



Farmers Improving Soil Health

NEWS YOU CAN USE ~ July 17, 2017

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

Cover Crops: Keeping It Simple

Planting Green Guide to be Released at Annual Field Day

With increased interest in planting green and many Alliance members sharing experiences with this practice, the Alliance has developed a Planting Green Guide to be released at the annual Field Day (see details below). It joins the popular 'No-Till Tips' and 'Cover Crop Tips' as valuable resources for farmers adopting these important soil health practices.



Pre-Register by Friday, July 21 to attend the event for FREE

The Alliance's always popular and informative Soil Health Field Day is set to be held on July 27 at Board member, Jeff Frey's farm near Willow Street in Lancaster County. This can't-miss-event for no-till and cover crop advocates will feature an interesting and informative program including well-known keynote speaker Steve Berger, and several farmer panels on timely topics.

- Meeting of the Minds event the evening before
- Soil Health Demonstration
- Engaging Panel Discussions
 - 1. Practical Experience / Lessons Learned when Planting Green
 - 2. How to Grow Your Own Cover Crop Seed
 - 3. Why Water Quality Matters
 - 4. Summer / Alternative Forage Options

FREE cover crop seed to be given away! Exhibition of various farmer-owned no-till planters on display at the farm! If pre-registered by July 21, both the **Meeting of the Minds** and the **Field Day** are FREE. Pre-register via email (jhowes@pennag.com), calling 717-651-5920, or mailing the form found on the [brochure](#). If not pre-registered, cost to attend each event is \$10, collected at the event.

Alliance News

Outreach Effort: Mini-Field Days

The Alliance is interested in having one or two "mini-field day" type events in conjunction with Stroud Water Resources Center this summer or early fall in eastern Lebanon or Berks Co. If you would be interested in hosting or helping to coordinate such an event, or know someone who might, please contact Jay Howes at jhowes@pennag.com.

"Planting Green" Demo a Hit at 'Farming for Success' Event

During the PSU *Farming for Success* field day on June 29, one of the most popular demonstrations was on planting green. No-Till Alliance president Jim Hershey moderated the presentation with board members Lucas Criswell and Steve Groff contributing their insights as well. Then Alliance member Lynn Fahnestock offered his thoughts and demonstrated the practice with his own planter. As you will note in the picture below, Department of Ag Secretary Russell Redding was one of numerous interested observers. Later in the day the Secretary stopped by the Alliance

booth and further discussed no-till and cover crop techniques with member Steve Groff.

Nearly 200 farmers and industry partners attended this annual educational field Day and it was a great opportunity for the Alliance to spread its message about the importance of no-till and cover crops to soil health and water quality.



Upcoming Events

July 27

The Alliance's always popular and informative **Soil Health Field Day** is set for July 27 at Board member, Jeff Frey's farm near Willow Street in Lancaster County. FREE cover crop seed to be given away! Exhibition of various farmer-owned no-till planters on display at the farm! **Reminder:** If pre-registered by July 21, both the *Meeting of the Minds* and the *Field Day* are FREE. If not pre-registered, cost to attend each event is \$10, collected at the event.

August 3

Join the PennAg Agronomic Products Council and Seed Council for their annual **Summer Tour** on Thursday, August 3! This year's event will feature visits to Herr's Potato Chip Factory in Nottingham, PA and Limeville Quarry in Gap, PA. Deadline to register is July 27. The cost to register is \$40/person. (Registration cost covers bus transportation, tours, snacks and lunch.) Sponsorships are also being accepted to help cover the cost of the event.

August 15-17

Ag Progress Days features the latest technology and research exhibits, educational programs, and guided tours. Sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, the event is held at the *Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs*, nine miles southwest of State College, PA. It is one of only three agricultural exhibitions in the country sponsored by a major University. Exhibits showcase the latest in Penn State research, as well as information on best management practices and changing regulations in the agricultural industry. Come visit the No-Till Alliance at booth CEA-01!

December 7

Mark your calendars now for an all-day **Soil Health and Water Quality Program** that will build on a similar successful event in 2016. Event to be held at Shady Maple Banquet Center, East Earl, Pennsylvania.

Ag Articles of Interest

EPA, U.S. Army Move to Rescind 2015 WOTUS

The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Army, and Army Corps of Engineers (the agencies) are proposing a rule to rescind the Clean Water Rule and re-codify the regulatory text that existed prior to 2015 defining "waters of the United States" or WOTUS. This action would, when finalized, provide certainty in the interim, pending a second rulemaking in which the agencies will engage in a substantive re-evaluation of the definition of "waters of the United States." The proposed rule would be implemented in accordance with Supreme Court decisions, agency guidance, and longstanding practice. [Read more.](#)

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