



August 29-30, 2016 • ENID, OK

Northern Oklahoma College
Gantz Student Center, Montgomery Hall

Soil health is the single most important factor to a successful and resilient farm and ranching operation. Soil health principles apply whether you grow crops, raise livestock or both. Soil health management practices applied in together can benefit and enhance both grazing and farming.

REGISTER AT NOTILL.ORG
Registration \$100 for August 29
\$65 for bus tour August 30

Questions? swaffar@notill.org or (785) 210-4549

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MONDAY, AUG. 29

8:00 a.m. Registration

Northern Oklahoma College
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8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks

8:45 a.m. Managing Grazing to Regenerate Soil Health and Ranch Livelihoods

Dr. Richard Teague, Associate Resident Director and Professor, Texas A&M University AgriLife Research, Vernon, TX

Dr. Teague focuses his research on sustainable land use with principles of ecosystem function. He uses four key elements to enhance this linkage: a systems research program, resource accounting, long-term assessment and partnering with rancher clientele. The goal is to use a systems approach in developing land and livestock management practices that sustain natural rangeland resources and the people depending on the land.

10:00 a.m. Multi-Use Cover Crops for Grazing and Soil Health

Doug Spencer, Rangeland Management Specialist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Marion, KS

Doug is an area rangeland management specialist and Kansas soil health team leader for NRCS. He provides assistance with grazing land inventory, grazing system planning, invasive plant management, prescribed burn planning, and water development ideas. The opportunity to learn alongside producers and provide resource-based information in the decision-making process is a rewarding experience for Doug. He holds a degree in Agronomy (Range Management option) and a minor in Animal Sciences from Kansas State University. Growing up on a small cow/calf operation is where Doug's interest in land and livestock management started. He is still involved in management decisions of the small operation but is limited in daily operations by the 140 mile distance. Water developments, rotational grazing managing leaf heights and adequate rest periods, changing calving date, and diversifying the forage base have been successes for the operation.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

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1:00 p.m. Soil Health, The System Under the Surface

*Dr. Jennifer Moore-Kucera, West Regional Soil Health Team Leader, USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service, Portland, OR*

Before joining NRCS, Kucera was an associate professor of soil and environmental microbiology with the Department of Plant and Soil Science at Texas Tech University. She worked at the university for seven years, teaching introductory and graduate level courses in soil science and conducting research to better understand the role of soil microbe communities. “By shifting our view of soils from an inert growing material to a biologically diverse and active ecosystem, we can help create more sustainable farms, ranches, and forests to provide the food and fiber of our rapidly growing population while protecting land, air and water resources for future generations.”

2:45 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. Five Years of No-till: Cash Crops, Cattle and Cover Crops are Making the Difference for Soil Health

Darin Williams, continuous no-till producer/soil health practitioner, Waverly, KS

Darin and Nancy Williams live in Waverly, KS. Their 2,000-acre operation includes a complex rotation of non-GMO corn and soybeans, grain sorghum, cereal crops such as wheat, triticale, rye and barley, and cover crops that include sudangrass, millet and sunflowers. In addition, the husband-wife team raises herds of grass-fed British White cattle and Katahdin hair sheep, as well as small flocks of heritage turkeys and chickens – both broilers and layers. They purchased the cattle in 2013 and have grown to about 70 head, with the hope to eventually raise many of the animals to sell as direct market, grass-fed beef.

TUESDAY, AUG. 30

Bus Tour

A bus tour visiting Oklahoma and Kansas farms will depart from Enid on Tuesday, Aug. 30. Attendees will see soil health management in practice on the farms of Rick Jeans, Tonkawa, Okla.; Rodney Hern, Wakita, Okla.; and Jim Robb, Danville, Kan.

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