



Farmers Improving Soil Health

NO-TILL NUGGETS

Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance
June 2019

TWO Summer Field Days!
July 25 (Elizabethtown) & July 30 (Slippery Rock)

See inside for further details.

A message from PA No-Till president:

It's with great pleasure and anticipation that I want to relate that the outreach efforts of the Alliance have again expanded with, in addition to our Annual Summer Soil Health Field Day and Annual Meeting at Hershey Farms on July 25th, the Alliance is sponsoring a Soil Health and Cover Crop Field Day – "Unlock the Secrets of the Soil" – at Kellogg Farms in Slippery Rock, PA on July 30th. Thanks to the dedication and commitment of Directors Bill Cannon and Ryan Graham and the cooperation of Andy Gaver of USDA-NRCS we are pleased to once again expand our "reach" into a different part of the state.

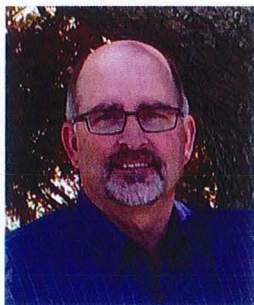
This event, detailed elsewhere in this issue will nicely complement our Annual Summer Field Day scheduled for our farm on July 25th. It's certainly my privilege to once again host this signature event of the Alliance and, in addition to the formal program, I believe we have some other interesting topics planned. Working with King's AgriSeeds we have planted a "checkerboard" multi-species cover crop plot to demonstrate the value of various multi-species seed mixes. Also on display will be a variety of farmer-owned planters set up to meet their individual needs and there will be planting green and inter-seeding demonstrations.

I encourage all members to plan to attend one or both of these days – and bring a friend or neighbor along as well. I truly believe it will be time well spent.

Best Regards,

Jim

Jim Hershey



Innovative Indiana Farmer Rick Clark to be Field Day Keynote Speaker

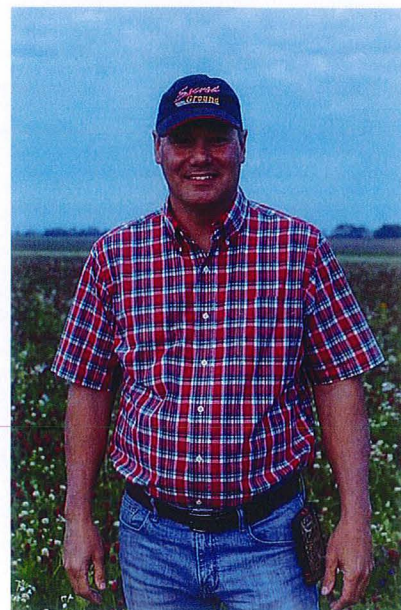
Rick Clark, a 5th generation farmer from Williamsport, Indiana manages 7,000 acres of crop land, growing primarily corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa. A main component of his no-till system is maximizing cover crop performance and planting his cash crops into living covers to build biomass, suppress weeds, recycle nutrients and feed soil microbes.

His presentation "Getting the Most from Your No-Till Operation by Farming Green" will share details of techniques and adjustments he's made to successfully no-till crops into green covers.

Also addressed will be his experience with utilizing diverse cover species and rotations to maximize his production and his decision to grow non-GMO corn and soybeans for specific markets. He is also in the process of transitioning a portion of his acreage into organic production.

When addressing the 2019 National No-Till Conference, Rick observed that he "challenges everyone to get a little uncomfortable...I think you'll like the way it feels."

You won't want to miss hearing Rick speak at this exciting event - register today!



Upcoming Events

An important aspect of the Alliance is outreach. Below are events where Alliance members will be present and delivering the message of the Alliance and the benefits of no-till and cover cropping.

July 25

No-Till Alliance Summer Field Day
Hershey Farm
(Elizabethtown, PA)

July 30

"Unlocking the Secrets in the Soil"
Kellogg Farms
(Slippery Rock, PA)

August 13-15

Ag Progress Days
(Rock Springs, PA)

August 23

Clearfield Conservation District
Cover Crop Workshop

August 27

Farming for the Future Field Day
Jeff Pontius Farm
(Sunbury, PA)

August 28

Growing Hemp Field Day
Steve Groff Farm
(Holtwood, PA)

December 9

Cocalico/Elanco Agricultural
Forum
(East Earl, PA)

A Variety of "Hands On" Things to See at Summer Field Days

By its very nature a "field day" should feature more than speakers and power point presentations and that is certainly the case with several this summer.

For starters the Alliance Field Day at Hershey Farm on July 25th will feature:

- A unique "checkerboard" cover crop plot where 7 foot strips of various seed mixes have been planted in a criss-cross pattern to showcase 64 different multi-species combinations
- Farmer-owned planters set up by their owners to handle different planting situations

- Inter-seeded 30 and 60-inch row corn with multiple cover crop mixes and different herbicide treatments
- Dawn Equipment's new "RowMow" weed management system

On July 30th, the "Unlock the Secrets in the Soil" Field Day will take an in-depth look at:

- Various cover crop seed mixes and their benefits
- Increasing water infiltration and nutrient recycling with cover crops

At the "Farming for the Future" Field Day on August 27th, sponsored with USDA-NRCS at the Jeff Pontius farm, there will be breakout sessions covering:

