



No-till on the Plains
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SOIL HEALTH WORKSHOP SET FOR SOUTHWESTERN KANSAS IN AUGUST

FEATURING DYNAMIC INDUSTRY SPEAKERS TO ENHANCE GROWERS BOTTOM LINE

A soil health workshop will take place next month to help growers understand and implement modern practices in caring for the land.

No-till on the Plains, a farmer-led soil health leadership organization, will host a field day on August 22 on Fiekert Farms and at the American Legion Hall, 101 S. Nebraska Ave., Bucklin, Kan. Registration begins at 8 a.m. A full day of activities is planned in the Bucklin area designed to inform new producers and enhance current methods used to protect and produce agriculture products.

The first tour stop will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Feikert Farms, north of Bucklin, and will feature cover crops, grazing forages, pollinator planting for sugar cane aphid control and soils demonstrations. At noon the group will return to the American Legion Hall for a rainfall simulator demonstration then enjoy lunch at no charge.

The afternoon session begins with Meagan Schipanski, assistant professor at Colorado State University, who will present more information on the cover crop grazing study being conducted on Feikert Farms. No-till on the Plains Board Member and grower/stockman Jimmy Emmons will speak next about his 2,000 acre farm in Dewey County, Okla. Emmons manages a wheat, irrigated dairy alfalfa hay, wheat-canola rotation and cow-calf operation – all with soil health in mind and will share how to utilize cover crops for forage to improve soil health and production on both cropland and rangeland. Jimmy will discuss how he has transformed his farm using soil health principles.

At 2:45 p.m. the field day will feature Almena, Kansas grower/stockman Michael Thompson. Thompson farms with his father and brother in northwestern Kansas and southwestern Neb., to grow wheat, corn, oats, barley and cover crop cocktails. The ranch includes a cow/calf operation that grazes on native range and diverse cover crops on farmland acres. Thompson is committed to soil health and improving the acreage currently farmed by using cover crops, high stock density rotational grazing, and a zero-tillage approach to improve his farm and ranch land.

The final event of the day will feature a question and answer session with each speaker, allowing attendees to ask questions and gain face-to-face answers with the industry leaders featured at the field day.

There is no charge for the event and lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is encouraged to ensure enough meals are available. Visit notill.org or call (785) 210-4549 for more information.

Registration for the Bucklin field day is available on the No-till on the Plains website, <http://notill.org/events/soil-health-workshop-0>

This educational event is funded through a grant to Oklahoma State University Extension from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and support from Green Cover Seed.

No-till on the Plains hosts an annual conference to educate growers about soil health. The next Winter Conference is set for January 30-31, 2018 at Century II Convention Center, Wichita, Kan. More information, including registration, can be found at notill.org.