

## AGENDA (subject to change without notice, Mountain Time Zone)

**8:00 a.m. Registration**  
Watson Farms  
1561 CR 61, Alliance, NE 69301

**12:00 p.m. Lunch (provided)**  
West Side Event Center  
2472 CR 62, Alliance, NE

**8:30 a.m. Welcome**  
Paul Jasa, University of Nebraska Extension  
Mark and Bruce Watson Landowners/Hosts

## AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS

### ON-FARM DEMONSTRATIONS

**Dan Gillespie, NRCS No-till Specialist**  
*NRCS, Norfolk, NE*

Dan will give a rainfall simulator presentation & soil demonstration. He utilizes continuous no-till and cover crops on his own farm and has been continuous no-till 25 years with 10 years utilizing cover crops in irrigated and dryland corn/soybean rotation. Immediately noticeable benefits were enhanced erosion control and the virtual elimination of ephemeral gully erosion. The addition of cover crops to the continuous no-till resulted in a doubling the rate of annual soil organic matter increase, resulting in soil organic matter levels up to 3.5 to 5%. Improvement in soil health has provided increased rainfall infiltration, higher available water capacity and improved water use efficiency in his cropping system.

**Dr. Ray Ward, President**  
*Ward Laboratories, Kearney, NE*

Ray will be discussing the soil quality, soil structure and the positive impacts of continuous no-till on soil health. See the soil horizons in the soil pit. Come experience his vast knowledge of soil quality and agronomic expertise in an easy-to-understand manner.

**Paul Jasa, Extension Engineer**  
*Nebraska Extension, Lincoln, NE*

Paul develops and conducts educational programs related to no-till equipment and system management. He is a great source of information on no-till planting equipment and system management. Paul will share information that stresses the systems approach and the long-term benefits of no-till while presenting planter and seeder setup tips.

**Mark Watson**

***Continuous no-till producer, Alliance, NE***

Mark farms 3,500 acres with his brother Bruce 10 miles north of Alliance, NE. The farm has been in the family for around 120 years. They have been completely continuous no-till since 1994. Their farm consists of dryland and irrigated acres, raising wheat, corn, pinto beans and field peas. Mark will present his results using edible beans and field peas in his rotation. He will also present how he has conserved water under irrigation using continuous no-till and a wide variety of crops.

**Lance Gunderson/Ray Ward**  
***Ward Laboratories, Kearney, NE***

Lance and Ray will present research on using soil biological testing for fertility. Ray has been president and co-owner of Ward Laboratories, Inc. since 1983. He is an ARCPACS Certified Professional Soil Scientist with a Ph.D. in Soil Fertility. Lance is the director of soil health and new test development for Ward Labs. Lance graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2005 with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry and in 2012 with a M.S. in Biology. Lance is currently working on his Ph.D at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in Soil Microbial Ecology.

**Michael Thompson**

***Continuous no-till producer, Alma, KS***

Michael Thompson's diversified farm and ranch on the Kansas-Nebraska border consists of 2,000 acres of grassland and 2,000 acres of farmland, which has been 100 percent no-till since 2003. He's used diverse cover crops since 2008 for living cover as well as forage for the cattle. In 2011, the rangeland was converted to rotational grazing, and in 2012, the farm started using high stock density grazing on both cover and grass. Michael will discuss the economic impacts, agronomic impacts, challenges, and successes of including high stock density grazing on cover crops on the high plains even with less than average rainfall.

**4:00 p.m. Interactive Q & A**

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