

Conservation Agriculture Systems Alliance

Conference Call

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

at 11 a.m. (eastern)

Participants:

Karen Scanlon, CTIC

Glen Shaw, SCCC

Brian Lindley, No-till on the Plains

Jodi DeJong-Hughes,

Bill Kuenstler, NRCS

Agenda

- CASA's successful proposal to host the 6th WCCA in 2014...let the planning begin!
- Herbicide resistance and its spread from south to north...what could this mean for no-till?
- Member updates

WCCA proposal

BL: develop program with more detail so we can present that to potential funders. Start to promote through CASA members. Investigate border crossing/issues/schedule.

GS: set up committees with tight structure. Canadian organizing committee; tour committee (US); program committee; promotions necessary in next few months. Need to decide: equipment display?

JDH: can help with equipment showcase

Fundraising committee: Don McCabe, Karen Scanlon

Canadian organization committee (logistics): MANDAK

US organization committee (logistics): MANDAK, Brian, Dwayne?

Program committee: Jerry Hatfield, Brian Lindley, Glen Shaw to ID, Jodi DeJong-Hughes, Bill Kuenstler, Susan Winsor

Marketing committee (ask industry or land grant univ to provide assistance; student chapter of National AgriMarketing Assn, American Agricultural Editors Assn; ask ad agency for pro bono work):

Ask Australian committee member to provide guidance.

Will need budget – from each committee?

Need legal entity?

Liability insurance?

Assignments:

Glen will call members/colleagues to serve on Canadian organizing committee and look for volunteers; contact research scientists in Manitoba

Karen ask Theo for contact on Australian committee; lessons learned report from 5th WCCA

Brian help with tour/logistics and program; will call PNDSA and Sjoerd Duiker and MANDAK; Dwayne and Ruth Beck

Karen will ask Dan and Hans with CCSI, Jeff Mitchell, Oklahoma SPARC, Peter Gamache

Bill will get names from CA presentation at ASA and contact; help identify path for NRCS/USDA support

Jodi will get names of equipment companies to contact

Susan will ask for assistance from Corn and Soybean Digest for marketing

Bill talk with public affairs specialists for marketing ideas; ask daughter for help

Monsanto, Pioneer

Herbicide resistance

BL: weed resistance is secondary to what happening to microbes in the soil; glyphosate resistance weeds in the area; diverse rotation and diverse chemical rotation prevents the issue; better management solves/prevents the problem. Alarmed by articles that call for tilling soil to combat resistance. Leading to big issues and loss of no-till acres.

GS: resistant weeds appeared for several years; today more diverse rotations helping to deal with problem; expert advisory committees in each province track problem and set out recommendations each year. Top producers are aware of problem, do field scouting, have strategies to deal with resistance. Other producers ignore the warnings.

BK: starting to see corn rootworm resistance to Bt corn and fungus resistance; continuous no-till didn't get us to resistant weeds; biggest problem is where farmers till every year and spray every 32 days whether needed or not

SW: glyphosate made it easier to be a stupid farmer
BL: survival of the fittest

BK: no organized response from agency

Member Updates

SCCC: applying for funding to promote BMPs targeting ghg reductions (technology transfer)

NTOP: Nov. 4 final webinar with Dr. Kristine Nichols at No-till University (600 views of last webinar); Nov15-17 holistic management seminar; Jan 24-25 winter conference. All information on notill.org.

NRCS: Bill developing regional payment schedules for EQIP, goal to reduce time spent developing new schedules in each state; will work on conservation practice standards process for nationalization; waiting for new nutrient management standard

CTIC:

Next call Nov. 1 @ 11 am (eastern)