COLORADO CONSERVATION TILLAGE ASSOCIATION

CCTA JOURNAL

www.HighPlainsNoTill.com 2018 Fall Issue

Greetings from all of us at CCTA!

It is that time of the year again where between Fall harvest, getting the wheat in the ground, hauling feed, and working calves, most of us are kept hopping. For me, it is a time of welcomed relief from seasonal allergies which seemed worse this year than in recent memory. It is also the time that you look back and wonder where the summer went. One day you are trying to get everything planted and the next thing you know you need to put on a jacket in the morning. In addition to putting on a couple of grazing workshops this year at my place, I have attended at least a dozen workshops and conferences in 2018. It may come as no surprise to many of you, but I am finding that I work twice as hard now that I am retired as when I was a much younger man.

There are a lot of positive changes that I am seeing across the landscape in particular as it relates to the mission of CCTA. Everywhere I go I see people looking for a better way to make things work on their farms and in their lives.

However, the challenges in production agriculture continue to be on the minds of many of us with cost going up and the ever ongoing uncertainty of what is in the new Farm Bill. As for me, I think it is a good opportunity to take a short break from time to time to help regain your focus or even maintain your sanity. Even a day or two away from the farm can help recharge your batteries.

This coming February, CCTA is offering a great chance to accomplish many of these things. The 31st Annual High Plains No-Till Conference will bring together more than 25 speakers from across the High Plains Region to discuss topics ranging from pasture cropping to fallow alternatives, and irrigated no-till to regenerative grazing. We are also excited to feature keynote speakers Colin Seis, Jennifer Moore-Kucera, and Rick and Alec Horton.

Plan on marking your calendar for February 5th and 6th to spend some time regaining your focus, picking up new ideas and tips from some of the best and brightest in the business, and enjoying the benefits of being a part of the CCTA family.

- Michael “Storm” Casper
CCTA Vice President

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CCTA Hosts Springfield Drought Workshop

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The Colorado Conservation Tillage Association hosted a drought workshop in Springfield at the Baca County Fairgrounds on May 17-18, 2018. The event attracted nearly 50 attendees from as far as Hawaii and featured internationally renowned speaker, Ian Mitchell-Innes.

The workshop focused primarily on improving ranching operations, even in the face of drought. Mitchell-Innes, alongside speakers Dale Strickler and Greg Scott, discussed how to create a grazing plan that promotes both high quality forages and financial growth. Other topics included how to utilize cover crops and have a positive impact on overall soil health. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in hands-on field tours near Springfield.

"I'm glad to see this type of program in southeastern Colorado," read one review. "I really enjoyed the workshop."

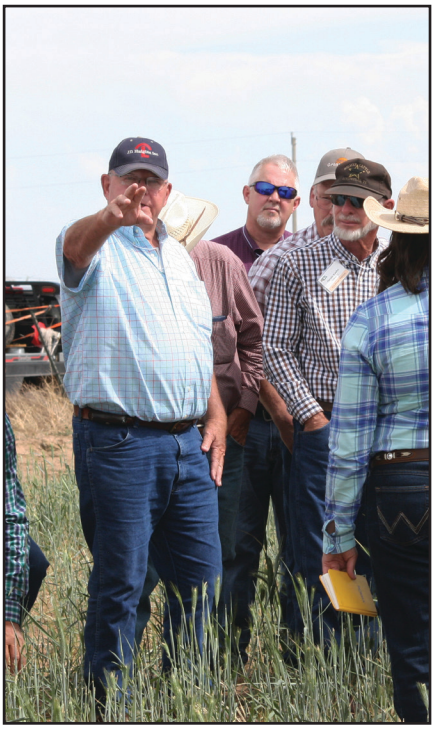
Several local businesses were involved in sponsoring the event, including Peoples Credit Union, Golden Plains Insurance, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, and Cook Oil & Bridle Bit Simmentals. Donations were also made by Baca Welding, the Baca County Conservation District, Varner Motors, Springfield Auto Supply, and TBK Bank.

In light of the 2018 Baca County Fire, CCTA also announced at the workshop that the organization will make a $500 donation to fire relief efforts in the area.

This drought workshop was the first of what is planned to be an annual event that takes place in southeastern Colorado every spring.

"We are excited to bring workshops to this area of the state," said Storm Casper, a CCTA board member and organizer of the drought workshop. "I hope it is something more and more locals are able to take advantage of in the next few years."

