

Tillage Conference Teaches Soil Savings

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Farmers can learn more about cropping practices that conserve soils — and even more — at the 1997 Conservation Tillage Conference (CTC '97), March 3-4, in Ada.

Farmers with little or no experience in no-till cropping can attend a session titled "No-Till 101" to learn from Ohio State University specialists and experienced farmers.

"The aim is that persons who know little or nothing about no-till can participate in this session and not feel out of place," said Ohio State agricultural engineer Randall Reeder, a conference organizer.

However, the conference will also present current research results for farmers who have been using conservation tillage practices for years. In addition, farmers can learn about new farming technologies not related to conservation tillage. These include genetically-engineered crops, water management, relay intercropping and precision farming.

"Usually the more you learn about a subject, the more you real-

ize there's more to learn," Reeder said. "Conservation tillage is an example of that. You wouldn't find a single no-till farmer in this state in 1997 tell you he has all the problems solved."

Farmers use no-till because it minimizes soil disturbances, which cuts down erosion. In addition, it has economic and time-saving benefits. Farmers who want to realize those advantages can start out small and increase their acreage as they get more experience, Reeder said.

"In most counties, you can rent a no-till planter or drill just to try it out in one field or in part of one," Reeder said.

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service reports that

37 percent of Ohio's crop acres was in some form of conservation tillage in 1996. Farmers used no-till in 27 percent of all corn acreage and in 46 percent of soybean acreage. Approximately 40 percent of wheat was planted no-till.

Some livestock producers might have problems adopting no-till because animal manure is usually plowed into soils. Agronomist Tim Harrigan, Michigan State University, will give a session on managing manure in conservation tillage systems.

More experienced farmers will learn the latest research on the troubling issue regarding reduced yields in no-till corn planted after wheat or soybeans. Agronomist

Jim Beuerlein and Fairfield County farmer Dave Brandt will give "10 secrets" for yield improvement.

In all, about 30 speakers will address the conference in concurrent sessions. They include university specialists, government farm agency and industry representatives, and experienced farmers. The event attracts nearly 500 people from Ohio, neighboring states and Canada.

Reeder said farmers will make up the CTC '97 registration fees with increased production or savings on their farms.

"Farmers would have to try awfully hard to learn enough to cover their expenses for attending," Reeder said. In addition,

prizes will be awarded, including a one-year lease of a no-till drill and a free trip to the 1998 National No-Till Conference in Indianapolis.

Registration forms are available from any local Extension office in Ohio, or by calling (419) 223-0040; (419) 738-2219, or by sending a fax to (419) 228-3601.

Registration prior to Feb. 14 is \$15 for a single day and \$25 for both days. Add \$10 for late registration. Registration will include all lunches. The Monday (March 3) evening meal is \$9 extra.

Motels are available in Lima, which is 15 miles west of Ada. Air transportation is a 1.5 hour drive from major airports at Toledo, Dayton, and Columbus.

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Md. Cattle Convention Set

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — The 1997 Maryland Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show is scheduled March 7-8 here at the Sheraton Inn.

Registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 28.

Following is the convention schedule and registration form:

HOTEL

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Sheraton Inn by calling (301) 790-3010. A special convention-only room rate of \$48.00 single and \$50.00 double is being offered in a room block reserved for MCA. Be sure to tell the hotel you are with the convention.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1997

The trade show has been supported by over 25 individuals and companies. Come see the latest innovations in nutrition, health and management of beef cattle.

The Sheraton Inn Four Points Hotel is located at 1910 Dual Highway in Hagerstown, Maryland, at exit 32B, off interstate 70. It is only 71 miles from Baltimore and 24 miles from Frederick. The phone number during the convention is (301) 790-3010.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Sincere thanks to the Maryland Department of Agriculture, The Maryland Farm Bureau, Mt. Airy Locker, J. W. Treuth and Sons, R. H. Mullinix and Sons, Zinpro Co., and TATE CHEV-GEO-BMW for sponsoring our Trade Show Social, Saturday Breakfast, Exhibitors Luncheon, entertainment and educational programs, and to each Trade Show exhibitor and beef breed association for their years of continued support of the Maryland Cattle Industry.

