



CCTA Members,

CCTA Coordinator, Becky Ravenkamp and I, were having a discussion the other day. She made the point that CCTA should evaluate some of the soil health processes currently being promoted with an open but critical mind. Mostly because our part of the world is much different, environmentally, than many of the success story locations. This is a valid observation. No doubt our elevation, humidity, soil types and heat profile are much different than places east of here. Gabe Brown indicates that his annual precipitation is very similar to my location. However, the question of when, how and in what form it comes must be examined. Yet, should we automatically dismiss "soil health" because we're not like "those guys"? I contend not.

Soil health is a concept that spans all agriculture. A growing root in the soil to maintain the soil biology is a valid concept in any and all biological systems. Although environmental factors will impact the results, they do not invalidate the concept. Accepting this premise, we then move to determine what plant mixes,

planting dates and termination stages can give the best results for our locale. Currently NRCS, CSU Extension, as well as numerous farmer-financed projects are attempting to find these answers.

On our farm you can still see the impact of a field pea project from two years ago. We're anxiously anticipating the long term results of both a high carbon and grazing cover crop project planted this last summer. In the same sense, that long term continuous no-till has brought us economic efficiency, nutrient cycling and soil improvement; we feel "soil health" emphasis has the potential to take our farm to a new level. Going forward, I would encourage all farmers to consider a project of their own, either self financed or assisted via a NRCS Equip Project. As you look at the 2014 conference schedule you will see there are many soil health sessions that are sure to plant ideas for your research. The more data available, the quicker soil health can be evaluated.

Curt Sayles,  
CCTA President

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CCTA is a non-profit organization serving all the States in the High Plains Region. It is a resource of experienced farmers working with industry, University and agricultural agency personnel whose goal is to spread research and on-farm gained information about conservation farming practices.



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## 2014 High Plains No-Till Conference

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Time	Room A	Room B	Room 109	Room 111	Room 114	Rec Room
7:00 AM	<b>Registration</b> Open all day - coffee, tea, water; Mini breakfast in morning; Snacks and soda in afternoon - Break room Open all day - Old Town Museum (Buildings South of Community Building)					
8:15 - 8:30	<b>Welcome - Curt Sayles, CCTA President; Sponsor Recognition - John Fabian, CCTA Vice-President; Scholarship Recognition - Kyle Franz, CCTA BOD</b> (Live in Rec Room)					
8:30 AM to 9:30 AM	BASF Sponsored Session, IPM & CAC	Pioneer Sponsored Session	Crop Production Services Sponsored Session	Humalfa Sponsored Session	Disease Management - Bruce Bosley, IPM & CAC	Precision Technology - Crop Metrics, CM
9:40 AM to 10:40 AM	<b>Keynote Speaker - Dr. Jill Clapperton, SWM</b> Live in museum South of Community Building					
10:40-10:55	<b>Break - Visit Trade Show</b>					
10:55 AM to 11:55 AM	Next Step in Continuous No-Till - Jerry Hatfield, SWM		Sprayer Farmer Panel - IPM & CAC	Grazing Cropland - Ken Miller, CM	Using Cover Crops to Adapt to Extreme Weather, Jim Hoorman, SWM	Pest Management and Biodiversity - Johnathan Lundgren IPM & CAC
12:05 - 12:55 PM	<b>Closed for Lunch</b> Smothered Steak with baked potatoes, vegetables, salad, roll, dessert, drinks					Soil Health - Dr Jill Clapperton
1:05 - 1:55 PM	<b>Closed for Lunch</b>					Diversified Farming - Gabe Brown, SWM
2:05 PM to 3:05 PM	Estate Planning - Norm Dalstead, PD	Farm Bill Update - John Deering, PD	Drown Technology - Tom McKinnon, CM	DOT Regs for Farmers and Rancher - Monty Kinder, PD	Sunflower Companion Cropping, Robin and Kelly Griffeth, CM	Corn Nutrient Management - David Sasseville, NM
3:05 - 3:20	<b>Break - Visit Trade Show</b>					
3:20 PM to 4:20 PM	Controlled Traffic, Tom Robinson, SWM	Mychorrhizae and Cropland - Wendy Taheri, SWM	Haney Soil Test - Dr. Ray Ward	Wheat Stem Sawfly Evolution - J.P. Michaud, IPM & CAC	Alternative Crops for the High Plains - Dipak Santra, CM	Innovative No-Till - Jay Fuhrer, SWM
4:20 PM to 6:00 PM	<b>Beer &amp; Bull Session - Great Room</b>					Colorado Millet Assn. / Check-off Discussion

30 Certified Crop Advisor Credits and 5 Commercial Applicator Credits are pending approval



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## 2014 High Plains No-Till Conference