If you have ideas for summer workshops or would like to be involved in hosting a field day, please contact CCTA at coordinator@highplainsnotill.com.



2019 Conference Keynote Speakers

Colin Seis

The Seis family is one of the early pioneering families in the Gulgong district of New South Wales Australia, and has been grazing merino sheep and growing cereal crops in the area since the 1860s. Colin Seis and his son Nicholas own the 2000 acre property "Winona", which runs 4000, merino sheep that are managed using holistic planned grazing, and cattle are traded when seasons allow.

The property is managed using methods that continually regenerate its grassland, soil, and farm ecosystem. This greatly reduces farm inputs, while producing up to 20,000 kg of wool and selling 1500 sheep, and cereal grain annually. Five hundred acres of oats, wheat and /or cereal rye are sown annually using the 'pasture cropping' technique that Colin developed over 20 years ago. Other enterprises on Winona are a merino ram breeding enterprise and native grass seed, which is harvested from the property's native grassland. Winona also runs one of the largest kelpie, working dog, studs in the world and sells dogs and pups to many countries like North and South America, Europe and Scandinavia as well as all states of Australia.

The adoption of industrial agriculture methods from the 1930s destroyed Winona's soil and grassland, and during the 1960s and 1970s the farm became increasingly dependent on pesticides and chemical fertilizer for pasture growth and crop production. To solve these problems, in 1993 Colin adopted holistic planned grazing and developed a unique method of growing crops and restoring grassland and soil. The method, called "Pasture Cropping," is a form of perennial cover cropping where annual crops are zero till sown directly into perennial grassland or pasture, after the pasture has started its natural dormancy. Pasture Cropping can produce high yielding crops and has been proven to restore landscape ecological health, restore native grasslands, improve grazing pasture quality , improve soil nutrient cycling and sequester large amounts of soil carbon.

In addition to owning and managing Winona, Colin's dedication to farmer education, support programs, and enabling extensive scientific study of his practices has resulted in Pasture Cropping being adopted around the world. Because of this, there are now well over 3,000 farmers worldwide managing an estimated 3 million acres using the technique to grow crops and restore grasslands and soil.

During the development of "pasture cropping" and regenerative land management techniques, Colin has been awarded many times for his achievements. Some of these awards include:

1. Australian Conservation Farmer of the Year in 2005.
2. Australian Carbon Farmer of the Year in 2007.
3. Australian Green Agriculture and Innovation Award in 2012 (awarded for leading contributions to soil health and sequestration of Carbon).
4. Australia's most prestigious farming and environmental award, the National Bob Hawke Landcare Award, September 2014.
5. The NSW regional achievement and community award in 2015.

In January 2015, the Australian newspaper, "Melbourne Weekly Times" called Colin a visionary and suggested him as one of the top 6 most influential farmers of the world.

2019 Conference Keynote Speakers

Dr. Jennifer Moore-Kucera

Dr. Jennifer Moore-Kucera is the West Region Team Leader with the Soil Health Division in the USDA-NRCS. She leads a team of three soil health specialists who support the agency's soil health activities in 13 western states and the Pacific Islands. In her role, Moore-Kucera oversees the development and implementation of science-based, effective, and economically viable soil health management systems on diverse agricultural lands. Moore-Kucera holds a bachelor's degree in biology and environmental studies from Binghamton University (in her home state of New York); a master's degree in soil science from Iowa State University; and a Ph.D. in soil science (soil microbial ecology and biochemistry) from Oregon State University. Formerly, an associate professor of soil and environmental microbiology, she conducted research in forests, orchards, grasslands, and annual and perennial cropping systems to better understand management options for positively influencing our soil's living organisms. These organisms are at the core of managing for healthy soils. Through her continued collaborative relationships and training efforts, she hopes to instill the following philosophy: "By shifting our view of soils from an inert growing material to a biologically diverse and active ecosystem, we can help create more sustainable farms, ranches, and forests to provide the food and fiber for our rapidly growing population while protecting land, air and water resources for future generations."

Rick & Alec Horton

Horton Seed Services is made up of Ken, Rick, Matt and Alec Horton. They own and operate a seed business, located southeast of Leoti, in Western Kansas. The Hortons raise Certified Seed Wheat, Corn, and Grain Sorghum in a Wheat-Corn/Grain Sorghum-Fallow rotation. Their operation is primarily dryland acres with the exception of a circle and half of irrigated corn. They also own and operate a portable Seed Cleaning and Treating business in Kansas and Colorado. Through Horton Seed Services, the Hortons conduct research on Wheat Varieties to give producers an advantage on what varieties will work best for their region and farming practices. Seeding Rates and seed treatments are a big focus of their research.

