COLORADO CONSERVATION TILLAGE ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

www.HighPlainsNoTill.com

2020 Fall Issue

I am certain it comes as no news to anyone reading this that 2020 has been a challenging year in many ways. It has caused many to reflect and reevaluate things and how best to move forward. Not to downplay the impact that Covid-19 has had and how it has affected all our lives, we have faced several other challenges this year outside of that. Many areas of the High Plains have experienced multiple significant weather challenges in 2020, including numerous wind events, an extreme drought, followed by an early freeze and even snow in early September. Wind caused some significant soil loss on fields without resilient cover and the drought and freeze both had a hand in reducing yields on fall harvested crops, adding to an already tough year. In some cases, thin margins led to changes such as abandoning practices like no-till for tillage to try to reduce costs, undoubtedly a tough decision for anyone to make. These circumstances also make it difficult to implement or explore new practices like cover crops and grazing when soil profiles are depleted.

However, I have also witnessed something else. People in ag are resilient! Even with all the gloom I mention above; crops were planted and harvested, animals were fed and cared for, and land was taken care of. With all the challenges have come opportunities and opened doors to diversifying an operation and created niche and specialty markets. I think some of the shortages that were experienced this year have and may continue to shift how the average person decides to purchase goods, specifically food. This may create an opportunity for those that decide to take the leap of moving into the space of direct to consumer marketing. Also, with grass and feed supplies possibly being short, will there be more grazing opportunities to help implement cover crops with a return on investment while protecting and improving the soil?

This year has not been any less challenging for CCTA making decisions and planning our annual conference along with implementing the first year of the FARMS project across three states and multiple operations. We are lucky to have our director Joni Mitchek who has worked extremely hard on both the conference and FARMS along with her admin team, Lauren Hafford and Becky Ravenkamp, and all the other project partners to keep that moving forward despite the challenges everyone has faced. If you have not kept up to date on what FARMS is doing, I would encourage you to keep an eye out for updates on the website or in this Journal. We also have plans of highlighting the FARMS project and some of the producers and practices they are implementing at the annual conference. I think there will be a lot of great data to come over the next three years on how different practices can impact a farming operation economically as well as regarding soil health and sustainability.

Finally, the board has had many conversations about how to approach the 2021 conference with both health concerns and regulations in mind and how we can best manage these hurdles and still put on an event that is valuable for our attendees. Currently, we are still planning to move forward with our original date in February to host an in-person event. Unfortunately, some of this may fall out of our control if restrictions become strict enough that we are prevented from doing so. With that in mind we have implemented a backup date for later in the year if February becomes an impossible time to host the event. That timeline creates other challenges, but CCTA remains committed to hosting a conference that is worthwhile to attend to provide learning and networking opportunities for all to walk away with more connections, knowledge, and ideas than when they arrived. These next 4-6 weeks will be our determining factor of which date we move forward with. We hope to see you all soon!

- Cory Gilbert, CCTA President

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2021 Conference Keynote Feature

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Who would you like to hear from?

Submit speaker suggestions for future events to the CCTA Coordinator.

Alejandro Carrillo

Alejandro Carrillo's spent most of his summers since he was a kid on cattle ranches in the Chihuahuan desert, in northern Mexico. Tired of experiencing an on-going drought every year on his family ranch, he searched for other alternatives to manage his property. He attended his first Holistic Planned Grazing Management class back in 2006. From then on, he and his colleagues traveled around the world to improve their knowledge and learn how to apply it to brittle environments. Alejandro has been able to increase his carrying capacity by 3 times while reducing his inputs by half, making his operation profitable and robust even in challenging times. Before joining his family's ranch, Alejandro worked as an IT consultant in several countries. Alejandro holds a BS in Computer Science from Monterrey Tech and a MS in Technical Management from Johns Hopkins University.

Loran Steinlage

Loran Steinlage, Owner/Operator of FLOLOfarms, and his wife Brenda specialize in adapting practices and equipment to their unique location on the edge of the Driftless area.

The Steinlages are evolving to a companion and relay no-till cropping system that is focused on cycling plants to keep a living plant in the soil at all times and aid in moisture management and weed suppression. Currently producing corn, soybeans, cereal rye, winter wheat, malt barley and buckwheat, Loran also recently took on a role with DAWN Equipment/Underground Ag as an Infield Practical Field Engineer.