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Time	Room A	Room B	Room 109	Room 111	Room 114	Rec Room
7:00 AM	Registration Open all day - coffee, tea, water; Mini breakfast in morning; Snacks and soda in afternoon - Break room Open all day - Old Town Museum (Buildings South of Community Building)					
8:00 - 8:15	CCTA Business Meeting in Rec Room - Extra door prize tickets for attendees					
8:30 - 9:30 AM	Precision Planter Technology - In Mobile Classroom	Mineral Rights - Sponsored Breakout Session with Jenna Keller	Syngenta Sponsored Breakout Session	Colorado Corn Sponsored Breakout Session	Alternative Crops for the High Plains - Dipak Santra, CM	Pest Management and Biodiversity - Johnathan Lundgren IPM & CAC
9:40 AM to 10:40 AM	Keynote Speaker - Gabe Brown, SWM Live in museum South of Community Building					
10:40-10:55	Break - Visit Trade Show					
10:55 AM to 11:55 AM	Next Step in Continuous No-Till - Jerry Hatfield, SWM	Mychorrhizae and Cropland - Wendy Taheri, SWM	Haney Soil Test - Dr. Ray Ward	Wheat Stem Sawfly Evolution - J.P. Michaud, IPM & CAC	Using Cover Crops to Adapt to Extreme Weather, Jim Hoorman, SWM	Innovative No-Till - Jay Fuhrer, SWM
12:05 - 12:55 PM	Closed for Lunch Roast beef with mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad, roll, dessert, drinks					Diversified Farming - Gabe Brown, SWM
1:05 - 1:55 PM	Closed for Lunch					Soil Health - Dr Jill Clapperton, SWM
2:05 PM to 3:05 PM	Estate Planning - Norm Dalstead, PD		Drown Technology - Tom McKinnon, CM	Grazing Cropland - Ken Miller, CM	Sunflower Companion Cropping, Robin and Kelly Griffeth, CM	Precision Technology - Crop Metrics, CM
3:05 - 3:20	Break - Visit Trade Show					
3:20 PM to 4:20 PM	Controlled Traffic, Tom Robinson, SWM	Farm Bill Update - John Deering, PD	Sprayer Farmer Panel - IPM & CAC	DOT Regs for Farmers and Rancher - Monty Kinder, PD	Disease Management - Bruce Bosley, IPM & CAC	Corn Nutrient Management - David Sasseville, NM
4:20 PM to 4:30 PM	Visit Trade Show for Door Prize Drawings Conference Door Prize Drawings (Turn in evaluations for extra tickets!)					

Door Prizes to include: 2015 HPNT Registration, gift cards, hats and more!

## 2014 Breakout Session Summaries

Commercial Applicator Credits (CAC) and Certified Crop Advisor Credits are listed following session title; all credits are pending.

### **Disease management**, IPM, CAC - Bruce Bosley, CSU Extension

Disease management in no-till systems requires a holistic approach to decision making. Previous crop rotations, chemical and fertilizer use and future crop rotations must all be accounted for. Bruce Bosley will discuss recent disease problems in the common crops of the high plains and model decision-making processes.

### **Estate Planning Purpose and Techniques**, PD - Norm Dalstead, CSU

Presentation will address the current laws – American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 – as it pertains to production agriculture. Estate Planning goals and issues, tools and techniques to include trusts, gifting, form of ownership and business organizations, and after-death planning options are topics with will be presented.

### **Nematode Management**, IPM, CAC - Glen Dappen, Nebraska Wesleyan University

During this session Glen Dappen will present the nematode history, lifecycle, and symptoms. He will also explain the sampling and diagnosis process, and history of treatments. Producers will benefit from his guideline threshold of the nine main nematodes and when it becomes cost effective to treat them.

### **Farm Bill Update**, PD - John Deering

The new Farm Bill and its effects on agriculture producers will be discussed.

### **Precision Planting for Profitability**, CM - Nick Emanuel, CropMetrics

This session will evaluate the profitability potential of precision planting.

### **Innovative No-Till, Cover Crops and Soil Health**, SWM - Jay Fuhrer, NRCS Bismarck, ND

Discussion of the foundation principles of soil health; and how they relate to actual cropping and grazing systems.

### **Companion Cropping Sunflowers**, CM - Kelly and Robin Griffeth

Jewell, KS Producers Kelly and Robin Griffeth will present the alternative way they are raising sunflowers on their no-till farm.

### **Value of No-Till to Increase Crop Water Use Efficiency**, SWM - Jerry Hatfield, USDA ARS Ames, IA

This session will review the potential no-till has to offset the negative impacts of increasing variability in the precipitation regime and increase the amount of soil water available to crops. Water use patterns by crops, a look at our changing climates, soil management components, and water use efficiency will be other key topics.



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## 2014 Breakout Session Summaries, Continued

### **ECO Farming** , SWM - Jim Hoorman, Ohio State University Extension

Ecological farming, continuous living cover and optimal sustainable economic yields are the principles of ECO Farming. Operational technologies may be utilized to improve soil structure, soil health, and soil productivity which ultimately lead to higher and sustainable crop yields that are more profitable to produce.

### **DOT Regulation for Farmers and Ranchers Updates** - Monty Kinder, CSP

A member of the Colorado State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Safety Unit will review the Colorado Commercial Vehicle Operations for Farmers and Ranchers. This session has been updated from the 2013 conference.

