

Communication Network Conference Call - June 5, 2007

Conference call summary
Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 11 a.m. (eastern)
Call-in number: 765-496-3791

Participants

Russ Evans
Larry Wright
Brian Lindley
Jerry Hatfield
Don Reicosky
Brian Noyes
Randy Raper
Dean Graumann
Mark Alley
Dick Wittman
Randall Reeder

Update on web site

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

CTIC is still waiting for information from some groups and advisors. Please send information to Karen asap. The discussion forum will be operational in the next couple of weeks.

Travel stipends for SCAS Conference, June 25-27

The following are planning to attend and will receive travel stipend from CTIC: Jeff Mitchell, Brian Noyes, Jimmy Dean, Dean Graumann. An officer from PANTA may attend also. Randy Raper will attend.

Email from Carlos Crovetto

John Hassell, former CTIC executive director, corresponded via email with Carlos Crovetto and told him about our forming and growing network. Karen will forward to the group Carlos' email and his invitation to work with CAAPAS (<http://www.caapas.org/>).

Update on Mexican groups joining network

With assistance of Hugo Escoto, several names have been added to the contact list. Karen will forward this summary, the contact list and web site to those contacts and invite them to join in the discussion. Hugo may be asked to translate, when necessary.

Goals for the Network

Building off of replies to the "Questions to Ponder," the group was asked to discuss possible goals that we can set for the network. A common answer to the Question about priority concerns was "lack of a consistent message about the importance and benefits of conservation/no-till systems." [A summary of responses to Questions is attached.]

Related priorities are establishment of consistent terminology, need for more funding for research about these cropping systems, need for measurement processes to show improvements through these systems.

Taking liberties, I put to the group a draft outline of goals for the network:

Goal: A common message about the environmental and economic benefits of no-till systems is voiced, promoted and disseminated by network groups, NRCS, Extension, Conservation Districts, CCAs and other ag advisors.

Objective: By December 2008, the key groups will agree on terminology.

Action: By DATE, key groups attend a facilitated workshop to discuss and reach consensus on terminology.

Objective: By DATE, NRCS will promote consistent message and help disseminate that message to producers.

Action: Work with NRCS leadership to get buy-in on message by DATE.

Action: Work in individual states, with NRCS state conservationists and state agronomists, to get buy-in from the grassroots by DATE.

Goal: Increased research on conservation cropping systems.

Objective: By DATE, generate or direct \$\$\$ funds through USDA for conservation cropping systems research.

Objective: By DATE, NSF will fund conservation cropping systems research.

Goal: Proven measurement processes are used reliably to evaluate soil and related improvements achieved through continuous conservation cropping systems.

Objective: By DATE, understand current state of the art of measurement processes.

Objective: By DATE...?

Goal: A strong network of local, state or regional no-till/conservation groups across the country supports member groups to increase organizational capacity, grow in membership and effectively promote and increase conservation in their areas.

Objective: By July 2007, a communication network is established and used by member groups to share information and, when possible, collaborate on events and projects.

Action: By March 2007, establish monthly conference calls.

Action: By July 2007, create web site and discussion forum.

Action: Maintain email distribution list and updated contact list for network members.

Next Steps

All: Review summary and send any changes to Karen

All: Review draft work plan and send comments/suggestions to Karen

Karen: Send Carlos Crovetto email to group

Karen: Send information to Mexican contacts

Randall Reeder: distribute to group information about Rattan Lal's work on standardization of measurement processes.

Next Call

July 3 at 11 AM (eastern)