



2019 Soil Health Field Day

Almena Community Center

421 Main St., Almena KS 67622

Spend the day learning how soil health principles can be applied successfully in the High Plains. Three High Plains producers will share their experience putting soil health principles to work on their farms, decreasing costs and increasing profits.

Michael Thompson - Michael Thompson turned in his school keys and turned his teaching skills from teaching numbers and letter to teaching biology and connectedness to producers. Transitioning to regenerative agriculture allowed Michael to quit his full time town job and return to the farm full time. This was only possible by cutting costs and increasing profits, something done while focusing on soil health. Michael will share their farm's experience and how it can be replicated across the High Plains.

Brice Custer - Brice Custer is the owner and operator of Custer Farms LLC. Brice, in Hays, KS. He operates a no-till farming operation that includes growing corn, wheat, milo, oats, and barley. In 2008 he started planting cover crops into the summer fallow period. A few years later he started to realize the weed suppression and soil health improvement that the cover crops were providing. With the battle against resistant weeds he knew that there had to be a better way to control the weeds other than applying more chemical so he started to keep track of inputs for both the chem fallow and the cover cropping. Brice will talk about the economics of his farm with cover cropping and what crops fit into his rotation.

Jake Miller - A third generation rancher from Culbertson, NE Jake implemented a cover crop system when he returned home from college. Cover crops now give the ranch the freedom to operate without any cash crops, hay production, or other costly equipment needs. Grazing 365 days per year since 2002, the operation utilizes rotational grazing on native range as well as irrigated and dryland acres. Using the cover crop grazing management has allowed Lazy M ranch to reexamine input programs and maximize beef profits. Miller will talk about the economics of his 365 day grazing program, including cover crop grazing program, low input grazing rotations, and the evolution of management practices.

September 10th
8:30AM - 4:00PM

8:00 Registration

8:30 Soils Demonstration
Candy Thomas, NRCS

9:30 Thompson Farm Visit
Including Soil Pit

Lunch Provided

1:00 Brice Custer

2:00 Michael Thompson

3:30 Jake Miller



Register now only \$50!
www.notill.org

Sponsored by: No-till on the Plains, Colorado Conservation Tillage Association, The Nature Conservancy, Kansas Watershed and Restoration and Protection Strategy Program, Norton County Conservation District, Kansas Department of Agriculture-Division of Conservation, Kansas Rural Center.
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