### **Pest Management and Biodiversity, Using Ecological Principles to Reduce Pesticides**, IPM, CAC - Jonathan Lundgren, North Central Ag Research Lab

Reducing disturbance and increasing biodiversity on farms are consistently shown to reduce insect pest pressure on cash crops, and increase the number of beneficial insects. There are numerous agronomically sound practices that can foster ecologically based pest management, and these will be discussed in the presentation.

### **The Future of UAVs In Agriculture** - Tom Mckinnon, Agribotix, Boulder, CO

UAVs (a.k.a. "drones") are poised to make tremendous contributions to agriculture. In this presentation we will discuss the airframes and remote sensing hardware as well as the software requirements. Currently using UAVs for remote sensing is illegal; new regulations are scheduled to be released in September 2015.

### **Wheat Stem Sawfly Evolution**, IPM, CAC - J.P. Michaud, ARS Hays, KS

This presentation will discuss the history of sawfly problems in wheat, its biology, behavior and natural enemies, and the multiple tactics that must be integrated into an effective management strategy that does not rely on tillage.



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## 2014 Breakout Session Summaries, Continued

### **Using Cover Crops in a Cropping and Grazing System to Build Soil Health, CM - Ken Miller, NRCS ND**

Ken Miller will share his experience with integrating grazing and intense crop rotations into his farming system. He will also explain how cover crops have improved soil health on his farm.

### **Never-Till, Stubble Retention and Controlled Traffic Farming, CM - Tom Robinson, Hoyleton, South Australia**

Vice President for the South Australian No-Till Farmers Association, Tom Robinson, share their farm practices growing wheat and canola. Moisture conservation practices, controlled traffic patterns, double cropping summer cash crops and cover crop experiments will be discussed.

### **Alternative Crops for the High Plains, CM - Dipak Santra, UNL Millet Breeding Program**

This session will discuss the development of low input, high yielding, cost-competitive new crops for the western central United States. Various crops discussed are: proso millet, tef, fenugreek, non-food oilseed crops (e.g. camelina, Ethiopian mustard, brown mustard) for use as biofuels and bio-based products.

### **Micro Minerals Make a Big Difference, NM - David Sasseville - AgriGuardian –**

International consultant David Sasseville will talk about the micronutrients that make a big difference in crop yields. The main crops to be discussed are corn, sunflowers, and wheat, other crops may be presented. Soil sample evaluations and recommendations will also be covered.

### **Haney Soil Test Correlations To Traditional Soil Tests, NM - Ray Ward, Ward Labs**

Dr. Ray Ward will discuss how the Haney Soil Test correlates to traditional soil tests, and what insights this new test can give us into the world of soil nutrients.

### **Mycorrhizae and Cropland, SWM - Wendy Taheri, USDA ARS Brookings, SD**

Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) are obligate plant symbionts. They provide an array of benefits to cropping systems. Dr. Taheri explains in detail how these organisms help our cropping systems, and the management practices that will encourage them to proliferate in your fields.

**Sprayer Panel, IPM & CAC –** This session will feature no-till producers in chem-fallow operations and continuous crop / alternative-cropping systems, producers will be joined by industry partners from companies in the region. Topics will include discussion on chemical fallow techniques that work, control of alternative cropping practices, three-on grass control and industry updates.

### **Special Session: Colorado Millet Association and Millet Check-off Discussion**

Millet breeder Dipak Santra will hold a meeting to discuss the creation of a Colorado Millet Association with the purpose of advancing millet varieties in the high plains. Funding sources and check-off programs will be discussed.



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2013 Fall

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The CCTA web site has new resources!

Take a look at:

[www.HighPlainsNoTill.com](http://www.HighPlainsNoTill.com)

Find Colorado Conservation Tillage Association on facebook!

2014 High Plains No-Till Conference  
Feb 4-5, 2014  
Burlington Colorado

Early Registration \$110                      Students \$25 per day  
Late Registrations (1-15-13) \$160  
Seminar Tickets (2-6-14) \$100


The two-day admission includes two keynote addresses, all breakout sessions, lunch both days and presentation binder.

## Crop Management Seminar Feb. 6, 2014

Dr. David Sassville and James Hoorman will be featured speakers at the 2014 Crop Management Seminar held in Burlington, CO on February 6, 2014. Tickets can be purchased for \$100 at [www.HighPlainsNoTill.com](http://www.HighPlainsNoTill.com).

Micronutrients will be the focus of Dr. Sassville's session with a particular look at how often overlooked micronutrients impact production in corn, sunflowers, wheat, millet, milo and alfalfa. As an international nutrient consultant and owner of Agri-Guardian, Dr. Sassville will share his knowledge with participants and take time to evaluate your soil test results!

Don't let compaction shrink your yields! Ohio State University Extension educator, James Hoorman, will help you understand soil compaction causes, its effects on soil structure and crops and how to use tools such as no-till, cover crops and rotations to eliminate this problem on your farm.



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