

No-Till Notes:
“Gering No Till Conference”

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No Till on the Plains has put together a tremendous group of speakers for their two-day conference at the Gering Civic center on Nov. 14-15. I would encourage everyone who has interest in production agriculture to attend this event. The speakers will cover a wide range of topics relating to no till farming, soil fertility, soil quality, incorporating no till and livestock production, water management, and on the farm experiences with no till farming.

I have known some of these speakers for quite some time and they have been very instrumental in the success of our operation. Dr. Dwayne Beck started my no till education process in 1993. Dwayne introduced me to the possibilities of no till farming in our region, and he continues to give me valuable instruction. Looking back over my years of learning from Dwayne, I can't remember any instance when he has given me advice that proved to be wrong.

I met Dr. Ray Ward only a few years ago and wish it had been earlier. Dr. Ward is a walking encyclopedia on soil and how soil's properties relate to production agriculture. Ray presents his knowledge in a manner which is easy to follow and makes sense to a farmer. Be sure to ask Ray lots of questions and enjoy his presentation at this meeting.

Dr. Gary Hergert has a wealth of knowledge relating to soils, limited water, no till and how they all interact together in our area. We are fortunate to have Gary in our back yard as a valuable asset for agriculture in our area. Gary has been working on no till, residue, and limited irrigation for years and is more than willing to share his experiences with producers.

I have attended several no till field days where Bud Davis has done his Rainfall Simulator demonstrations. Bud does an excellent job in presenting to the audience the benefits of building soil quality and managing residue to improve water infiltration in your soil. Getting water past the surface and absorbed into the soil is critical to production agriculture and Bud's demonstration does an excellent job of showing how residue and soil quality help this process.

I will also be conducting a break-out session called No Till 101. I'll share with you my first-hand experiences and some basic concepts of no till economics. As a producer have attended numerous conferences, meetings, and field days over the years and I always walk away learning something I hadn't considered before. Educating yourself is a great way to understand no till farming and how this system can benefit your operation.

Don't miss this great opportunity. Registration and full agenda and speaker information is available at http://www.notill.org/past_conf/gering_07/gering_07.htm. See you there!