

Ohio No-Till News

Randall Reeder, OSU Extension Agricultural Engineer (retired), writes this page, with input from the Ohio No-till Council members.



OhioCorn.org



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Ohio No-Till Conference attracted 234

Frank Gibbs, Nathan Wilson and Fishers Ag Service were honored by the Ohio No-till Council at the Dec. 6 conference at Plain City.

Nathan Wilson, Pickaway County, was recognized as the outstanding no-till farmer. The previous issue of Ohio's Country Journal (January 2018) has an excellent cover story about the Wilson family farm.

Frank Gibbs received the award given annually to an Educator or Researcher. He retired in 2012 after 36 years as a soil scientist with USDA-NRCS in northwest Ohio and started his own business, Wetland and Soil



Ohio No-Till Council President Jan Layman (right) presented plaques to honorees Frank Gibbs and Nathan Wilson. (Butch Fisher of Fishers Ag Service could not attend.)

Consulting Services LLC. He has conducted numerous soil training sessions across the country for farmers, environmentalists, crop advisers, sanitarians, contractors, soil scientists and agency personnel. He is a frequent speaker at Ohio No-Till Council events and CTC, including the upcoming CTC March 6-7.

Frank is best known for his "Smoking Tile" demonstrations which show the role of earthworm holes and other macropores in transporting rainfall into and through the soil. He concludes, "Soil health is important and so



Federal policy and the upcoming Farm Bill provided for a lively discussion by an outstanding panel moderated by Joel Penhorwood (left). Bill Richards, Fred Yoder and Mark Smith commented and responded to questions.

is drainage. Good water deserves good soil. Healthy soils absorb and hold water for the crop and reduce runoff."

Fishers Ag Service of Cardington received the Ohio No-till Business Award. Butch Fisher (who could not attend the program) began aerial application in 1975, and cover crop seeding has been part of the business ever since. He seeds between 25,000 and 40,000 acres each year. Fishers Ag Service has four jet powered aircraft operating in about 20 Ohio counties.

Scholarships were given to two students, Chet Margraf of McCutchenville,

Upcoming No-Till Events

Jan. 19, 2018

All-Ohio SWCS Conf.,
Der Dutchman, Plain City

March 6-7, 2018

Conservation Tillage
Conference, Ada

April 4, 2018

Ohio No-till (Spring) Field
Day, David Brandt's,
Fairfield County



Steve Groff (left) and Bill Lehmkuhl responded to questions from the audience about planter topics, especially concerning cover crops.

and Bernard Kuether, a student at OSU-ATI in Wooster. Each scholarship is for \$500.

In a short business session, two new members of the Board of Directors were elected: Nathan Brause, Seneca County; and Keith Dennis, Perry County. They replace long-serving members Bob Hendershot and Bob Featheringill.

CTC will feature Healthy Soils and much more

The Conservation Tillage Conference will be March 6-7, 2018 at Ohio Northern University in Ada. In addition to several of our usual concurrent sessions we have a 2-day special program, Healthy Soils for Healthy Waters. It will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel. The Nutrient Management session also starts at 8:00. The General Session opens at 9:00 and includes awards and

keynote speaker, David Montgomery, author of "Growing a Revolution: Bringing our Soil back to Life."

Starting at 10:30, four concurrent sessions take over, including the two listed above. The Tuesday program includes Corn University and Precision Ag & Digital Technologies.

The Wednesday lineup of concurrent sessions includes: the second day of

Healthy Soils for Healthy Waters; Soybean School; Water Quality Research and BMPs; Alternative Crops (half day); and Slugs, voles and other varmints (half day).

The schedule includes about 60 speakers. By mid-January details of topics/speakers will be posted on the website: ctc.osu.edu. You can register online or by mail. The registration costs have been frozen at the same rate again:

\$85 for both days or \$65 for one.

CCA credits will be available, with an emphasis on Soil & Water, Nutrient Management, and Crop Management. Certified Livestock Manager (CLM) credits will also be available. Details will be posted in February.

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