

Conservation Agriculture Systems Alliance

Conference Call

Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 11 a.m. (eastern)

Participants:

Russ Evans
Brian Lindley
Bill Kuenstler
Tim Healey
Karen Scanlon
Peter Gamache

Agenda:

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Message Committee report

- Finalize message

Operations Committee report

- Pledge
- Mission/vision
- Proposals - Purdue

Community of Practice in support of Conservation Agriculture

Member updates

Message Committee

Go with Blair's wording on message and declare it final.

FAO message hits all the right points.

Operations Committee

Karen will finalize and distribute to full group with brochure. Mission/vision will be pulled from message and brochure. Think about how to tie into FAO message.

Purdue University approached CTIC and CASA to be a partner on a new proposal to CSREES for a 2-year, \$200,000 planning grant. Brian will talk with Chuck Rice to discuss possibility for nationwide proposal using all of CASA network.

Karen to draft letter of interest for Acgo; get comments from members and then send to Dave Brandt to present to Acgo.

Still want to work together (Brian and Peter) on working paper of what research should look like and direction it should take.

Want to work on CASA PowerPoint that each member can use to promote CASA at their meetings, etc.

Community of Practice in support of Conservation Agriculture – Karen to resend to group.

Member Updates

Reduced Tillage LINKAGES: Finished FarmTech conference; 1,200 attendance. Ross Johns from Australia talked GRDC and his farm. Wayne Smith and John Phipps also spoke. Projects:

measuring energy uses in different tillage systems; evaluating GHG calculator, HOLOS, which can be downloaded and used to estimate GHG emissions from farm. Will send link. Will be closing organization in August 2009; will keep us posted.

PNDSA: Had close to 400 attend conference on Jan 21-22 in Kennewick, WA. Get sense that lots of interest building in direct seed. Have 6 different breakfast meetings in 3-state area; 30-40 people at each meeting. Planning spring tours. Rolling out grower-to-grower information network, funded by small grant.

NTOP: NTOP conference on Jan 27-28 with more than 1,200 attend. More exhibitors than ever and more first-time attendees. Speakers included Bill K, Jerry L, Moe Russell of Russell Consulting (Iowa). Invited APPRESID to send person; Jose Moreno came and discussed protocols of no-till certification program. Looking at certification program and how it can be used in "put teeth" into NTOP message. Also working to take over one of KSU research farms, in heart of typical Kansas soil. Preparing for grower meeting in March; Dave Brandt coming back to attend and speak.

NRCS –Bill: still want effort to get RUSLE 2 databases (which are updated for cover crops and different management systems) disseminated throughout the region. Want to have training for state agronomist to understand how to use systems like continuous cover and no-till. Bill Puckett leaving HQ to be state conservationist in Alabama.

CTIC – Tour planned for July 29, 2009 and invites all CASA to attend. Requested success stories for information campaign.

Next Steps:

- KS send email: list serve, news release, next call is March 3 at 11am eastern
- KS prepare draft proposal for ACGO
- KS prepare message brochure
- KS finalize pledge
- Brian and Peter to work on research white paper
- Brian to contact Chuck Rice about proposal
- CTIC work on calendar of events to post CASA events and post on web site. Use in addition to CTIC web site calendar.
- Need to update contact list to include cell phone numbers.