



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2024 No-till on the Plains David Brandt Soil Legacy Award—Jay Fuhrer

The No-till on the Plains Board of Directors announced a new award, in 2023, to spotlight producers who had committed their life work to improving soil health. This award was named The David Brandt Soil Legacy Award. The Award recognizes innovation, disrupting the norm, and promotion of building soils and soil biology for our future. “Long live the soil.” The Inaugural award, first presented in 2023, was presented to David Brandt. David was a soil hero of many until his untimely death in May of 2023.

The 2024 David Brandt Legacy Award winner is Jay Fuhrer. Jimmy Emmons, the Vice-President of No-till on the Plains, presented the special award to Jay at the 28th Annual No-till on the Plains Winter Conference in Wichita, on January 23, 2024. Jay’s wife, Kathy, and several Menoken farm friends were also in attendance to support Jay. Upon receiving the award, a humbled Jay addressed the crowd, “I stood on a lot of shoulders to get here.”

As a long-time Conservationist growing up in the Dakotas on a small grain and livestock farm, Jay Fuhrer built a career taking care of the soil. Working at the Natural Resources Conservation Service/USDA from 1980 – 2020 out of Bismarck, North Dakota, Jay particularly enjoyed working from the pickup end gate on the field edge, with a spade and the client. Conservation planning one field at a time. Currently, Jay spends his time supporting soil health efforts through the Menoken Farm. The Menoken Farm is a conservation demonstration farm and is Jay’s favorite place to work. Here, the 5 Soil Health Principles are applied while monitoring plants, animals, and soils. Jay continues to share the soil health principles and how healthy soil serves as a foundation for cropping systems, grazing systems, cover crops, wildlife, gardening, pollinators, insects, soil food web, and quality of life. His work in this field allows him - and others - to farm forever.



No-till on the Plains, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit educational organization providing information for producers to adopt high-quality continuous no-till systems, and to further develop those systems.

Our goal at No-Till on the Plains is to make farmers and ranchers more profitable while improving their soil resources. For more information, please visit: notill.org

No-till on the Plains, Inc.

Executive Director, Aaron Sawyers

director@notill.org

785-210-4549



Pictured, Vice President of No-till on the Plains, Jimmy Emmons, and Award Winner Jay Fuhrer. (Photo credit Aaron Sawyers)



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