

Ohio No-Till News

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

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Conservation Tillage Conference: Transition to No-till, Conservation Planning and more

Jonathan Lundgren, an agroecologist who was formerly a top scientist for 11 years with USDA-ARS, will speak twice at CTC. On March 7, his topic will be "Managing pests with Mother Nature" (during the Corn University session), and on March 8 he will speak during the Soil Health session on "Farms and pollinators: why farmers should care about the bees."

Dr. Lundgren's research program focuses on assessing the ecological risk of pest management strategies and developing long-term solutions for sustainable food systems. His ecological research focuses heavily on conserving healthy biological communities within agroecosystems by reducing disturbance (no-till) and increasing biodiversity. He assesses the ecological risk of pest management strategies and develops long-term solutions. He published a book, "Relationships of Natural Enemies and Non-prey Foods."

The annual Conservation Tillage Conference will be held at Ohio Northern University in Ada, the 25th year it has been at ONU.

On March 7 the main program starts with the General Session at 9:00 a.m. (30 minutes earlier than previously). Awards will be presented by Ohio Farmer magazine and Ohio Certified Crop Advisers. The keynote presentation by Paul Jasa, University of Nebraska, will follow.

Note that an Advanced Cover Crops session will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the

Chapel and run all day Tuesday.

The full program and Registration details are online at: ctc.osu.edu. Look for changes/additions in speakers and topics. CCA and CLM credits will be posted as soon as possible. Also connect with us on Facebook: Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference.

The Tuesday sessions were described in the mid-January issue of OCJ.

Here is more information on the March 8 (Wednesday) lineup. We have four concurrent sessions: Soybean School; Quantifying Soil Health; Conducting On farm Research: Does it Really Work? (half day); Transition to No-Till (half day); and Conservation Assessment and Planning. The Soil Health and On-farm Research sessions start at 8:00, and the other two will start at 8:30. Sessions will end about 4:30 p.m.

Farmers are recognizing the value of soil health, and that biological properties can be as important as chemical and physical properties. The "Quantifying Soil Health" session will have several presentations by OSU scientists (including Steve Culman, Vijay Chaganti, Alan Sundermeier, Vinayak Shedekar, Rafiq Islam and Ye Xia), plus Shawn Lucas on "The livestock under your feet," followed by Jonathan Lundgren. Then Jay Brandt of Walnut Creek Seeds, and Jim Hoorman, USDA-NRCS, discuss how cover crops enhance Mycorrhizae colonization.



Dr. Jonathan Lundgren

A new session, "Conservation Assessment and Planning," begins with 3 engineers from USDA-ARS (Kevin King, Lindsay Pease, and Emily Duncan) discussing results of Edge of Field research, how various structures between the field and stream can improve water quality, and how soil stratification affects movement of Phosphorus. Other topics include: Tile mapping with drones, by Barry Allred, USDA-ARS; Interpreting soil tests, by Kip Struder, ODA; Nutrient management planning, by Greg LaBarge, OSU; Conservation BMPs, by Justin McBride, ODA engineer; Conservation assistance programs, by Megan Burgess, USDA-NRCS; Using AgSolver's Profit Zone Manager to focus on conservation, by Michael Retterer; and Nutrient application regulations, by Matt Lane, ODA.

The "Conducting On-farm Research" session includes presenta-

Upcoming No-Till Events

March 7-8, 2017 (Tues.-Wed.)

Conservation Tillage Conf., Ada

Apr. 5, 2017

Ohio No-Till (spring) Field Day, David Brandt Farm, Carroll

July 26, 2017

No-till (summer) Field Day, Les Seiler Farm, Fulton County

Dec. 6, 2017

Ohio No-Till Conf., Der Dutchman, Plain City

Jan. 9-12, 2018

National No-Till Conf., Louisville, Ky.

tions by Elizabeth Hawkins and Curtis Young, both OSU. The new afternoon session, "Transitioning to No-till," includes presentations on managing fertility, insects and weeds during the transition from tillage.

"Soybean School" will focus on economics, saving money in 2017. Speakers include: Emerson Nafziger, U. of Illinois; Shaun Casteel, Purdue; Shawn Conley, Wisconsin; Laura Lindsey, OSU; Mark Loux, OSU; and an ag economist to be named later.

Three of these sessions are sponsored by Ag Credit, Seed Consultants and The Nature Conservancy.

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