

Communication Network Conference Call - August 7, 2007

Communication Network

Conference Call

Tuesday, Aug 7, 2007 at 11 a.m. (eastern).

Call-in number: 765-496-3791

Participants:

Kirk Iverson

Sjoerd Duiker

Jeff McClellon

Jimmy Dean

Russ Evans

Pawel Wiatrak

Brian Noyes

Tim Healey

Peter Gamache

Karen Scanlon

Agenda:

* Update on network activities

* News from groups

* Review of goals/objectives (make sure you review them!)

* Continued discussion about setting date/location of network meeting

Summary:

Updates

Network members are encouraged to use the discussion forum on the network web page:

http://www.conservationinformation.org/?action=learningcenter_commmnetwork

Additional information will be added and group information will be updated in the coming weeks.

Emailed Doug McNell in early July; haven't heard from him. Peter volunteered to follow up with Doug.

Pennsylvania No Till Alliance – Planning a winter conference -- Professional Crop Producers Conference -- and will be teaming with PA Corn Growers, Forest and Grassland and Soybean Board. Location will be State College, PA, March 4-6, 2008. Goal is to put on world class conference with world class speakers.

Also – legislation recently passed to create \$10 mil pool for tax incentives used for conservation practices. Got no-till equipment listed specifically as qualified for tax rebate (up to 50% of purchase price can be returned to purchaser as tax credit).

Reduced Tillage LINKAGES – FarmTech, agronomy conference, will be Jan 30, 31, Feb 1 in Edmonton, Alberta.. Last year had 1300 attendees. Not exclusively no-till, but it is emphasized. Nov 21-22 is all no-till meeting -- Direct Seed Advantage, which attracts about 150 people.

Sjoerd Duiker – going to South America on Sunday to attend APPRESID conference in Argentina. Then visit farmers and researchers in Argentina. Then to Paraguay for tour with Rolf Derpsch. Then to South Brazil to visit with cooperative there to learn about no-till there. Want to learn about no-till in South America.

Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Assn. – two ongoing pilot projects: mentoring program (CIG) to link direct seeder with intensive tillage guy to work on 100 acres (just put notice out); capturing carbon offset credits for adoption of precision ag technologies, 25,000 acres(10-15 growers) calculate offsets thru adoption of technologies

Innovative Cropping Systems – In the last quarter of CIG ('04) and will ask for extension to collect research data. Project to do research and outreach to determine value of environmental credits through no-till system: measure carbon and nitrogen in long-term CNT system; also look at innovative practices to add on to basic no-till (cover crops, timing of planting, N added for better uptake, Greenseeker, etc.). Spinoff project: contract with county to look at feasibility of trading program with land developers.

Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance – planning '08 mtg. Tifton, Ga....want to get farmers attending

Kirk Iversen – CIG grant to work w/small veg grower; heavy residue NT organic. "CT Guide for SE" moving forward. A new farmer organization is forming in Alabama. It is linked w/ farmer federation.

Review of goals discussion from last call

Do we need to add a goal that indicates where we want to go with adoption of no-till/direct seed? "Increase adoption of no-till" add "continuous improvement of no-till systems" not static but continually improving.

Another suggestion is to identify the need for helping those with some implementation of no-till to take their conservation efforts to the next level. Provide incentive for everyone to do more.

We decided it that the discussion of goals would be more productive during our face-to-face meeting.

Possible dates/locations for in-person meeting of network

Here's what we're looking at:

2-day meeting (perhaps one of those days will include a field trip)

Early to middle of December 2007

Possible locations:

Atlanta, Georgia

Dallas, Texas

Tampa/Orlando, FL

Richmond, Va

CTIC will have some funds available to support travel for representatives from the organizations to attend this meeting. The funds are precious and will be spent only if the meeting is guaranteed to happen with a majority of the network members in attendance. Serious consideration must be given to the time and place so as to maximize the number of people who can attend.

CTIC will investigate specific locations and times and send out the details to the group.

NEXT CALL

Sept. 11, 2007 at 11 am (eastern) (I suggest moving the call to the second Tuesday because some folks may not be available because of the holiday on Sept. 3).

The call-in number will be distributed prior to the call.