



Syngenta and *No-Till Farmer* Honor 2009 No-Till Innovator Award Winners

- Syngenta and *No-Till Farmer* magazine recognize No-Till Innovator Award winners at National No-Tillage Conference in Des Moines.
- Dave Nelson, Brokaw Supply; Rodney Rulon and Family, Rulon Enterprises; No-till on the Plains; Barry Fisher named recipients of 2009 No-Till Innovator Awards.

Greensboro, NC, USA, Jan. 18, 2010 – [Syngenta Crop Protection](#) and [No-Till Farmer](#) magazine recognized the 14th class of No-Till Innovator Award winners at an awards banquet held Jan. 15 at the 18th annual [National No-Tillage Conference](#) in Des Moines.

“Syngenta is committed to maintaining our role as an industry leader in sustainable agriculture and no-till farming,” said David Piñon, communications manager for Syngenta Crop Protection. “This year’s No-Till Innovator Award winners have also proven themselves leaders in no-till farming and their efforts have, without a doubt, increased understanding, appreciation and participation in no-till farming. We are proud to be part of such a valuable program.”

Each winner was chosen based on his commitment to the advancement of no-till farming, regardless of the crop grown or the equipment or products used. The 2009 No-Till Innovators are:

No-till on the Plains – Organization

[No-till on the Plains, Inc.](#), is a non-profit organization based in Wamego, Kan., that focuses on educating and providing growers with information about no-till and other sustainable farming techniques.

“Our organization is a partnership of farmers, agribusinesses, associations and state and federal agencies committed to increasing the adoption of cropping systems that will enhance soil and water quality, economic potential and quality of life,” said Brian Lindley, executive director for No-till on the Plains.

No-till on the Plains annually organizes educational bus tours and field days that allow growers to obtain practical and relevant no-till information from other farmers and no-till experts. In 1997, more than 600 people attended the inaugural No-till on the Plains Winter Conference, which was designed to promote an information exchange among growers. Since then, the conference has been held each January in Salina, Kan., with an annual attendance of approximately 1,300 people.

Dave Nelson, Brokaw Supply Company – Business and Service

Dave Nelson is the owner of [Brokaw Supply Company](#), a leading fertilizer equipment distributor in Iowa. His company builds, modifies and sells strip-till equipment, along with fertilizer and anhydrous applicators. Nelson and his employees frequently visit with their growers experimenting with strip-till to evaluate their programs. They adjust equipment and fertilizer as

needed to help improve each farm operation. In addition, Nelson shares his knowledge each year during several grower meetings and demonstration days for [Iowa State University Extension](#) and Brokaw Supply Company.

“We’re supplying our customers much more than a piece of machinery; we’re selling agronomics along with our expertise,” Nelson explained. “We want our growers to succeed with strip-till, so just selling them a piece of iron is not our philosophy. With a program I started called ‘Operation Strip Till,’ growers get a chance to experience the advantages of strip-till on their farm before committing to the purchase. We’ll work with growers to ensure they are using the equipment properly and are properly managing their fertilizer needs.”

Rulon Enterprises, Rodney Rulon and Family – Crop Production

Rodney Rulon and his cousins, Ken and Roy, manage more than 5,300 acres of no-till corn and soybean on their family farm in Arcadia, Ind. The fourth generation of farmers, the Rulons have been continuously no-tilling all their acres for the past 17 years and have seen tremendous economic and environmental benefits.

“We first started no-tilling because we were looking for ways to save on labor, equipment and fuel costs,” Rodney said. “It hadn’t really caught on in our area because nobody thought it’d work here. We immediately saw benefits, including improved soil quality, erosion control and ultimately increased yields.”

The Rulons promote no-till through test plots, workshops, grower meetings and field days, among other engagements. They share their knowledge about both the economic and environmental benefits of no-till, including increased soil quality and reduced erosion. In addition, Rodney is a three-time featured speaker at the National No-Tillage Conference.

Barry Fisher, Natural Resources Conservation Service – Research and Education

Barry Fisher, state agronomist for the [Indiana Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS), has been working with no-till since first experimenting with it as part of his college research curriculum 28 years ago. His current research efforts are focused on looking for solutions and technologies to help growers build a total conservation cropping system, which would include nutrient management strategies and precision technology. The aim is to help improve soil, air and water quality.

“I think the most important thing I’ve done for no-till is building a network among farmers and researchers that puts strategies together that are easy for growers to implement on their own farms,” Fisher said. “They appreciate having a ‘prescription for success,’ rather than just blindly jumping into something new.”

Fisher carries a broad range of experience in no-till farming and consulting. Before his current role, he was the coordinator for the [Indiana Conservation Tillage Initiative](#) for four years. He remains involved by presenting at about 60 workshops each year. He also served as a district conservationist in Putman County, Ind., for the 12 years preceding that.

No-till farming is an environmentally sound and economical method of crop management that is rapidly spreading throughout the world. The 14th Annual No-Till Innovators were selected by a committee of leaders who represent different aspects of the no-till industry, including Frank Lessiter, editor, *No-Till Farmer* magazine; Mark Girard, marketing development manager, Syngenta Crop Protection; Keith Wendte, Wendte Farms and CNH, Willowbrook, Ill.; and Dan Towery, [Ag Conservations Solutions](#), Lafayette, Ind.

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