2021 Conference Keynote Feature

James White

James F. White is Professor of Plant Biology at Rutgers University in New Jersey where he and students conduct research on ecology of microbes that inhabit plants (endophytes). James White obtained the B.S. and M.S. degrees in Botany and Plant Pathology from Auburn University in Alabama, and the Ph.D. in Botany/Mycology from the University of Texas at Austin. James White is the author of more than 240 articles and book chapters, and author and editor of seven books on the biology of plant microbes, including Biotechnology of Acremonium Endophytes of Grasses (1994), Microbial Endophytes (2000), The Clavicipitalean Fungi (2004), The Fungal Community: Its Organization and Role in the Ecosystem (2005, 2017), Defensive Mutualism in Microbial Symbiosis (2009), and Seed Endophytes: Biology and Biotechnology (2019) and Microbial Inoculants and Other Microbiome Stimulants for Crops: Mechanisms and Applications (2021; Elsevier, In press). James White is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and Associate Editor for journals Symbiosis, Fungal Ecology, MycoScience, and Scientific Reports, and also serves as Chief Editor for the Plant-Microbe Interactions Section of the MDPI journal Microorganisms. James White received the Alexopoulos Research Prize in 1996 (Mycological Society of America), the Distinguished Research Award in 1994 (Auburn University Montgomery), and the Research Excellence Award in 1998 (Rutgers University). James White has presented extensively at international industry and academic conferences focused on regenerative agriculture, plant biostimulants and crop microbiomes; He has also done numerous webinars and podcasts on the same topics.

2021 Breakout Session Preview

We have a great lineup of speakers for the 2021 High Plains No-Till Conference!
Be sure to check out their session summaries in the next issue of the CCTA Journal.

Alejandro Carrillo
Consultant - Understanding Ag

Loran Steinlage
Regenerative Farmer - West Union, IA

John Niswonger
FARMS Producer - Wallace, KS

Mark Lohrding
Lohrding 3-Bar Ranch - Coldwater, KS

Paul Mussman
President - AgWest Commodities

Jenna Keller
Attorney - Keller Law, LLC

Patrick O'Neill
Soil Scientist - Soil Health Services

Andrew Reuschel
No-Till Producer - Golden, Ill.

Clint Frese
Co-Founder - Bio Ag Management

Doug Garrison
FARMS Producer - Malcolm, NE

Kevin Wiltse
FARMS Producer - Timken, KS

James White
Professor of Plant Biology - Rutgers University

Jeff Steffen
FARMS Producer - Crofton, NE

Roy Pfaltzgraff
FARMS Producer - Haxtun, CO

Kristina Reindl
Microbiologist - Next Level Ag

Paul Drache
Regional Manager - Central Life Sciences

Dale Strickler
Agronimist - Green Cover Seed

Scott Scheimer
Developer, CEO - Simple Farms App

Topics Include:

Greening the Desert
Estate Planning
Market Outlook
Composting
Diversifying Your Crop Rotation
Interseeding
Pasture Cropping
Regenerative Economics
How Plants Farm Soil Microbes
Fertility Management
Managing Bugs in Grain
Building Drought Resiliency
Cows Instead of Combines
Weather
And More!

2021 High Plains No-Till Conference Registration

Feb. 2-3, 2021 (Alternate Date Aug. 17-18, 2021)

Registration fee is the same for attending one or both days (except students).
Payment methods 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

Please note that CCTA is making every effort to host an in-person event in February. However, if local restrictions prohibit this, attendee registrations will be automatically transferred to the alternate date, August 17-18, 2021.

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

FARMS
Farmers Advancing Regenerative Management Systems

2020 - Project in Review

- Soil sampling
- Nutrient density sampling
- Barriers to Adoption Interviews
- Soil Evaluation Tools
- Comprehensive Plans
- Cover Crops Webinar
- Grazing Field Day

Looking Forward - 2021

- Soil analysis
- Nutrient density analysis
- Soil health roundtables
- Economic evaluation
- Social network analysis
- Practice verification
- Farm visits

www.farmsproject.org

Holistic Management International Online Courses

Holistic Financial Planning

Dates: April 13-May 18 (2-4 hours each week)

Scholarship Deadline: April 5, 2021

Registration Deadline: April 13, 2021

Registration Fee: $350

This course provides key financial principles that help you learn how to work on your business, not just in your business. This simple approach to financial planning will help you understand the big picture view as well as make critical production decisions based on a clear sense of cost of production for different enterprises. You will develop a financial plan and identify ways to implement and monitor that plan. You'll learn the key economic analysis tools for improved financial decisions for both annual budgets and for long-term investment.

