December 2, 2005

ST. LOUIS OR BUST

Area farmers are invited to travel to the National No-Tillage Conference the first part of January. Being able to talk to other farmers, researchers and industry professionals about boosting no-till yields, controlling cost and expanding profits in 2006, is an outstanding educational opportunity. I am heading up a group from Southeast Nebraska to attend the National No-Tillage Conference in St Louis, Missouri, leaving early on Wednesday, January 11th and returning on Saturday evening, January 14th. The meeting is at the St. Louis Pavilion Hotel Conference Center.

Extension Educator Gary Lesoing from Auburn and myself will be attending and will be hosts for the group trip. All participants in our group will be splitting travel costs equally. By traveling together, you can save travel expenses and we can get group registration rates for the conference which saves $50.00 per person.

Marion Calmer, a farmer/researcher from Illinois, says it's time to concentrate on maximum profit not obsessing over yield. He is slashing soybean seeding rates in no-till fields and can prove cost savings. Randall Reeder, OSU Ag Engineer, will be talking about numerous ideas on "putting dollars in the bank, not in the fuel tank." Energy and fertilizer cost concerns will highlight many of the conference topics. The controversial Richard Mulvaney, an Illinois researcher, publicly stated the 1.2 rule for nitrogen application for corn is scientifically indefensible and will share data from 102 fields in Illinois. At the heart of this discussion is the amino acid sugar N soil test.

Paul Schaffert, a Nebraska no-tiller, will speak about no-tilling corn, wheat, soybeans, sunflowers and grain sorghum on a 2,000 acre irrigated and dryland operation at Indianola, Nebraska, since 1972. He will share many tips that he has learned over the years. Wayne Pedersen, an Illinois researcher, has 6 years of research data backing up a claim that a certain preventive fungicide treatment for soybean rust can boost yields in non-rust years, enough to pay for itself. Participants will learn why and how. David Trevilyan, an Australian no-tiller, who has been fighting drought conditions, is a highly innovative no-till farmer and engineer in a country where every good idea must prove their muster. The reason why is, in Australia, there are no government support payments.

Now is the time to reserve a space by calling the Saline County Extension office at 821-2151. We also need to know participants in the Southeast Nebraska group ASAP to determine if we will use one or more vans. The deadline for registration for this trip is by Monday, Decemeber 26th, to the UNL Extension office in Saline County. Trip deposits are refundable in the event a circumstance comes up and you cannot make the trip. All travel and lodging arrangements will be handled through the Saline County Extension Office as a convenience to the producer.

Further information about all the speakers and program at the National No-Tillage Conference can be obtained at: www.lesspub.com Click on the National No-Tillage Conference icon. If you are interested in traveling down together, call the Extension office today at 821-2151.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Randy Pryor, Extension Educator
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Saline County
306 West 3rd Street, Wilber, NE 68465

Phone (402) 821-2151 • Fax (402) 821-3398 • e-mail: randy.pryor@unl.edu

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