

November 2, 2012

NATIONAL NO-TILL CONFERENCE TO DELIVER CUTTING EDGE IDEAS

Attending a regional or national conference can be a good experience for area farmers to meet new people, networking and getting new ideas or tips in agriculture. This year I am leading a group to a National No-Tillage Conference in Indianapolis. The theme is “Powering Up Your No-Till System.” The 2013 program features 18 general session speakers and 25 classrooms. The 21st annual event will take place from January 9 to 12, 2013, in Downtown Indianapolis at the Hyatt Regency.

Headliner speakers include Jerry Hatfield, Marion Calmer, Mike Plumer, Kris Nichols and Sjoerd Duiker. Jerry Hatfield from USDA-ARS, says this summer, it's been the drought that's been all the talk. Prior to that, it's been heavy rainfall events battering farmland. Jerry will help no-tillers understand how they are best suited to manage today's weather extremes.

After 28 years of on-farm trials, Marion Calmer will show how populations, fertilizer rates and row spacings in corn and beans are affected by dry weather. The Alpha, Illinois, no-tiller will show as extreme weather becomes the norm, and not the exception, you can prepare yourself for the wild weather swings of the future to outperform your conventional farming neighbors.

Mike Plumer is a former extension educator who now consults and has collected a lot of research data on cover crops and soil quality. Kris Nichols from USDA-ARS has studied soil arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi which makes soils more productive and will share new information. Sjoerd Duiker, a soils specialist from Penn State University, is also on the program.

One of the stops on the way to Indianapolis is the Calmer Corn Head plant and research farm near Lynn Center, Illinois. Calmer has joined forces with Harry Stine of Stine Seeds to successfully grow and harvest 12-inch corn on a commercial scale in 2012. He'll share how agronomic practices may need to change in a 12-inch-row system and how the spacing may allow for seeding populations of 48,000 or more that is needed to get to 300-bushel corn yields. Marion publishes an on-farm research booklet each year on his operation studying plant populations and fertilizer application rates.

Extension Educators Gary Lesoing from Nemaha County, Mark Hinze from Hall County, and I will arrange for group ground transportation departing Wednesday, January 9th and returning Saturday, January 12th to the National No-Till Conference. I have a \$500 grant that will decrease transportation cost. Group registrations, if 10 or more go in our Southeast Nebraska group, will be an additional \$35 off the published conference registration.

To learn more about the program, go to www.no-tillfarmer.com. Contact our office for more information and to reserve a spot with the Southeast Nebraska travel group before December 31, 2012 at 402-821-2151.



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