



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
**COVER CROPS
& SOIL HEALTH**
**HARVESTING
THE POTENTIAL**

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2014

Hilton Omaha Hotel • Omaha, Nebraska

P R E L I M I N A R Y P R O G R A M



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This conference is intended to highlight the latest information on cover crops and soil health practices, as well as to discuss the role of industry leaders, government agencies, farm organizations, scientists, and educators in advancing soil health and the use of cover crops. Both plenary and breakout sessions will focus on progress and prospects for further conservation advancements and the benefits for farmers and the farm industries that are engaged with these practices.

Who Will Participate:

This is a "by invitation only" event. Expected attendance is approximately 300 participants consisting of farm industry representatives, leading farmers, university extension and research, USDA agency representatives (NRCS, ARS, FSA, RMA, and others), farm and conservation organizations, funders, and farm media. The audience will be a mix of individuals with prior cover crops experience and those who are relatively new to cover crops and soil health issues. A top notch group of speakers and discussion leaders has been confirmed for this conference, including agency, industry, and scientific leaders and some of the most innovative farmers working with cover crops and soil health improvements. Keynote presenters include Howard G. Buffett, President of the HGB Foundation; Paul Schickler, President of DuPont Pioneer; and Tom Vilsack, US Secretary of Agriculture (invited).

What to Expect at the Conference:

The first day of the conference will be devoted to plenary and breakout sessions focused on the latest progress with cover crops and soil health, spanning conservation policy, field equipment and technology, nutrient management, cover crop selection, and other specific practices. The second day of the conference will be focused on breakouts that dive into the action steps needed to build further progress with cover crops and soil health, as well as the opportunities for the agriculture industry, farmers, scientists, NGO groups, and agencies to catalyze these advancements.

Special Events:

Participants should plan to travel to Omaha, Nebraska, on Monday, February 17, to attend the Exhibitor Reception. The reception will take place on Monday evening from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be provided.

Conference Organization and Funding:

This conference is being jointly funded by the USDA-NIFA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. A diverse committee of cover crop and soil health experts has planned

the program, including representatives of USDA-NRCS staff and the Midwest Cover Crops Council. Logistics for the conference are being handled by the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Cost to Participate:

Invited participants will receive complimentary registration and meals provided at the conference. This includes the Monday evening reception, breakfast and lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday, and dinner on Tuesday evening. Participants will also receive two nights of complimentary lodging at the Hilton Omaha Hotel, on Monday, February 17, and Tuesday, February 18. Participants requiring an additional night of lodging on Wednesday, February 19, should contact Kim Johnson-Smith (kim.johnson-smith@swcs.org) to make special arrangements.

Please Note: Travel arrangements and expenses will be the responsibility of invitees.

National Broadcast Summit:

In an effort to involve thousands of additional individuals, the morning plenary sessions occurring between 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. CDT, will be video-broadcast to over 200 NRCS and agriculture extension offices across the country. Those office locations hosting the broadcast will be publicly advertised in advance and open to any interested participants, including farmers, industry representatives, and others. Following the conclusion of the national video broadcast, remote location facilitators will facilitate discussion about local use of cover crops and soil health improvements.

Please Note:

Offices in Pacific Time zone will be tape delayed.

For more information on program details, contact Dr. Rob Myers, conference chair and Regional Director of Extension Programs with NCR-SARE, phone 573-882-1547, email myersrob@missouri.edu.

For complete conference details, visit www.sites.google.com/a/swcs.org/2014-omaha-cover-crops-conference

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Time	Monday, February 17, 2014	Location
4:00PM - 6:00PM	Registration Open	Grand Central Ballroom Foyer
5:00PM - 7:00PM	Reception with Exhibitors (cash bar)	Blackstone Ballroom

Time	Tuesday, February 18, 2014	Location
7:00AM - 5:00PM	Registration Open	Grand Central Ballroom Foyer
7:15 AM - 8:15AM	Continental Breakfast	Grand Central Ballroom
8:15AM - 9:00AM	Welcome, Overview, and Goals for Conference Program <i>Rob Myers, North Central SARE; Howard W. Buffet, Howard G. Buffett Foundation; and Jim Gulliford, Soil and Water Conservation Society</i>	Grand Central Ballroom
9:00AM - 10:45AM	Nationally Broadcast Summit	Various Broadcast Locations Across the U.S.
9:00AM - 9:45AM	Conference Opening: The Big Picture with Conservation Pertaining to Cover Crops and Soil Health <i>Tom Vilsack, USDA (invited) and Howard G. Buffett, Howard G. Buffett Foundation</i>	Grand Central Ballroom
9:45AM - 10:45 AM	Farmer Panel: Experiences with Cover Crops and Impacts on Soil Health <i>Dan DeSutter (IN), Dave Brandt (OH), Clay Mitchell (IA), and Gabe Brown(ND)</i>	Grand Central Ballroom
10:45AM - 11:00AM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors	Blackstone Ballroom
11:00AM - 12:00PM	Keynote Presentation: Soil Health <i>Dr. Wayne Honeycutt, USDA-NRCS, and Kristine Nichols, USDA-ARS</i>	Grand Central Ballroom
12:00PM - 1:00PM	Lunch	Grand Central Ballroom
1:00PM-2:45PM	Afternoon Breakout Sessions	See Below

