



**COLORADO  
CONSERVATION  
TILLAGE  
ASSOCIATION**

# CCTA JOURNAL

May 2005

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**PRESIDENTS  
MESSAGE**

**MEET YOUR  
CCTA BOARD  
MEMBERS**

**2006 HIGH  
PLAINS NO-  
TILL  
CONFERENCE  
COORDINATOR  
S**

**FARM MEALS  
ON WHEELS**

**CENTRAL  
GREAT PLAINS  
RESEARCH  
STATION FIELD  
DAY**

**17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
HIGH PLAINS  
NO-TILL  
CONFERENCE  
HIGHLIGHTS**

**SUMMER TOUR**

**2005  
COLORADO  
WHEAT FIELD  
DAYS**

**RUSSIAN  
WHEAT APHID**

**2006 UPDATE  
18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
HIGH PLAINS  
NO-TILL  
CONFERENCE**

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE...**

As I am writing this I look out the window and see moisture in the air. I think most places in the area have been blessed with moisture in the month of April, which gives us all hope in the growing wheat, and in planting our spring crops. I think everyone is due or past due for some good crops and though getting some moisture doesn't guarantee anything, it does make us all feel better.

I am excited about this year as we begin to plan for the 2006 conference. I believe we had a good conference in February as we tried to give you a menu of different speakers and topics that would be of interest to all of you. Our numbers were down a little but our vendors and sponsorship were up some, so all in all we felt our conference was successful. One of our main objectives will always be to try and reach as many producers as we can to help them get started in a conservation style of farming or enhance practices for those who have been doing conservation farming for several years. Sometimes it is a difficult task to have both days begin with topics that we all need to know and then turn around and have the latest, state of the art topic that only the very experienced conservation farmer can use. My experience has been that in all the conferences I have attended over the years there has not been one time when I didn't pick up things, either from speakers or just talking to other farmers. I know that if you have attended for several years you begin to think you have heard everything at least one time, but count on us to give you topics of interest that will enhance your operation.

I would like to thank Casey Stults for the time and effort he put in as last years president and also to Joel Dracon, Ray Mowery and David Poss for the years they served on the board and the contributions they gave to the organization. Our new members for this year are Gary Hall, Jeff Farnik, Brien Henry, and Jon Wicke and they have already been great to work with. I look forward to working with them as well as the other current board members. We have new co-coordinators for our conference; they are sisters, Kathy Rickart and Gale Loeffler. Jointly they will handle this chore of making our conference successful. Some of you may already know these ladies, as they have been involved in extension work for many years. Kathy's daughter, Kim, will assist them in handling our newsletter publications. The board is looking forward to what these ladies will bring to the table to help enhance our conservation tillage conference.

I hope everything goes well for all of you this spring and I look forward to visiting with you as the year goes on.

**Jack Maranville**



## MEET YOUR CCTA BOARD MEMBERS...

There are 13 members on the CCTA Board and 3-4 will be featured in each of the journals before the High Plains Conference.

### Jack Maranville – Matheson, Colorado

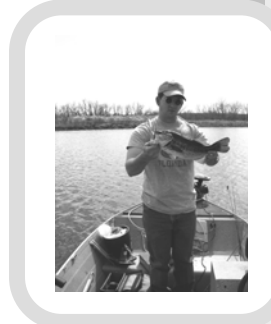
Jack has been farming and ranching for 33 years south of Matheson Colo. He and his wife, Linda, have three married sons and two grandchildren. All of his family is involved on the farm in one way or another. Jack has been on the CCTA board for three years and enjoys the opportunity to communicate with other farmers about conservation farming. He believes attending the CCTA conferences has helped improve their farming practices and they have become better stewards of the land. They enjoy traveling, when time allows, and spending time with their families and the grandchildren.

### Nathan Jaeger – Sterling, Colorado

Nate started farming with his father and brother while he was still attending college. Nate considers himself very fortunate to have an excellent family and partners. Recently his younger brother joined the operation and everyone is excited to have his contribution. He began no till and minimum tilling in the mid 90s to help with erosion and preserve moisture. It was a major learning experience the first few years. A lot was learned from attending the CCTA High Plains Conferences. The opportunity for those of us involved in production agriculture to convene and discuss and learn issues of importance to producers is important. Nate enjoys being apart of the CCTA and if the first to admit that by being involved with the Board he has learned even more.

### Brien Henry – Akron, Colorado (NEW Board Member)

Brien is a Weed Scientist at the Central Great Plains Research Station in Akron, Colorado and his professional interests include: herbicide resistance, gene flow, crop rotation and harvest strategies leaving increased surface residue, plus anything that may save farmers a few dollars. He has lived in Eastern Colorado a little over two years since he and his wife, Amanda, moved from Mississippi. Amanda is a librarian and substitute teacher. Brien and Amanda enjoy wasting money on old cars and old houses. Brien is a huge supporter of all things related to conservation, be that hunting, fishing, gardening and especially production agriculture.



