



NEWS YOU CAN USE ~ DECEMBER 30, 2017

A monthly collection of recent news, upcoming events, and articles of interest

Alliance News



[Above Left: Participants listen intently as featured speaker Gail Fuller shares his experiences. Above Right: Secretary Redding commends the group for their interest in healthy soils.]

Soil Health Meeting

On December 7, 120 attendees were treated to an insightful program focused on soil health and related no-Till topics. Featured speaker, Gail Fuller of Emporia Kansas made two presentations. The first, titled *Back to the Future* focused on his personal extensive experience with no-till practices and a wide variety of cover crops. His thought provoking afternoon session, *2050 and Beyond*, explored the broader impacts of healthy soils on the environment, non-farm issues and society in general.

Other segments included a panel on slug control, and presentations on cover crops and water quality and successful no-tilling of tobacco and vegetables. Concluding the day Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding reminded everyone that “agriculture is truly the foundation of a civil society”, stating that “at the end of the day it’s all about the land” and commending those in attendance on their recognition of the importance of healthy soils.



Board Members Participate in Extension No-Till Meetings

On back-to-back days in mid-December, Board Members Jim Hershey, Jeff Frey, and Leroy Bupp were all key presenters at Extension sponsored no-till days in Lancaster and Berks counties. Their message was well-received, as detailed in an article from Lancaster Farming. [Click here](#) to view article.

[Left: Leroy Bupp provides a wealth of information to attendees at Penn State Extension sponsored events.]

Reminder: It's Time to Renew Your Membership for 2018

If you have not yet done so, please take time to renew your membership in the PA No-Till Alliance. Notices were mailed earlier this month and many of you have responded. If you have not yet sent in your renewal, there's still time!

The Alliance Continues Efforts to Spread the Word on No-Till

An important part of fulfilling the No-Till Alliance mission is outreach to other farmers. It will continue those efforts this winter by co-sponsoring these events:

- Three Farmer Soil Health Breakfast Meetings, co-sponsored with the Clinton County Conservation District, on January 6, February 3, and March 3. For more information contact Lisa Blazure at LBlazure@ClintonCountyPA.com.
- A Union County Soil Health Day on February 5, featuring the well-respected Brendon Rockey, co-sponsored with the Union County Conversation District. For more information contact Bill Deitrick at bdeitrick@unionco.org.

The Alliance will also help sponsor and have a display at the Western PA Regional Soil Health Workshop on March 8 in Butler, PA with Board member Leroy Bupp as a featured presenter. For more information contact Andy Gaver at 724-482-4800 ext. 3.

No-Till and Cover Crop Display at the Farm Show

Through its association with PennAg, the Alliance has been assisting with the development of a stewardship/conservation display at the 2018 Farm Show in January. A nearly 5000 sq. ft. "field" has been established with full-sized equipment taking it from bare residue covered ground, through growing cover crops, to a roller-equipped no-till planter and ending with live, growing corn, soybeans and snap beans.



Another section features smaller scale no-till practices with a two row no-till vegetable and tobacco transplanter and a two row no-till corn planter. Crops shown will be sweet corn, snap beans and tomatoes. Finally, there is a buffered and fenced off flowing stream.

Educational signs will be placed throughout explaining the "how and why" and benefits of each practice. If you're attending the Farm Show, which runs January 5-13, come look for this display in the Main Expo Hall!

Thank You Alliance Sponsors

Each year, a number of sponsors step-up to partner with the Alliance in fulfilling our mission to promote the successful application of no-till through shared ideas, experiences, education, and new technology. Without their invaluable support, the Alliance would not be able to have the success it enjoys. We appreciate your support in 2017 and hope you will continue to support our efforts in 2018!

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Happy New Year to all our No-Till Friends!

Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance

2215 Forest Hills Drive, Suite 39, Harrisburg, PA 17112

www.panotill.org