

Conservation Agriculture Systems Alliance

Conference Call

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008 at 11 a.m. (eastern)

Participants:

Peter Gamache

Randall Reeder

Dave Brandt

Sjoerd Duiker

Russ Evans

Bill Kuenstler

Joel Myers

Karen Scanlon

Agenda:

Message Committee Report

Need to have a committee teleconference.

Open next week.

Operations Committee Report

Need to have a committee teleconference.

Sept. 8 or 11 @ 11am (EST)

2008 CASA meeting

Message Committee report

Operations Committee report

Annual conference

Attendees: David, Peter, Joel, Bill, Randall (50/50 chance), Russ

Sjoerd not available

Member Updates

Reduced Tillage LINKAGES: working on funding. Potential project on energy conservation, which would include no-till. Also will look at farmers' fuel consumption.

Getting into harvest, variable from good to dry. Upcoming meetings: Direct Seed

Advantage on Nov. 19-20 (160 people).

PANTA: Small field days coming up. Videos made by Extension feature no-till producers (view at Penn State Crop Management Extension web site and PANTA web site, www.panotill.com). Pioneer no-till farmer from Brazil, Franke Dijkstra, coming to PA in January 27-29 to speak at events and meet with PANTA. Professional crop producers conference, Feb. 17-18, State College, PA.

Ohio No-Till Council: Annual field day (110 people) featured cover crops and ways to save money using sludge and animal by-products and cover crops. Annual no-till conference, Dec. 9 in Plain City, Ohio. Feature residue management, cost of removing residue and what it costs to replace it. Jim Leverich, Univ of Wisconsin, will be key speaker. 150 members in Council. 12 farmers and agribusiness on Board of Directors, which meets four times a year. Annual Conservation Tillage Conference, Feb 26-27,

Ada, Ohio... (more Extension and NRCS) features grower panels with 4-5 farmers; very popular event - more than 700 attended 2008. Elwin Taylor, Iowa State ag climatologist, scheduled as keynote. Others: Bob Neilson, Purdue Univ, and Jim Moseley. Planning one-day cover crop event for Feb. 25 (proposal for SARE grant) with Midwest Cover Crops Council.

PNDSA: Harvest is slow; crops are variable without big yields, but OK. PNDSA got grant to set up grower-to-grower information exchange network; expect to announce at January conference. Direct Seed Conference Jan 21-22, Kennewick, Wash. Aero Kavero, Finland, will be speaker. Direct Seed Breakfast Meetings (6 meetings over one year), local growers talk at sponsored breakfast. Direct Seed mentoring program provides help for first year (100 acres custom seeding paid for by PNDSA). Doing modified transect survey for Northwest. Have data for east Washington and part of Idaho. See pockets of adoption surrounded by non-direct seed. Will have data available by next spring. Washington, Idaho, Oregon working on carbon trading policy; wanting ag to be participant in carbon trades.

NRCS: new director of ecological sciences, Mike Hubbs. Collecting data for RUSLE2 database; want to have workshops to explain how data files work in RUSLE2 and bring together information on use of cover crops to build database with Midwest Cover Crops Council. Next meeting of MCCC will be in Ontario week of Feb. 9.