

No-till workshops to be held in Nebraska Panhandle

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The Nebraska Panhandle No-till Partnership, working in conjunction with the Upper Niobrara White Natural Resources District, North Platte Natural Resources District, South Platte Natural Resources District, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Nebraska No-till Cadre and the Nebraska Environmental Trust, will be hosting a series of no-till workshops in February. Lunch will be provided at each of these workshops.

The first series of workshops will focus on irrigated no-till crop production and water conservation. The presenters will include Steve Melvin, John Smith and Gary Stone, UNL extension researchers.

Melvin will discuss the use of soil moisture sensors and the use of these sensors in managing irrigation water according to soil moisture readings and expected crop water use.

Stone will discuss research being conducted on no-till limited irrigation water use.

Smith will discuss his research of direct harvesting edible beans and the use of cover crops in producing edible beans.

Mark Watson will discuss his management of residue, soil quality and soil moisture monitoring equipment on his farm that he uses to determine irrigation requirements for his crops.

These workshops will be held in the following Panhandle towns:

—Feb. 9 in Bridgeport, Neb., Prairie Winds Community Center from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

—Feb. 10 in Sidney, Neb., South Platte NRD office from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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The second series of no-till workshops will feature Drew Lyon, Dipak Santra and Karla Jenkins, researchers at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff, Neb. Topics for this workshop will include crop rotations for dryland crop production, alternative crops, forages and the use of field peas in livestock feed rations.

Watson will discuss the use of legumes in his crop rotations on his farm. These meetings will be informal with lots of discussion on any variety of topics of interest to local producers.

These workshops will take place at the following locations:

—Feb. 22 in Chadron, Neb., Country Kitchen Restaurant from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

—Feb. 23 in Alliance, Neb., Public Library from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

—Feb. 24, in Sidney, Neb., South Platte NRD office from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information or to register for a lunch count, contact Watson at mwatsonntec@charter.net or at 308-760-5259.