The newest product developments in crop production are biological products being developed for the 12 billion or so living organisms living in every bucket full of soil beneath our feet. This is the cutting edge of adding yield and quality while protecting our soil.

Speakers in 2016 include Jill Clapperton, Ph.D. and microbiologist from Florence, Montana on soils impact food quality and nutritional value. Dwayne Beck, Ph.D. from Pierre, South Dakota on core principles of no-till systems. Ray Ward, Ph.D. from Kearney, NE will speak about managing fertility in no-till rotations. Gabe Brown, a continuous no-till farmer from Bismarck, North Dakota will present how he markets new consumer trends and transitioning to the next generation. Ray Archuleta, NRCS from Greensboro, North Carolina on enhancing soil health and Wendy Taheri, Ph.D. from Brookings, South Dakota is a research microbiologist will share her knowledge on the importance and benefits of mycorrhizal fungi.

Register now to save money. Early registration saves \$150 per person and if you are in the first 50 farmers from Nebraska you save \$200 in registration costs. If you are a first-time attendee from Nebraska (first 25) you save \$300 compared to the walk-in registration price. To register, go to: <http://www.notill.org/> Make sure and click on “phone in credit card” option and then call 785-210-4525, leave a message, and ask for the Nebraska discount that is on a first come first serve basis. Don’t miss the September 30 early bird registration deadline. For questions and further details, give me or my office manager Lou Hajek. Once you have registered call or e-mail Lou Hajek a call at 402-821-2151 lhajek2@unl.edu to reserve a room and a ride. Randy Pryor has arranged transportation under a grant and a block of rooms at the Quality Inn and Suites for \$67.00 plus tax.

For more information e-mail Paul C Hay at phay1@unl.edu, call 402-223-1384, or visit the News Column University of Nebraska Extension local Website: gage.unl.edu, Twitter: @Cloverhay

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