

Communication Network Conference Call - September 18, 2007

Communication Network Conference Call

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007 at 11 a.m. (eastern).

Call-in number: 765-496-8420

Participants:

Jeff McClellon

Jimmy Dean

Don R

Brian Lindley

Karen Scanlon

Blair McClinton

Sjoerd Duiker

Agenda:

- * Update on network activities – web site (emails from Purity), discussion forum
- * News from groups
- * Dec Meeting: decide on when and where
- * Discuss agenda for meeting

Summary:

Updates

CTIC's Purity Mason may be contacting network members and partners to provide information for the web site:

http://www.conservationinformation.org/?action=learningcenter_commnetwork

The Discussion Forum hasn't seen much activity. CTIC will check it regularly, post questions to it and, if necessary, nudge members to use the Forum.

News from Network

Pennsylvania No Till Alliance – Continue to plan Professional Crop Producers Conference March 4, 5, 6, 2008, at Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, Penn. Lots of support from producers and industry. Looking for help in identifying speakers. Will post to Discussion Forum.

Also helped to get legislation passed to create tax credit for conservation practices; 50% of purchase price.

No-Till on the Plains – No-Till Conference will be Jan 29-30, 2008 in Salina, Kan. AIM Symposium, Jan 31, 2008. No-Till on the Plains No-Till Meeting in conjunction with the Nebraska No-Till Cadre, Nov. 14-15, 2007, in Gering, Neb.

Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance – Planning GA CT Alliance meeting for 2008. Southern Conservation Ag Systems Conference will be in Georgia in 2008. CT System Production Guide for the Southeast is being developed.

Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Assn – Annual conference will be held Feb. 12-13, 2008 in Regina, Sas. Also holding a crop advisors workshop on Dec. 6-7, 2007 in Saskatoon, Sas. Around 60% of area in no-till, so moved in more generalist direction in terms of communication strategy. Planning to develop a peer-reviewed technology journal aimed at farmers. Will keep group informed of progress and invite participation.

Sjoerd Duiker – good trip to South America. Attended Appresid conference and visited Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. Among other things, learned about designing crop rotations for residue input back to the system.

Don Reicosky – Recently held a field day on biomass. Concern is biomass removal for bioenergy. How much can safely be removed?

CTIC – Conservation survey to be distributed later this week. Will send email with link to survey to the Network. Please distribute to your members and encourage them to respond. CTIC has been asked to serve on 25 x '25 sustainability work group. Will keep the Network informed.

Possible dates/locations for in-person meeting of network

Those participating on the call agreed that the following timeframe and location will work.

WHAT: 2-day meeting of the Network

WHEN: Week of Dec. 10 (Dec. 10-14)

WHERE: Calloway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Ga.

<http://www.callawaygardens.com/Callaway/index.aspx>

The facility is owned by the non-profit Ida Cason Callaway Foundation, which supports conservation, environmental education & land stewardship efforts. Several folks on the call have been there and recommended it as a good location for our meeting. It is about 60 miles from ATL. Room rates begin at \$109 and go up to \$310 for two bedroom cottage.

We need feedback from the rest of the group ASAP so we can lock in the date and location and begin to make arrangements.

CTIC will have some funds available to support travel (up to \$1,000) for representatives from the organizations to attend this meeting. The funds are precious and will be spent only if the meeting is guaranteed to happen with a majority of the network members in attendance.

Please REPLY to this email about your availability for the date and location mentioned. CTIC will need commitment of at least 10 organizations before we can proceed.

Possible agenda items

o Name for the Network

o Goals

o Actions

o Structure

o Plan for addressing policy issues (Dick W's work)

o Reach out to South America? Or stay within North America

o Ask each group for 15 min presentation on state of no-till in your area. Get a feel for cropping systems in different areas. Plus how local organizations are working and what is being accomplished – vision of how to spread no-till.