

No-Till Notes

A Publication by the The South Dakota No-Till Association
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Speakers Set for Horizons Conference

The South Dakota No-Till Association has asked Dr. Don Reicosky, Soil Scientist at the USDA-ARS in Morris MN and Phil Needham, Opti-Crop Consultant from Owensboro, KY to fill the SD No-Till Associations' speaker slots at the SD Horizons Conference in Pierre, Dec. 8-9, 2003, at The Ramkota River Center.

Dr. Reicosky is one of the world leaders in the area of carbon relationships in soils.

Dr. Reicosky will present research linking no-till farm production to reduced greenhouse gas levels in the environment. He will be giving his presentation both days of the conference giving everyone a chance to hear him.

Many of you are familiar with **Phil Needham**, Manager and agrono-

mist from Opti-Crop, a consulting firm in Kentucky. Phil spoke four years ago in Mitchell, SD and last winter in Charles Mix County, SD. Popular demand is bringing him back!

Opti-crop is a full-service consulting company that specializes in improving yields and quality in small grains by following step-by-step agronomic practices. Opti-crop promotes frequent visits to the field and through knowledge and experience helps farmers make the right decisions.

Phil's presentation is scheduled for Wed., Dec. 10th, the second day of the Horizons Conference.

Special Thanks to the The SD Wheat Inc. for sharing the cost with The SD No-Till Association of bringing Phil to SD.

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Calendar

- *Horizons Conference Dec. 9 & 10, 2003, Ramkota River Center, Pierre, SD*
- *SDNTA Annual Meeting, Dec. 10, 2003 7:00 am Ramkota River Center, Pierre, SD*
- *DLRC Annual Meeting, Feb. 10, 2004, Ramkota River Center, Pierre, SD*
- *Davison County No-Till Workshop, Dec. 16-17, 2003 Davison County 4-H Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD*
- *No-Till on The Plains Annual Conference, Jan. 26-27, 2004, Salina, KS*
- *SD No-Till Association's Biannual Conference, Feb. 14 & 15, 2005. The Ramkota River Center, Pierre, SD*



Lentils 2003, Dakota Lakes Research Farm

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NO-TILL: The Next Step The South Dakota No-Till Association sets Date for Biannual Conference

February 14th and 15th, 2005 have been set for the dates of the next SD No-Till Associations' Biannual Conference, **No-Till; The Next Step**. The conference is going to be held at The Ramkota River Center in Pierre, SD. This will be the 4th large scale conference held by the no-till association. It's predecessors were "No-Till: Beyond The Basics", 1998, held at The Ramkota River Center in Pierre, "No-Till Down Under", 2001, held at The Ramkota in Aberdeen, and "No-Till Under Cover", 2003, held at The Sioux Falls Convention Center.

The associations goal in having these conferences is to give South Dakota producers a chance to learn new techniques from researchers and farmers, alike, both from within the US and around the world. The conferences have been moved around the state to give all producers equal opportunity to attend the conference and to recognize the different growing conditions and challenges producers deal with, within the state.

I am currently developing a list of presenters for the conference, if any of you have any thoughts or ideas on good presenters please contact me at r2d2sbeck@aol.com or (605) 224-8891. The sooner the better!

Ag Solutions to Greenhouse Gases

Ag Solutions to Greenhouse Gases is a new newsletter published by the Consortium for Agricultural Soils Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases (CASMGs). The goal of this consortium is to provide the information and technology to develop, analyze and implement carbon sequestration strategies and greenhouse gas emission reductions. This newsletter will keep you up to

date on the latest research about carbon sequestration in agricultural soils and the subject of carbon credits.

The consortium has a web site where you can read research paper results and progress. You can also sign up to receive the newsletter at this website if you are interested. The address is:
www.casmgs.montana.

"It is only a modest exaggeration to say that as goes agriculture, so goes the planet. Of all the human activities that shape the environment, agriculture is the single most important, and it is well ahead of whatever comes second."

Excerpted from "Will Frankenfood Save The Planet?" by Jonathon Rauch, The Atlantic Monthly, 2003, October Issue.

"Will Frankenfood Save The Planet?" a commentary by Matt Hagny

The future of no-till is imperiled. No, not by some new herbicide resistant weed, nor by a new tax on no-till seeders, but by the fickle demands of the consumer. For most people, the word "chemical" (referring to man-made stuff) has a very negative connotation, nearly synonymous with cancer, toxins, and a heavy human footprint on the environment. Never mind that everything is made of chemicals, nor that many compounds found in Nature are quite unhealthy for us. And so for the populace at large, no-till agriculture can hardly be seen as good, with its current reliance on all those man-made compounds. At the very least, the benefits of no-till to the planet in general and us in

particular are certainly not obvious.

Into this desert of disinformation strode a recent article in Atlantic Monthly. While not the most common coffee shop literature on the plains, the Atlantic is a prominent publication on the U.S literature landscape, notably somewhat leftist in its politics and definitely geared to people who like to read. So when the article "Will Frankenfood Save the Planet?" appeared in the October issue, one could only be excused for approaching it with the impending doom of a landmine. Yet it provides an excellent survey of

the issues facing production agriculture today and in the near future; the views balanced, factually correct, and probably quite enlightening to those unacquainted with food production. Further, the article opened with a highly favorable review of no-till. No-till is one of the best things to happen to agriculture in quite some time. A pity that no one realizes it. Consumer sentiment seems to be flowing oppositely. While the Atlantic article deserves much praise, can it be expected to turn the tide single-handedly?

The SD Pulse Growers invite Dr. Perry Miller to speak at Horizons Conference!

Dr. Miller is a cropping systems specialist from Montana who has worked extensively on improving dryland management principles for diversified cropping systems in the Northern Plains. His research goals include optimizing soil

water and N-Use efficiency, improving soil quality, increasing or stabilizing economic returns and fostering sustainable agricultural management. Dr. Miller has done extensive work with pulse crops in cropping systems and with water use efficiency. We are looking

forward to an informative presentation by him at The Horizons Conference. For further information refer to;

weeds.montana.edu/systems

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The South Dakota No-Till
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