



Farmers Improving Soil Health

NEWS YOU CAN USE ~ MARCH 31, 2017

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

Welcome!

The mission of PennAg Industries Association is: "Working to create and maintain an effective, viable and competitive environment for Pennsylvania agribusiness to grow and prosper." In striving to employ that statement, we are pleased to welcome the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance to the PennAg family.

As an association, we make an effort to look outward to connect with, and provide administrative leadership to, organizations with similar goals and objectives of PennAg. By developing a relationship, we endeavor to provide a shared benefit to both organizations and strengthen Pennsylvania agriculture in the process. Over the past several months, the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance and PennAg have entertained these discussions and have agreed to work together through a contractual arrangement.

The Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance Board of Directors is a very passionate group, committed to educating farmers about soil health and covercrops. At PennAg we are excited, and honored, to work with this Board, maximizing the opportunities to spread their important message to more farmers and to the general public.

Christian R. Herr, *Executive Vice President*, **PennAg Industries Association**

Alliance News

Alliance Board Meets

On Thursday, March 23rd, the Board of Directors of the No-Till Alliance met for a morning-long meeting. In addition to the routine "business" of the association, there was lengthy and productive discussion of future plans and activities related to the mission of the Alliance. Watch future newsletters for more details!

Pennsylvania In The Balance

Last March, a number of the Alliance Board members participated with approximately 120 other Pennsylvania stakeholders in a "**PA in the Balance**" conference intended to develop a strategy to ensure a vibrant and productive agricultural sector while meeting water quality goals. *Alliance President Jim Hershey currently serves as one of the producer members of the Pennsylvania In The Balance Council.* Below are links to further information:

1. [PA In The Balance – Conference Report](#)
2. [Report Sees Farmers Playing Key Role in Meeting Water-Quality Goals](#)

10th Anniversary Video Released

After a long delay, this video, which was made to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the creation of The PA No-Till Alliance, was recently released. We hope you find it interesting.



A Tip from Stroud Water Resources Center (A Key Partner of the Alliance)

David Wise, Watershed Restoration Manager at Stroud Water Resources Center, recently called our attention to the [USDA-NRCS webinars](#) link. Alliance members may want to check this out since there are numerous links to no-till and soil health topics, as well as many related practices.

Upcoming Events

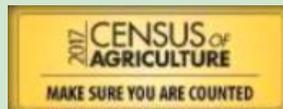
June 29

A 'Farming for Success' field day will be held on June 29 at the Southeast Agricultural Research & Extension Center (SEAREC) in Lancaster County. Stay tuned for further details in future newsletters.

July 27

Mark your calendars now for the Alliance's **Soil Health Field Day** on July 27 at Board member, Jeff Frey's farm near Willow Street in Lancaster County. Plans are presently taking shape for an interesting and informative program including a well-known keynote speaker and several farmer panels on timely topics. Watch for more information in future newsletters.

Ag Articles of Interest



2017 Census of Agriculture - Make Sure You are Counted

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during a Census year. The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures. For America's farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future, and their opportunity. *(Click on the gold Census of Agriculture button above to complete the survey.)*

Chesapeake Bay Compliance Infographic

[Click here](#) to view an easy-to-understand outline of how Chesapeake Bay compliance for the 2025 goals should work. The graphic shows "Local Government Engagement and Communication during the Chesapeake Bay Midpoint Assessment and Phase III WIP Development (April 2016–December 2018)." *(Version 1, released February 2017)*

Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance

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