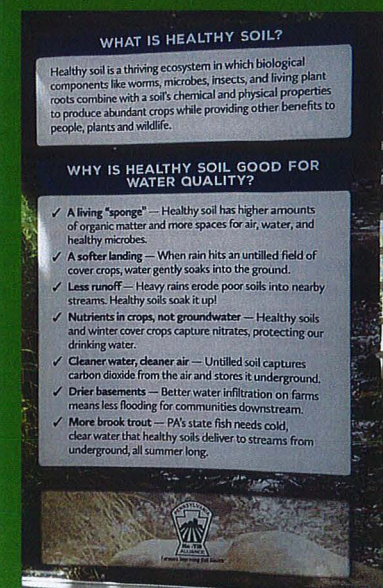
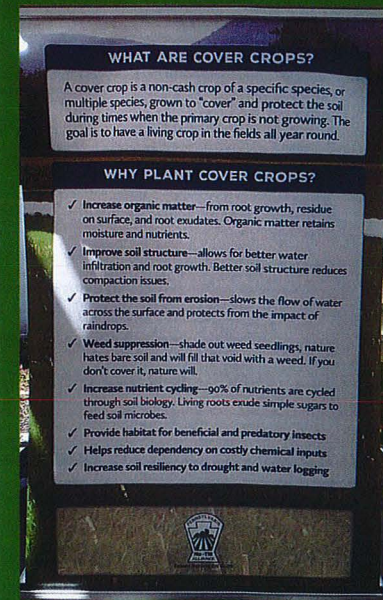
- Calibrating a no-till drill
- Agronomy trials at Don Cotner Farms
- Demonstration on precision ag with a lime truck
- Field mapping and precision application

All of these provide valuable "learn by seeing" opportunities for those interested in taking their no-till and cover crop practices to a new level.

Thank You DEP

Thanks to funds available through a DEP Chesapeake Bay Program grant, the Alliance was able to design and purchase three sets of three table-top educational banners. Entitled "What is Soil Health and Why Is It Important," "What are Cover Crops and Why Are They Important," and "What is No-Till and Why is it Important," they send a valuable and informative message to farmers and the public at events across the state.

As readers know, DEP is responsible for implementing the Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) for the Chesapeake Bay. This plan has many facets, but increased use of no-till and cover crops, as essential as they are to the mission of the Alliance, are also key elements of the agricultural aspect of the WIP.



You Are Invited!



PA No-Till Alliance Summer Soil Health Field Days

When: Thursday, July 25

Where: Hershey Farm

(338 Sunnyburn Rd, Elizabethtown, Lancaster Co.)

When: Tuesday, July 30

Where: Kellogg Farms

(545 Grove City Rd., Slippery Rock, Butler Co.)

Two days of informative panels and demonstrations is planned, creating a can't-miss-event for no-till and cover crop advocates!

For the July 25th Field Day, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Sure Stay by Best Western (147 Mertz Dr., Elizabethtown). Call 717-367-4000 (and mention the PA No-Till Alliance) by July 18 to reserve your room. Truly an exciting event - mark your calendars now and register today!

Schedule of Events:

Wednesday, July 24 – "Meeting of the Minds"

6 p.m. Dinner (free if pre-registered / \$10 at the door)
& Open Discussion

Thursday, July 25 - Field Day

(free if pre-registered / \$10 at the door)

- 8 a.m. Registration opens; View exhibits and displays
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 9 a.m. Get the Most from Your No-Till Operation by Farming Green
Rick Clark
- 10 a.m. Panel Discussion: "No-Till After Spring Forage"
- 11 a.m. EPA Update, *Kelly Shenk, EPA Region 3 Ag Advisor*
- 11:15 a.m. Planting Green Demo, *Hershey Farm Staff*
- 12 p.m. Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Remarks, *Russell Redding, PA Agriculture Secretary*
- 1:30 p.m. Panel Discussion: Challenges Presented by Organic No-Till
Commodity Crops
- 2:15 p.m. View Cover Crop Plots, Inter-seeded Plots, Planters,
Exhibitors, Sponsors
- 3 p.m. Value of No-Till & Cover Crops Outside the Bay Watershed
- 3:30 p.m. A Look at No-Till and Cover Crops when Growing Hemp
- 4 p.m. Closing Remarks and Comments
- 4:15 p.m. PA No-Till Alliance Annual Meeting

Tuesday, July 30 - Field Day

(free if pre-registered / \$5 at the door)

- 10 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
Water Infiltration & Nutrient Cycling
Jim Harbach, Schrack Dairy
- Cover Cropping & Soil Health Journey
Derek Kellogg, Kellogg Farms
- Lunch
- Cover Crop Plots
- Agency Highlights & General Soil Health Discussion
- 2 p.m. Closing Remarks

PA No-Till Alliance Summer Field Day Pre-Registration Form

(Events are free-of-charge if pre-registered by July 22. If not pre-registered prior to July 22, there will be a \$10 fee, per event, payable at the event.)

Name _____ Company _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please register me for the following:

_____ **Meeting of the Minds Dinner**

Wednesday, July 24 (Free if pre-registered by July 22; \$10 after July 22.)

6 - 9 p.m. (includes meal)

_____ **Field Day**

Thursday, July 25 (Free if pre-registered by July 22; \$10 after July 22.)

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. (includes lunch)

_____ **Field Day (Western PA)**

Tuesday, July 30 (Free if pre-registered by July 23; \$5 after July 23.)

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (includes lunch)

Mail to:

PA No-Till Alliance
2215 Forest Hills Dr., Ste 39
Harrisburg, PA 17112

*Pre-registration may also be done via
email jhowes@pennag.com or
phone 717-574-4510.*