

Southern Soil Health Conference

Jan 13-14, 2015 Fort Worth, TX

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Green Cover Seed will be hosting the Southern Soil Health Conference, a unique and innovative Educational Opportunity for Producers and Land Owners on Jan 13th and 14th, 2015, at the newly renovated Fort Worth Best Western Plus South hotel. The Southern Soil Health Conference is sponsored in part by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Texas Grazing Land Conservation Initiative, No-Till on the Plains, Dixon Water Foundation, Sand County Foundation, Out On The Land, and Natural Resources Defense Council. Registration will be limited to the first 300 participants.

This conference will be very unique for three main reasons:

1. This conference will focus solely on the Five Keys to Soil Health: Keeping the Soil Covered, Minimizing Soil Disturbance, Increasing Crop Diversity, Having Living Roots in Soil at all times, and Integration of Livestock with the Land
2. This conference is specifically designed for producers and land owners, 75% of the registration slots will be reserved for people directly involved with the land - production agriculture (crops and/or livestock) and land owners. This conference will also be producer driven with almost all the speakers and presenters being farmers and ranchers. (see details below)
3. This conference is about knowledge and learning and not selling products. There will not be a commercial trade show to promote individual companies or products - the focus will solely be on education.

Any farmer, rancher or landowner who is interested in improving, preserving, and regenerating their soil and increasing their productivity and profitability should attend this conference. Pre-registration (before Jan 1st) cost for this two day conference is only \$100 and spouses can attend for only \$50. Registration after Jan 1st or at the door will be \$125. Registration covers the cost of the conference, materials, and two noon meals. To register for this conference, go to <https://greencoverseed.com/events> For more information

call Green Cover Seed at [402-469-6784](tel:402-469-6784)

Southern Soil Health Conference Speakers and Teachers

Gabe Brown, Bismarck, ND Farmer/Rancher Gabe is one of the true pioneers and innovators of the Soil Health movement. Through his on farm research and his fearless approach to trying new things, Gabe has become both a leader and a spokesman for improving soil health through diverse cover crop mixes and grazing management. Gabe and his son Paul run the farm together and produce grassfed beef with their system of grazing 250 cow/calf pairs and 250 yearlings. Click here to watch Gabe talk about Grazing Cover Crops and Benefits for Livestock

Producers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzrKJo01-kE>

Scott Ravenkamp, Hugo, Co Farmer/Rancher Scott is trying to break all the rules that have become the norm with many farmers in the harsh and brittle environment of Eastern Colorado. Ravenkamps have eliminated fallow seasons on their 6,500-acre farm and are working with a “full-flex rotation” that includes cover crops rye, triticale, and millets. He is also moving towards replacing commercial fertilizer with compost, and is seeding cover crops and native grasses, and dabbling in mob grazing. Scott is determined never to go back to chemical fallow. Click here to watch Scott Ravenkamp speak on Soil Health <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIMMBkhcNDo>

Robin Griffeth and Kelly Griffeth, Jewell, KS Farmers: Robin (Father) and Kelly (Son) farm in North-Central Kansas and are creatively pushing the envelope when it comes to crop diversity. They are 100% no-till, extensively use cover crops and are experimenting with a number of different companion cropping scenarios and have been very successful with double crop sunflowers with a high diversity companion cover crop. They believe that enhancing the biodiversity of their soils is the key to leaving their farm to future, sustainable, generations. Click here to watch Robin and Kelly talk about Double Crops and Companion Crops <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4oMqxeOgg>

Paul Jasa, University of Nebraska Extension No-till and Soil Health Expert Paul develops and conducts educational programs related to crop production that improve profitability, build soil health, and reduce risks to the environment. With Paul's experiences gained from research and Extension activities, he has become one of the best sources of information in the Midwest on no-till planting equipment and system management. Paul admits, if there is a mistake to be made with no-till, he's either made it himself or has seen it done. More importantly, he has learned from those mistakes and shares that information in presentations that stress the systems approach and the long-term benefits of continuous no-till. Click here to watch Paul talk about Residue, Soil Structure and Cover Crops <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yq2OdkWIOGc>