<p>1A: Soil Health Principles Moderator: David Lamm, USDA-NRCS Speakers: Ray Archuleta, USDA-NRCS; Jill Clapperton, Rhizoterra, Inc; Rick Haney, USDA-ARS</p> <p>Room: TBD</p>	<p>1B: Innovative Ways to Seed Cover Crops Moderator: Dan Towery, Ag Conservation Solutions Farmer Panel: Jamie Scott (IN); Mike Shuter (IN); Curtis Furr (NC)</p> <p>Room: TBD</p>	<p>1C: Selecting Cover Crops Moderator: Eileen Kladvko, Purdue University Speakers: Keith Berns, NE Farmer and Seed Company; Gail Fuller, KS Farmer; Dave Robison, Legacy Seed</p> <p>Room: TBD</p>	<p>1D: Terminating Cover Crops for Maximum Benefits Moderator: Daniel Sheehan, Channel Seed Speakers: Steve Groff, PA Farmer; Mike Plumer, IL Farmer; Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute</p> <p>Room: TBD</p>
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Time	Tuesday, February 18, 2014		Location
1:00PM-2:45PM	Afternoon Breakout Sessions Continued		See Below
1E: Integrating No-Till or Strip Till with Cover Crops Moderator: Dale Mutch, Michigan State University Speakers: Dwayne Beck, South Dakota State University; Barry Fisher, USDA-NRCS Farmer Panel: Roger Winning (IN); Henry Miller (MI); Steve Berger (IA-invited) Room: TBD	1F: Cover Crops as Part of an Overall Nutrient Management System Moderator: Dean Baas, Michigan State University Speakers: Joel Gruver, Western Illinois University; Tim Harrigan, Michigan State University; Newell Kitchen, USDA-ARS; Nick Andrews, Oregon State University Room: TBD	1G: Environmental Impacts of Cover Crops Moderator: Eileen Bader, The Nature Conservancy Speakers: Tom Kaspar, USDA-ARS; Ryan Stockwell, National Wildlife Federation; Jim Hoorman, Ohio State University; Ken Staver, University of Maryland Room: TBD	1H: Grazing Cover Crops and Benefits for Livestock Operations Moderator: Sarah Carlson, Practical Farmers of Iowa Speakers: Doug Hanson, IL Farmer; Gabe Brown, ND Farmer; Craig Lang IA, Farmer; Mike Buis, ON Farmer Room: TBD
2:45PM - 3:15PM	Refreshment Break with Exhibitors		Blackstone Ballroom
3:15PM - 5:00PM	Repeat of Breakout Sessions		See Below
2A: Soil Health Principles Moderator: David Lamm, USDA-NRCS Speakers: Ray Archuleta, USDA-NRCS; Jill Clapperton, Rhizoterra, Inc; Rick Haney, USDA-ARS Room: TBD	2B: Innovative Ways to Seed Cover Crops Moderator: Dan Towery, Ag Conservation Solutions Farmer Panel: Jamie Scott (IN); Mike Shuter (IN); Curtis Furr (NC) Room: TBD	2C: Selecting Cover Crops Moderator: Dr. Eileen Kladviko, Purdue University Speakers: Keith Berns, NE Farmer and Seed Company; Gail Fuller, KS Farmer; Dave Robison, Legacy Seed Room: TBD	2D: Terminating Cover Crops for Maximum Benefits Moderator: Daniel Sheehan, Channel Seed Speakers: Steve Groff, PA Farmer; Mike Plumer, IL Farmer; Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute Room: TBD
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6:00PM - 8:00PM	Banquet and Evening Keynote: Reflections on the Need for Cover Crops and Soil Health Improvements Dave White, Former Chief NRCS		Grand Central Ballroom