2019 High Plains No-Till Conference Registration

Registration fee is the same for attending one or both days (except students).
Registrations accepted at the door - cash, check, or credit cards.
Registrations are non-refundable and non-transferable.

Early Bird Registration..... $130
Registration after 1/15..... $180
Students (per day)..... $ 25

Register online at:
www.HighPlainsNoTill.com

The following mailing address will be used to mail the CCTA Journal.

Business/Organization/Farm _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip_____
Phone: ( ) _____- _____ E-Mail: _____
Please send CCTA Journal: ___ Electronic ___ Postal Hard Copy

Name: 1 _____
Check one: __ First Timer ___ Attended Conference before
Check one: __ Attendee -- $130 ($180 after January 15)
__ Student ($25.00 per day) Attending: ___ Tues ___ Wed

Name: 2 _____
Check one: __ First Timer ___ Attended Conference before
Check one: __ Attendee -- $130 ($180 after January 15)
__ Student ($25.00 per day) Attending: ___ Tues ___ Wed

Name: 3 _____
Check one: __ First Timer ___ Attended Conference before
Check one: __ Attendee -- $130 ($180 after January 15)
__ Student ($25.00 per day) Attending: ___ Tues ___ Wed

Name: 4 _____
Check one: __ First Timer ___ Attended Conference before
Check one: __ Attendee -- $130 ($180 after January 15)
__ Student ($25.00 per day) Attending: ___ Tues ___ Wed

Name: 5 _____
Check one: __ First Timer ___ Attended Conference before
Check one: __ Attendee -- $130 ($180 after January 15)
__ Student ($25.00 per day) Attending: ___ Tues ___ Wed

Please make check out to CCTA and mail with registration to:
CCTA
23929 County Road 16
Kit Carson, CO 80825

CCTA Board Vacancies

Due to term limits, there will be vacancies on the CCTA Board of Directors starting in 2019. Board members are responsible for fiscal management of the association and the planning/content for educational events. It is a great opportunity to expand your no-till network and has led to other opportunities for past board of director members. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a CCTA board member please contact CCTA President, Michael Thompson, or one of the current board members for more information.

Nominations are currently open and elections will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019 during the business meeting at the High Plains No-Till Conference. To nominate yourself, or someone you think would be a great director, please submit the nomination form to coordinator@highplainsnotill.com or mail to: CCTA 23929 County Road 16, Kit Carson, CO 80825.

CCTA Board of Directors Nomination Form

Nominating Person Name (optional): _____

Nominating Person Phone (optional): _____

Person to be Nominated to the Board of Directors Name: _____

Address if known: _____

Phone: _____

Brief summary of why this person is being nominated to the CCTA Board of Directors: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2019 Speaker Preview

We have a great lineup of speakers for the 2019 High Plains No-Till Conference!
Be sure to check out their session summaries in the next issue of the CCTA Journal.

Colin Seis
Owner/Operator, Winona

Jennifer Moore-Kucera
West Region Team Leader, NRCS Soil Health Division

Rick & Alec Horton
Owner/Operators, Horton Seed Services

Richard Teague
Professor, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

Andrew Thostenson
Pesticide Program Specialist, NDSU Extension

James Coffelt
Owner, Ohio Land & Cattle

Rajan Ghimire
Assistant Professor- Cropping Systems, NMSU

Paul Jasa
Extension Engineer, UNL

Nick Vos
No-Till Producer, Hugoton, KS

Bruce Unruh
No-Till Producer, Burlington, CO

Brian Bledsoe
Chief Meteorologis/Climatologist, KKTV 11 News

Clark Harshbarger
Resource Soil Scientist, USDA NRCS

Fred Vocasek
Senior Lab Agronomist, Servi-Tech Labs

Lucas Haag
Northwest Area Agronomist, K-State Northwest Research-Extension Center

Weston McCary
Director of Precision Agriculture & UAS, NWKTC

John Spring
Area Extension Agent-Agronomy/Weed Science, CSU Extension

Brent Young
Regional Extension Specialist, CSU Extension

Jeff Bradshaw
Associate Professor - Entomology, Extension Specialist, UNL

2019 High Plains No-Till Conference Sponsorship Levels

Sponsor $300
- Black and White Business Card Size (2x3 inch landscape) Ad in Conference Program
- One Complimentary Registration
- Listed (Name, phone, address, link) on Website