- Develop a financial plan which will consist of a yearly budget.
- Determine current net worth and projected net worth at year end to analyze effectiveness of financial investments.
- Develop enterprise analysis for each enterprise (up to 3 enterprises) to move from a production focus to a profit focus.
- Be able to analyze expenses and investment allocation strategies so you can better determine return on investment (up to 3 investments).
- Be able to analyze livestock production strategies and ramifications on financial planning (for those working with livestock).

Holistic Grazing Planning

Dates: Feb. 22-March 29 (2-4 hours each week)

Scholarship Deadline: Feb. 14, 2021

Registration Deadline: Feb. 22, 2021

Registration Fee: $350

In this course you will learn the key grazing planning principles and practices for improving land health and productivity. You will learn the steps to this simple approach to grazing planning so that you can better analyze and address critical grazing considerations, as well as determine forage inventory, animal needs, and grazing and recovery periods. Once you have clarity about these parameters you will learn how to develop and communicate to others a written grazing plan.

- You'll develop a grazing plan which will consist of a grazing map and grazing chart that identifies key management issues, estimated forage production, actual forage utilization, and livestock moves to maximize forage production and animal performance.
- Explore issues around grazing and recovery periods.
- Discuss options for grazing implementation and how they influence infrastructure development and animal performance.

Stacey Masters
General Manager
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Free Playa Lake Workshop Set for January 2021

Want to know more about playas, the benefits they provide, and how to make them work for you? Register now for the 5th Annual Playa Lake Tour and Workshop, hosted by Ducks Unlimited, on January 12 and 13, 2021, at the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland, Kansas. The event is free for landowners and tenants with playa lakes on their land and includes lunch both days.

This event is designed for landowners and land managers who have playas on their land, but is also open to individuals who are interested in learning more about this unique natural resource. Participants will learn about playas, the benefits they provide including groundwater recharge and wildlife habitat, and the conservation programs available for restoring and conserving playas.

The two-day event will begin on Tuesday, January 12, with a field tour including visits to a few playas in Sherman County that are enrolled in various conservation programs. Attendees will see what playas may look like before, during, and after being accepted into a conservation program and using different management strategies to restore the health of a playa. There will also be opportunities to have open discussions about the pros and cons of each conservation program.

The workshop will continue on Wednesday, January 13, at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, where participants will learn about the latest playa research, why playas are so important to the high plains ecosystem, and available playa conservation programs. There will also be an open discussion session where attendees can ask questions of technical staff and landowners who are participating in conservation programs and meet local staff who can give expert advice about playa lakes and playa restoration programs.

Due to covid-19, social distancing and other precautions will be observed during the field tour, with participants driving their own vehicles to the playa sites. For the workshop portion, the college has also made accommodations to allow for social distancing, and there will be virtual conferencing options available as well for those who prefer not to attend in person.

The Playa Lake Tour and Workshop is free for landowners and tenants with playa lakes on their land and includes lunch both days. For others who would like to attend, there is a $50 fee which also covers lunch. Registration is required. To learn more, contact your local Kansas Ducks Unlimited staff.

Contact Information
Abe Lollar
620-214-2693
alollar@ducks.org

Joe Kramer
620-388-5878
jkramer@ducks.org

DUCKS UNLIMITED

WAGNER CAT

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2021 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.

Booth spaces are assigned based on level of sponsorship, then on a first-come, first-served basis. 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.

Additional questions may be directed to Joni Mitchek at:
coordinator@highplainsnotill.com or **1-833-4No-Till.**

2021 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*

Additional Opportunities:

____ Outside Equipment Display - $250
____ Sponsored Breakout Session - $500
____ Conference Attendee Packet Insert - $80
(Must fit in attendee bags and be 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.

The conference is currently scheduled for Feb. 2-3, 2021, but this is subject to change based on COVID restrictions that may be in place at that time. Sponsors will be notified immediately if the event is rescheduled.

*Please contact CCTA for details.

23929 County Road 16, Kit Carson, CO 80825

2020 Fall Issue

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

Issue # 2020.3

$130 Early Registration Ends Jan. 15th!

Alternate Date Aug. 17-18, 2021

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.