Alan Mindemann, Farmer, Apache OK Alan is a pioneer of no-till systems in Oklahoma, having been in a high residue, dryland, continuous no-till system since 1996. Cover crops have been integrated into the system since 2004. Cash crops grown include grain sorghum, corn, millet, wheat, rye, oats, sunflowers, mungbeans, cowpeas and soybeans. Rotations are divided into high and low risk (water use) crops with the object of taking advantage of all available moisture. No matter when or how it comes. He strives for always keeping his soil covered and advises "Don't be afraid of too much residue - only be afraid of poorly managed residue!" Click here to read more about Alan (from the No-till Farmer Magazine) http://www.notill.org/sites/default/files/ntf_dec_08_p14-15_copy.pdf

Jonathan Cobb, Rogers, TX Rancher/Farmer Jonathan is a soil rancher and is passionate about regenerating the soil and providing healthy nutrient-dense food for his family and community. After seven years row crop farming 2500 acres with his father, Jonathan nearly left the farm. It was an introduction to soil health that gave hope and led him to stay and change the paradigm. Jonathan and his sister started Green Fields Farm in 2013 and currently provide grass-fed & finished beef and pastured eggs from their family farm in central Texas. He also works with Green Cover Seed to provide custom cover crop mixes as a tool to help others regenerate the life in their soils.

Todd Kimbrell, Hillsboro, TX Farmer Todd farms in the Blackland prairie of Central TX and strives to improve his ground with a progressive approach using soil health principles, precision technology and a positive attitude. He adopted a management system 3 years ago on farms where landlords would agree that implemented all 5 soil health principles - being especially creative in ways to integrate livestock with no fences and no livestock! Todd has a passion for farming and incorporates his family in every aspect of the operation. He farms for future generations and understands the importance of land stewardship for quality food and water. Todd and his wife Lindsay have a son Trey and daughter Tessa. Click here to learn more about Kimbrell's Farm on Out on the Land <http://outontheland.com/season-2-episode-14-soil-health-management-systems-2/>

Terry McAlister, Electra TX Farmer/Rancher The McAlister Farm encompasses a variety of soils and terrain with primary crops being wheat, cotton and hay with secondary crops of canola, sesame and barley. Mother cow and stocker calves comprise their beef production enterprises. Even before persistent drought became the norm in this region Terry was one of the first to seriously experiment with no-till; the past 10 years he has aggressively expanded and promoted its practice, successfully utilizing strip tillage to combat compaction areas left by cattle. Their focus is to employ grazing and multispecies companion cover crops to bring increased value to no-till, push yields to the limit - yet ultimately leave the land healthier and more viable for future generations. Click on the link to read about Terry in the Dryland No-till Farmer: <http://www.no-tillfarmer.com/dryland/drylandno->

tiller092514/html5/index.html?page=1

Lisa Bellows, Ph.D., Gainesville, TX - Lisa is a professor at North Central Texas College (NCTC) where she teaches biological and agricultural sciences and also heads the newly established Josey Institute of Agroecology. The institute will serve as the new home of the Promoting Agriculture and Conservation Education (PACE) Project. Rotational and multi-species grazing are demonstrated in the project to promote sustainable land management. Within the Josey Institute, Bellows has also collaborated with Noble Foundation and Green Cover Seed to collect data on 77 varieties of cover crop seed in the North Central Texas region. Data collected from this study will help to identify growth habits of preferred species in the area. Click here to learn more about the Josey Institute for Agroecology: <http://dixonwater.org/dixon-funds-agroecology-institute/>

Charles Kneupper, Hamilton TX Rancher Charles ranches in Hamilton and Coryell Counties and is also a NRCS Range specialist in Weatherford Texas. Charles has been an integral part of the soil health initiative from both a personal and professional level. Since 2008, Charles has volunteered his ranch for many workshops and trainings to help landowners, land managers and agricultural professionals understand the principles of soil and range management. He manages his cow/calf operation on native pastures using a planned rotational grazing system, stockpiling forages for standing hay and only supplementing protein and mineral. Charles personally practices what he preaches every day as he increases resource management knowledge throughout the state of Texas.

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