Bronze Booth Sponsor $550
- 8'x8' Booth with Two Complimentary Registrations
- Listed (Name, phone, address, link) on Website

Silver Booth Sponsor $1000
- Black and White 1/4 Page (3x5 inch portrait) Ad in Conference Program
- Complimentary 8'x8' Booth with Two Complimentary Registrations
- Business Card size Ad in Winter Issue of CCTA Journal
- Listed (Name, phone, address, link) on Website
- Complimentary Insert in Attendee Packet (400 copies delivered by Jan.1)

Gold Booth Sponsor $2000
- Color 1/2 Page (6.75 x 5 inch landscape) Ad in Conference Program
- Complimentary 8'x16' Booth Space Booth Space and Three Complimentary Registrations
- Business Card size Ad in 3 Issues of CCTA Journal
- Listed (Name, phone, address, link) on Website
- Complimentary Insert in Attendee Packet (400 copies delivered by Jan.1)

Platinum Booth Sponsor $4000
- One Sponsored Breakout Session
- Color Full Page (6.75 x 10 inch, portrait) Ad in Conference Program
- Complimentary 8'x16' Booth Space and Four Complimentary Registrations
- Black and White 1/4 page ad in 3 Issues of CCTA Journal
- Listed (Name, phone, address, link) on Website
- Complimentary Insert in Attendee Packet (400 copies delivered by Jan.1)
- Complementary Outdoor Equipment Space
- 5-minute ad running in Great Room During Registration

Corporate Platinum Sponsor
Includes all Platinum sponsor benefits with a multi-year commitment and special pricing. Please contact CCTA for pricing prior to registration.

Please contact CCTA if you would like to be a sponsor but do not wish to have a booth or if you have other ideas for sponsorship.

Please contact Joni Mitchek with further questions at:
coordinator@highplainsnotill.com or **1-833-4No-Till.**

2019 High Plains No-Till Conference Sponsor Registration

Conference sponsors enable CCTA to provide outstanding speakers at the conference. Thank you for making this event possible!

Company:_____

Registering Person Name: _____

Company Mailing Address: _____City _____ State ___ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax (_____) _____

Local Contact Person (if different from above): _____

Local Contact Person Phone: _____

Local Contact Person Email: _____

Local Contact Person Mailing Address: _____

Company Website:_____

Please check one:

____ Sponsor - $300 (no booth)
____ Bronze Booth Sponsor - $550
____ Silver Booth Sponsor - $1000
____ Gold Booth Sponsor - $2000
____ Platinum Booth Sponsor - $4000
____ Corporate Platinum Sponsor - Contact CCTA for details

Additional Opportunities:

____ Outside Equipment Display - $250
____ Sponsored Breakout Session - $500
____ Conference Attendee Packet Insert - $80 (Must fit in attendee bags. 400 copies supplied by Jan. 1)

Total: _____

Please submit BOTH the ad for conference program and ad for CCTA Journal to Coordinator@HighPlainsNoTill.com before November 15th for inclusion in conference program and Journal.

Mail completed form and payment to:

CCTA
c/o Joni Mitchek
23929 County Road 16
Kit Carson, CO 80825.

Senator Visits Colorado No-Till Farm

Submitted by Curtis Sayles, CSF Farms

As long-term CCTA conference attendees and readers of this journal will attest, there is great interest in building soil health. Nearly every ag publication you pick up today has articles, farmer testimonials, and research results dealing with the subject. There are two main camps with this issue. The first are those who are experiencing reductions in input costs. As nutrient cycling accelerates and residue increases, reductions in fertilizer and chemical usage is experienced. The second camp is more environmentally concerned. These producers emphasize reduced and cleaner runoff, greater sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere, reduced erosion (both wind and water) and better moisture utilization. Some of the "tools" being used to achieve these results include no-till, diverse crop rotations, cover crops, and livestock grazing.

Unfortunately, roadblocks exist that thwart widespread adoption. USDA is lagging in this area of agriculture. NRCS programs are not designed for large scale adoption of necessary enhancements. RMA, being the for profit and risk averse entity that it is, has dragged its feet on the subject. FSA, although recognizing enhancements, has only tepidly embraced the issue. Ironically, although American society appears to be very environmentally sensitive (read: climate change, algae bloom criticism, nutrient/chemical runoff issues, GMO's), support of soil health appears low priority. At this time, most advancement is being farmer driven. Maybe that's for the best?