Convention Registration Please Complete Both Sides Deadline 2/28/97

*MCA Member & Guests - Programs and Meals

Friday Only \$25.00 each x = \$
Saturday Only \$15.00 each x = \$
Combined \$35.00 each x = \$

*Join MCA today and register as a member.

MCA Membership \$15.00 \$

Non-Members - Programs and Meals

Friday Only \$40.00 each x = \$
Saturday Only \$20.00 each x = \$
Combined \$50.00 each x = \$

On-Site/Late Reg. - Programs and Meals

Friday Only \$50.00 each x = \$
Saturday Only \$25.00 each x = \$
Combined \$60.00 each x = \$

Educational Sessions only (no meals)

\$15.00 each x = \$

Total Enclosed \$

Please Make Checks Payable to MCA

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Name Badge Information (Over)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY - MARCH 7, 1997

11:45 a.m. Registration Opens/Silent Auction
*Exhibitor Luncheon (closed)

*Special thanks to R. H. Mullinix & Sons for sponsorship.

Noon Maryland Beef Cookoff

1:00 p.m. Trade Show Opens (1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM I

Session I 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. and 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. "Practical Management of Reproduction in the Beef Female" - Learn about the latest technologies and management practices available to assist you in optimizing your beef breeding program

Dr. Bill Beal Department of Animal Sciences VPI & SU, Blacksburg, VA

Session II 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. and 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. "Skeletal Structure and Function in Beef Cattle" - Learn about the development of skeletal structure in beef cattle and understand the components of correct feet and leg conformation

Dr. Roger Hunsley American Shorthorn Assoc., Omaha, NE

Session III 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. and 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. "Getting Into Grazing" Whether you are considering developing a grazing program or just want to fine tune your existing program, this session is for you. Learn the key components of a practical grazing program and how to design and manage for success

Ralph Quillin, Quillin Farms/ Kentucky Graziers Paris, KY

5:00 p.m.

*ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT AND SOCIAL HOUR IN TRADE SHOW
*Special thanks to J. W. Treuth and Sons and Mt. Airy Locker for sponsorship.

6:30 p.m.

CATTLE INDUSTRY BANQUET AND EVENING EVENT
Greg Klassen, Ventriloquist Whitewater, Kansas

*Special thanks to Ray Howes, TATE CHEV-GEO-BMW for sponsorship

SATURDAY - MARCH 8, 1997

7:30 a.m.

*Trade Show opens Breakfast served in Trade Show
*Thanks to the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture and the Maryland Farm Bureau for sponsorship

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM II

"Improving the Production Efficiency of Your Cow/Calf Enterprise"

9:00 - 9:15 a.m.

Welcome - Overview

9:15 - 10:00 a.m.

*Opportunities to Improve Nutrition and Health: Focus on Mineral Needs and Supplementation

Dr. Jerry Spears* Department of Animal Science N. Carolina State University
*Special thanks to Zinpro Co. for sponsorship of Dr. Spears

10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Opportunities to Predict, Control and Manage Growth: Focus on Emerging Techniques

Dr. Geoff Dahl Department of Animal Sciences University of Maryland

10:45 - 11:30

Opportunities to Predict, Measure and Breed for Specific Carcass Traits Focus on Available and Emerging Technologies

Dr. Bill Beal Department of Animal Sciences VPI & SU Blacksburg, VA

11:30 - Noon

Panel Discussion

Noon

Cattlemen's Luncheon Annual Business Meeting of the Maryland Cattlemen's Association Inc. and Election of Officers

Hosted by the Maryland Cattlemen's Association and the Maryland Beef Industry Council

1:15 p.m.

Keynote Address "Challenges Ahead: Can the beef industry adapt and survive in the 21st century?"

Dr. Gary Smith Monfort Endowed Professor of Meat Science and Professor of Animal Science Colorado State University

2:15 p.m.

Closing Comments Adjourn in Breed Association Meetings