

Conservation Agriculture Systems Alliance

Conference Call

Tuesday, May 4 at 11 a.m. (eastern)

Participants:

Blair McClinton, Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Assn

Sjoerd Duiker, PANTA

Brian Lindley, No-Till on the Plains

Mike Sporcic, NRCS

Karen Scanlon, CTIC

AGENDA



Conservation
Agriculture Crite...



Criteria for
Conservation Agri...



CertAg Full Paper-
WSRC2009 - ...



the-spread-of-cons
ervation-agr...

Discuss in detail the draft criteria for CA certification. Please review each attached item:

- Draft CA criteria developed by Bill Kuenstler and Jerry Lemunyon (doc and ppt)
- The Spread of Conservation Agriculture: Justification, sustainability and uptake
- Certified Agriculture: The Sustainable Production Alternative (AAPRESID)

Draft criteria review –

BM: need to eliminate references to US-specific models, policy so as to be applicable to North America. Keep it policy neutral and use ISO terminology. Specific goals, such as pounds per acre of residue, may not apply to all areas served by CASA.

BL: NTOP working with Geo Agro (IT professionals) and AAPRESID on USDA Conservation Innovation Grant project for continuous no-till certification. Project will build on protocols established by AAPRESID. Waiting on CIG application/funding. Eight-state scope at this point. What's in it for the producer? Branded products. Will train verifiers, but verification process will be separate from NTOP and AAPRESID.

BM: we don't want to get caught up in government processes.

SD: we'd already decided against government certification. And thought we had decided to follow the AAPRESID model. It's important to come together under continuous no tillage.

BL: NTOP would welcome support/participation from CASA.

MS: change criteria to exclude certain practices. NRCS has tools that can help to assess systems and effectiveness.

SD: how do we address manure application? Is manure injection acceptable? Harvesting of corn silage? Grazing?

BL: I agree. We just don't have all the answers right now.

BM: may be able to get funding from Canadian side.

What's next?

Brian will check to see if he can share the proposal. CASA continues to talk about criteria for continuous no-till / CA certification in each geographic area. NTOP will share criteria it develops and invite feedback.

Member Updates

PANTA: Joel is planting corn; planting season has progressed quickly. Still looming is Executive Order for Chesapeake Bay. Talk of treating all farms like CAFOs and subject to regulation.

SSCA: Funded to create general awareness (public, school kids) materials about conservation agriculture – poster, brochure and web site (conservationagriculture.ca). Provincial govt enacting offset trading for no-till farmers. Peter Gamache is coordinating a controlled traffic system project in Alberta. SSCA annual conference will move up to Jan 13, 2011.

NTOP: Submitted CIG proposal to NRCS. Preparing for summer events.

CTIC: will launch new web site soon; Conservation In Action Tour will be Aug 3 in Williamsburg, VA.

Next call:

Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 11 am (eastern)