Nevertheless, there is some political influence attempting to recognize this movement. Colorado Senator Michael Bennet and his staff introduced legislation this summer known as the COVER Act. This legislation was adopted and is included in the current farm bill being negotiated in congress. As part of their fact finding process, Bennet's staff had several meetings with interested Colorado parties. These included National Bison Assoc., Colorado Corn, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Hirakata Farms, to name a few. One of the ag representatives was CSF Farms. CSF Farms is owned by Curtis Sayles and is located south of Seibert, CO. Sayles has been experimenting with and has adopted most of the "tools" mentioned above. Senator Bennet and his staff visited the Sayles farm

in early July. They toured fields to examine diverse crops, livestock grazing on cover crops, and high residue no-till and discuss the goals of this holistic, system-oriented farming.

The thrust of the conversation was not to mandate these ideals on today's agriculture, but rather to remove the disincentives that exist and allow farmers greater freedom to make their own decisions. The legislation, although only a start, does at least recognize soil health and the various techniques. The COVER Act would modify two USDA conservation programs to promote soil health and place a greater focus on carbon storage in healthy soils.

First, the bill would establish a Soil Health Initiative as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to provide payments for practices that improve soil health and enhance farm resilience, such as cover crops, organic soil amendments, and livestock grazing. The initiative would serve a diverse set of regions, with varying water quantities and agricultural practices.

Second, the bill would establish the Cover Crop Pilot Program as part of the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. The pilot program would provide payments to measure and verify outcomes from cover crops and prioritize projects with third-party partners, such as livestock producers, food manufacturers, and commodity groups.

As the farm bill process moves forward, it will be interesting to see how soil health fares.

CCTA Scholarship Application

Eligibility Requirements:

- Full time student returning as a sophomore, junior or senior attending a higher institution of learning OR a full-time student enrolled in a vocational (trade) school program in Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, or Wyoming.
- Majoring/Training in Agriculture (equine and animal science excluded), Ag business, Horticulture, or Agronomy.
- Must be a Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas or Wyoming resident.
- Minimum GPA of 2.7.

Directions: Please complete this application completely and accurately. Include all the required items listed below, and submit by **December 1st.** Application available at www.HighPlainsNoTill.com. Scholarships may be submitted in electronic format to coordinator@highplainsnotill.com or by postal hard copy. No preference will be given to either format. Scholarship winners will be contacted mid-January. Winners will be invited to the CCTA conference in February to be recognized at the conference. There is no obligation to attend, but it is highly encouraged.

Name: _____
Home or Permanent Address:_____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ School Phone: _____
Name and address of hometown newspaper: _____
_____
Name of Higher Institute of Learning attending: _____
Student Number: _____
Agriculture Scholarship or Financial Aid Department Mailing Address: _____
_____
Agriculture Major/Field of Training: _____

Attach:

· List of college leadership related activities and involvement
· List of out-of-school agriculture and leadership related activities and involvement
· List of honors and awards
· Official and most current transcript
· One-page essay explaining your 1.) interest in agriculture, 2.) knowledge of conservation tillage practices, 3) future goals.
· One letter of recommendation
· Headshot photo required

Release of Scholarship Information

I hereby authorize the release of the contents of this application and information concerning my academic standing while attending the higher institution, with an Agriculture Department, listed on this application to the donor or official representative of any award I may receive and/or the news media.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____
Printed Name: _____

Send completed application to: coordinator@HighPlainsNoTill.com or
Mail to: CCTA, c/o Joni Mitchek, 23929 County Road 16, Kit Carson, CO 80825

23929 County Road 16, Kit Carson, CO 80825

2018 Fall Issue

The Journal is published by the Colorado Conservation Tillage Association three times per year.

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Colorado Conservation Tillage Association

31st Annual
High Plains No-Till Conference

February 5-6, 2019
Community & Education Center
Burlington, CO

More than 50 Breakout Sessions on:

Soil Health
General No-Till
Farm Business
Ag Technology
Regenerative Grazing
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CECs and CEUs available.

Keynote Speakers:

Colin Seis
Jennifer Moore-Kucera
Rick & Alec Horton

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Emphasis on application of topics in the High Plains region.
For more information visit www.HighPlainsNoTill.com

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.