

Conservation Agriculture Systems Alliance

Conference Call

Tuesday, June 16 at 11 a.m. (eastern)

Participants:

Russ Evans

Peter Gamache

Joel Myers

Karen Scanlon

Agenda:

- Message Committee Report – CASA brochure draft and distribution plans; SWCS poster presentation abstracts; efforts to promote CA prior to Copenhagen meeting
- Operations Committee Report – update on EPA proposal and AGCO letter; CASA mission/vision
- Member Updates
- Weed Science Society press release; CIA Tour

Should CTIC and CASA work together to conduct an informal survey of CASA members to estimate no-till acres?

Is it worthwhile if it won't be reliable data? Yes, for informational purposes.

CTIC draft questions and send to group for review.

CA promotion

Russ to follow-up with Chuck Rice to determine how CASA can help.

AGCO letter

Karen to email Dave Brandt

Member Updates

Reduced Tillage LINKAGES: Winding down. June 25th celebration event. Normal extension events in summer – crop walks in direct seed fields and focus on fertilizer. Drought will impact events and crops to show. Conservation energy and efficiency survey – getting field data and cooperators in place. Will provide fuel meters (20) to producers. Getting close on value of no-till; will send to CASA. Will be closing organization in August 2009. Alberta Conservation Tillage Society, producer group, may stay involved with CASA. Canada announced carbon cap and trade system. Biggest concern – 25-year liability after end of a contract.

PNDSA: June is tour season. Seeing movement toward organic is growing. May have correlated increase in tillage. Tour on June 29-30 in Spokane-Central Idaho, includes evening panel discussion. Dealing with carbon issues and keeping ag involved with trading. Continue to look for alternatives for CRP take out. Looking for funds for demo sites and programs to persuade farmers not to use tillage. Develop practices to enhance beef production on CRP lands.

SSCA: (via Peter) funding to develop CA poster and web site (western Canada focus); going to New Zealand June/July to speak at soil carbon conference and visit with local farm groups and cross-slot equipment.

PANTA: Concern about group formed (including state agencies, led by Rodale Institute) that discounts carbon credit for no-till. Their philosophy is that no-till redistributes carbon and does not increase carbon in the soil. Invites any information to learn more and provide evidence to contradict. Continue to add new no-tillers every year. Crop diversity and cover crops encouraged. Estimate 300 members. Visiting Vermont and Maine to also promote no-till.

CTIC: Need nutrient management success stories for our Upstream Heroes information campaign. Conservation In Action Tour will be July 29, 2009 in Moline, Illinois.

Next Steps:

- KS email Dave Brandt
- Russ to contact Chuck Rice
- KS finalize brochure
- KS contact Bill K re: poster presentations
- Joel to share more info as it is available
- KS to draft survey questions and send to committees for feedback