2016 No-till on the Plains Winter Conference
Bicentennial Center, Salina, Kansas

Celebrating Our Past,
Transforming Our Future

AGENDA (subject to change)

DAY 2 Wednesday January 27, 2015

Breakout Session # 1
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Benefits of Cover Crops to Enhance Nutrient Cycling and to Improve the Efficiency of Water Use by Cash Crops
Ademir Calageri, Soil Researcher Agricultural Research Institute, Londrina, Paraná State, Brazil
Ademir will share his worldwide experiences and research using cover crops. His research has focused on the nutrient and water benefits that can be derived using cover crops in a no-till system. Cover crops can in certain environments increase nutrient and water availability to cash crops.

Natural Cycles and Impacts of Insects: Using Them to Your Advantage
Jonathon Lundgren, Brookings, SD, Research Entomologist, USDA-Agriculture Research Service

Transitioning the Farm to the Next Generation
Gabe Brown, Bismark, ND no-till producer
Gabe will discuss how his operation and family are transitioning their farm to the next generation. Gabe will share his experiences, mistakes and considerations for a successful transition.
Earthworms, Soil Conservation, Soil Health, Getting To The Roots Of It.
Odette Menard, Regional Advisor Soil Conservation, Montérégie-Est Regional Directorate, Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada

Before choosing any management practices in terms of soil and water conservation, it is important to know why and where we start from. This talk will explore where soil erosion starts from and try to understand the real impacts of poor soil health on its vulnerability to erosion and decreasing yields both volumetric and economic. Soil health is based on the proper way to feed its living organisms. Who are these organisms and what kind of food do they prefer? Knowing that, it will be possible to identify the best strategy for everyone.

Fostering and Feeding the “Living Soil” with Cover Crops
Mike Starkey, Brownsburg, IN no-till producer
Breakout Session #2
9:25 AM – 10:40 AM

Core Principles of Successful No-till Systems: Planting, Rotation and Diversity
Dwayne Beck, Pierre, SD, Dakota Lakes Research Farm

History of No-till Implementation; What is in the Future?
Ralph Holzworth, Gettysburg, South Dakota, no-till producer
Ralph will explain the changes that have taken place on his farms, their success and failures. He will discuss what he sees as the changes that will occur to advance no-till production in the future.

Cover Crops Improve the Bottom Line of Farm Income
David Brandt, Carroll, OH no-till producer

The Financial Argument for No-Till
Jay Franklin, Vinita, OK no-till producer and banker
Jay will share his experiences as both a producer and banker how to discuss with landowners the economic advantages of no-till. His experience as a banker gives him insights into how to make the argument for no-till instead of conventional till.

Managing Fertility in No-till Rotation from Start to Finish, Making the Most of Soil Testing
Dr. Ray Ward, Kearney, NE, President of Ward Laboratories

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM Break and Tradeshow Visits
Breakout Session # 3
11:40 AM – 12:30 AM

Understanding How Diversity Benefits Your Soil
Dr. Wendy Taheri, Pelham, Georgia, Research Soil Scientist, Terra Nimbus

We’ve all been told diversity is important, but do you really understand what the benefits of diversity are, and the consequences of its loss? Does diversity affect your yield? Why is it so important? How do you get diversity into your cropping systems? Dr. Taheri explains the role diversity plays in our cropping systems.

A New Perspective for Weed Management
Randy Anderson- USDA Agriculture Research Service

In the past 20 years, advancements in understanding of weed population dynamics and systems design have improved weed management. With this knowledge, we are developing no-till cropping systems that require less herbicides. The presentation will describe this new perspective that is managing weeds with a nature-based approach, leading to a herbicide-free no-till system.

Integrating Large Scale Livestock No-till Cropland Grazing on the High Plains
Mathew and Nathan L Pearce. Wallace, KS no-till producers

Homestead Farms is a family farming and ranching operation on the high plains of western Kansas. They have 20 years of no-till experience over two generations. The three family partnership utilizes dryland farming techniques to raise crops such as heat, corn, milo, millet, safflower, and peas. The cattle operation has evolved and a new focus on grazing cropland is being implemented. The desire for continual progression has led to the utilization of multi-species forage crops in their operation. They have approached this venture with the goal of implementation on a large scale. The learning process is ongoing and they will share insights on how the journey has unfolded.

Irrigation Panel
Ryan Speer, Halstead, KS no-till producer
Mark Watson, Alliance, NE no-till producer

Panelists will give a short presentation on their own no-till management under irrigation. They will discuss fertility, rotations, cover crops and water use. A question and answer session will follow the panelist presentations. Come prepared to ask a question of these experienced producers.

Increasing Organic Matter in a Corn, Soybean, Cereal Rye Rotation
Steve Berger, Wellman, IA no-till producer

Understanding Cover Crops and Their Positive Impact on the Soil
Jimmy Emmons, Leedey, OK no-till producer

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM LUNCH
Breakout Session # 4

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

**Producer Panel: No-till Management with More Than 22 Inches of Annual Precipitation**

*Alan Mindemann, Apache, OK no-till producer
Rod Peters, Hillsboro, KS no-till producer
Mike McDonald, Palmyra, NE no-till producer*

Panelists will give a short presentation on their own no-till management. Each panelist receives more than 22 inches of annual precipitation, but they don’t all farm in the same conditions. Panelists will discuss their crop rotations, use of cover crops, fertility and integration of livestock. A question and answer session will follow the panelist presentations. Come prepared to ask a question of these experienced producers.

**Producer Panel: No-till Management with Less Than 22 Inches of Annual Precipitation**

*Nathan Pearce, Wallace, KS no-till producer
Lance Feikert, Bucklin, KS no-till producer
John Heerman, Haxtun, CO no-till producer*

Panelists will give a short presentation on their own no-till management. Each panelist receives less than 22 inches of annual precipitation, but they don’t all farm in the same conditions. Panelists will discuss their crop rotations, use of cover crops, fertility and integration of livestock. A question and answer session will follow the panelist presentations. Come prepared to ask a question of these experienced producers.

**Optimizing Alfalfa in a Long-term No-till Rotation**

*Justin Knopf, Gypsum, KS no-till producer*
Breakout Session # 5
3:25 PM - 4:10 PM

Marketing Products from the Farm, Making the Most of Consumer Trends
Gabe Brown, Bismark, ND no-till producer

How Soils Impact Food Quality and Nutritional Value
Jill Clapperton, Spokane, WA, Co-Founder Rhizoterra Inc.
Jill's work looks at all aspects of the soil community. She has focused her career on understanding and educating others about the importance of soil care. Some of her recent interests include examining how improved soil quality can also improve food quality. With increased soil richness comes more nutrient dense plant products.

A Model for Success: No-till in Burleigh County North Dakota
Jay Fuhrer, Bismark, ND, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist

Closing Session
4:50 PM - 5:45 PM

What Have We Learned In the Last Two Days and the Last Twenty Years
Dwayne Beck, Pierre, SD, Dakota Lakes Research Farm