

National Conservation Tillage Conference Scheduled

Using surface vegetative cover in crop production to maintain environmental quality will be the theme of a national conference on conservation tillage March 28-30, 1973, in Des Moines, Iowa.

The conference is being sponsored by the Soil Conservation Society of America in cooperation with the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, American Society of Agronomy, and National Association of Conservation Districts. It will be held at the Fort Des Moines Hotel.

George Bagley, NACD vice-president from St. Joseph, Louisiana, will deliver the keynote address at the opening session on Wednesday, March 28. Following will be a discussion of conservation tillage system concepts, and a series of papers on the management principles involved in conservation tillage. These include soil physical properties, soil temperature effects, soil water storage and evaporation, nutrient availability, root growth, soil microorganisms, weed control,

plant disease, and insect control. A banquet will conclude the first day's program.

Environmental considerations, economics, and specific conservation tillage systems are the focal points of the Thursday, March 29, program. The day's opening session will concentrate on the use of surface residues and tillage systems to control soil erosion and maintain water quality.

The following session will analyze the costs and returns of conservation tillage systems in humid and semihumid as well as arid and semiarid regions.

A luncheon session will precede a review of those specific conservation tillage systems that have proven effective in producing crops while reducing erosion.

The closing session of the conference on Friday, March 30, will deal with the acceptance of conservation tillage systems. Papers will consider the roles of the farmer, conservation districts, extension, and research in promoting widespread use of conservation tillage.

Clarence Britt, chairman of the Soil Conservation Society's Erosion and Sedimentation Division, Beltsville, Maryland, is chairman of the conference program committee. Other members of the committee are Walt Lovely, Ames, Iowa, representing ASAE; Jack Bond, Mandan, North Dakota, representing ASA; Dave Unger, Washington, D.C., representing NACD; Joseph Turelle, Washington, D.C.; William

Greiner, Des Moines; L.E. Gard, Simpson, Illinois; Frank Mack, Rock Island, Illinois; William Moldenhauer, Morris, Minnesota; and Craig Beer and Min Amemiya, both of Ames.

Complete details on registration can be obtained from the Soil Conservation Society of America, 7515 Northeast Ankeny Road, Ankeny, Iowa 50021.

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