## **OPENING REMARKS**

## South Dakota No-Till Association

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The South Dakota No-Till Association is proud to present the third in its series of biennial conferences designed to deepen our understanding of specific topics related to successful no-till systems. The 2003 No-till Under Cover program was designed to cover topics related to cover and forage crops; soil health and fertility; and wheat management in high yielding environments. We believe that the list of speakers represent the best expertise available on their specific topic. Much time and effort went into the planning of this event. We would like to thank our exhibitors whose contributions make it possible for us to obtain this caliber of program. We appreciate all of the time and effort Ruth Beck and Jason Miller put into organizing the conference. We must also recognize Catherine Valencsin for doing the web work and preparing the proceedings for publication. We hope that the attendees find the information of value to them and their operation.

The moisture saving attributes associated with no-till have allowed producers in the transition zone between the traditional corn and wheat belts to adopt rotations with intensities similar to those in the corn belt. Unfortunately many of these systems also have the low diversity characteristics common in that area. This has resulted in no-till systems that are less than optimum. It is the belief of the South Dakota No-Till Association that properly designed and managed no-till systems are far superior to tillage-based approaches in terms of both their environmental and economic characteristics. Information presented at this conference and in these proceedings should help in allowing each of us to better capture the true potential of the no-till approach.

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