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Time	Wednesday, February 19, 2014			Location
7:00AM - 3:00PM	Registration Open			Grand Central Ballroom Foyer
7:15AM - 8:00AM	Continental Breakfast			Grand Central Ballroom
8:00AM - 8:30AM	Plenary Session: Key Findings from a National Cover Crops Survey and SARE Resources on Cover Crops and Soil Health <i>Rob Myers, North Central SARE</i>			Grand Central Ballroom
8:30AM - 10:00AM	Breakout Sessions by Issue Area			See Below
3A: Scaling up Seed Supply and Improving Varieties of Cover Crops Room: TBD	3B: Broadening Involvement of Various Companies in Seeding Services Room: TBD	3C: Improved Strategies for Control of Cover Crops Room: TBD	3D: Need for New Types of Equipment for Cover Crops Room: TBD	
3E: Integrating Cover Crops and Other Soil Health Improvement Practices, Including Use of New Technologies Room: TBD	3F: USDA Policy Issues That Need to be Addressed: Incentives, Regulations, etc. Room: TBD	3G: Questions to be Addressed in On-Farm Tests and Other Research: What Don't We Know and What Do We Need to Know Room: TBD	3H: Education and Outreach Programs That are Needed Room: TBD	
10:00AM - 10:30PM	Refreshment Break			Grand Central Ballroom Foyer
10:30AM - 12:00PM	Repeat Breakout Sessions by Issue Area			See Below
4A: Scaling up Seed Supply and Improving Varieties of Cover Crops Room: TBD	4B: Broadening Involvement of Various Companies in Seeding Services Room: TBD	4C: Improved Strategies for Control of Cover Crops Room: TBD	4D: Need for New Types of Equipment for Cover Crops Room: TBD	
4E: Integrating Cover Crops and Other Soil Health Improvement Practices, Including Use of New Technologies Room: TBD	4F: USDA Policy Issues That Need to be Addressed: Incentives, Regulations, etc. Room: TBD	4G: Questions to be Addressed in On-Farm Tests and Other Research: What Don't We Know and What Do We Need to Know Room: TBD	4H: Education and Outreach Programs That are Needed Room: TBD	
12:00 - 1:00PM	Luncheon Keynote: Industry Perspective <i>Paul Shickler, President, DuPont Pioneer</i>			Grand Central Ballroom
1:00PM - 2:15PM	Breakout Sessions by Geographic Area (Continued on Page 6)			See Below
5A: Northern Corn Belt (MN, WI, MI, NY, and New England states) Room: TBD	5B: Central Corn Belt (IA, IL, IN, OH, PA, and WV) Room: TBD	5C: Southern Corn Belt (MO, AR, KY, TN, VA, NC, MD, and DE) Room: TBD	5D: Great Plains (ND, SD, NE, KS, and OK) Room: TBD	

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Time	Wednesday, February 19, 2014		Location
1:00PM - 2:15PM	Breakout Sessions by Geographic Area Continued		See Below
5E: West (Rocky Mountain states and Pacific Coast states) Room: TBD	5F: Southeast and Gulf Coast (TX, LA, MS, AL, GA, SC, and FL) Room: TBD	5G: Breakout Session on Horticultural Crops (regardless of state) Room: TBD	
2:20PM - 3:00PM	Closing Plenary Session: Title Speakers		Grand Central Ballroom
3:00PM	<i>Adjourn</i>		

REGISTRATION AND HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS



Registration:

Conference attendees may register online for this conference by visiting www.sites.google.com/a/swcs.org/2014-omaha-cover-crops-conference. There is no charge to attend this conference; however, only invited individuals may register. To ensure space is held for you, please complete the online registration no later than Monday, February 3, 2014.

Conference Hotel:

Hilton Omaha Hotel
1001 Cass Street
Omaha, Nebraska, 68102
<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/nebraska/hilton-omaha-OMACVHH/index.html>

Hotel Reservations:

Hotel reservations will be made for you based on the information you provide when registering. Sleeping rooms booked on Monday, February 17, and Tuesday, February 18, will be complimentary to invitees. If you are not able to secure a flight out of Omaha on Wednesday, February 19, and require an additional night, please indicate this on your registration form.

Upon check-in, you will be asked to supply a credit card for incidentals (i.e. room service, tips, phone calls, movie rentals, etc.). Please be aware that any charges made to the room will be your responsibility.

The room block reservation cut-off is January 27, 2014. Registrations received after this date cannot be guaranteed lodging at the conference hotel; however, every effort will be made to find availability at a comparable hotel nearby.

Cancellation/Changes to Reservations:

If changes or cancellation to a hotel reservation are required, please contact Kim Johnson-Smith, with the Soil and Water Conservation Society, at kim.johnson-smith@swcs.org or call 515-289-2331 x112.

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