### John Turner, Brush, Colorado

This is John Turner's 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the CCTA board representing the industry. John is a sales representative for Triumph Seed. He has been working closely with dryland producers as Triumph Seed's strong suit is dryland corn & sunflowers. He grew up on a dryland farm north of Greeley, CO, attended Northeastern Junior College and finished at Colorado State majoring in Agronomy. He became interested in dryland farming starting with background, later applying his knowledge to work with producers in dryland cropping rotations and practices. Being single, John says he enjoys the opportunities to visit with producers, learning and sharing ideas.



## 2006 High Plains No-Till Conference Coordinators...

The new Conference Coordinators, Kathy Rickart and Gale Loeffler “enjoyed” working together and developing the skill of “complimenting each others work” toward a common goal many years ago as they gave their 4-H Team Demonstrations. The best part, it was “fun” for both of them. Still having “fun” together, they look forward to doing everything possible to make the 2006 High Plains No-Till Conference the absolute best!

Kathy began her career in Elbert County, Colorado as the 4-H/Home Economist in 1965 and continued as the County Extension Director from 1973 until 1991, when she decided to “renew her spirit” by moving to the urban area of Albuquerque, New Mexico to become the County 4-H Agent until her retirement in 1998.

After retirement she didn’t see her summers quite complete unless she was up to her neck in the County Fair, so became a volunteer on the Weld County Fair Board and serves as the Vendor, Awards and Special Events chair. Then in 2001 she added the part-time job of Coordinator for the Colorado Coalition for Elder Rights and Adult Protection. Kathy’s hobbies are reading, arts and crafts and keeping as many irons in the fire as possible.

Gale retired from Cooperative Extension in Arapahoe County two years ago after a career that saw her as the 4-H Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent and finally the County Director. Two weeks after retiring her first grandchild was born and the next phase of her life got into high gear. She now has two granddaughters and spends most days with one or both of them.

She also works one day a week at Curves for Women. Three or more nights a week will find her square dancing around the Denver Metro area. Her hobbies include reading anything she can get her hands on, arts and crafts, going to garage sales and cooking.

None of the above would be possible without the loving support of their families. Kathy - husband, Curtis (who today answers many of the phone calls while Kathy is out and about), and children, Rusty & fiancé, Heather; Kim & husband, Ryan & grandchildren, Zach and Brittany; and Garry, & wife, Maura & new grandbaby on the way. Gale - children Robin & husband, Cody Allen & granddaughter, Avigail and Galen & wife, Catherine & granddaughter, Brynn.

### FARM MEALS ON WHEELS

Farm wives were the first to invent “Meals on Wheels” as they lovingly packed and delivered meals to the field. As Linda Maranville of Matheson, Colorado states, *“During wheat harvest we take supper out every night around 7:00pm. It helps make our family life better because we all get to see each other for a short time. Kids get to see their Daddy before they go to bed. If meals weren’t taken to the field, they would hardly ever see each other unless the kids were in the field during the day, which was usually the case when they were older. It also gives the guys a rest for just a short while and then they can harvest ‘til midnight if the weather permits. They don’t have to come in at 11:00pm and eat supper and shower. Wives don’t have dishes to do at 11:30pm either. I have a tub packed with dishes, silverware, salt & pepper, etc. I take a bucket of sudsy warm water and a towel for washing hands.”* Farm meals on wheels – a way of turning hardships into special memories, only a kid raised on the farm can appreciate – of turning what could be a bad thing into a good thing.

### Kim Oelschlager is the CCTA Journal Editor this year.

Kim is the daughter of Curtis and Kathy Rickart. She, her husband, Ryan and children, Zachary, age 9 and Brittany, age 8 reside in Windsor, Colorado.

Below is a recipe from Linda’s “Farm Meals on Wheels” collection: Linda writes: *“Here is a recipe that my guys love and I put it in the crock pot for the day and then it’s done.”*

- Ranch Round Steak:**  
**3 pounds beef round steak cut in serving-size pieces**  
**1/4 cup flour**  
**2 teaspoons dry mustard**  
**1 1/2 teaspoons salt**  
**1/8 teaspoon pepper**  
**1/4 cup salad oil**  
**1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce**

Trim excess fat from meat; slash edges to prevent curling. Combine flour, dry mustard, salt, and pepper; use to coat meat. Reserve remaining mixture. In skillet, brown meat on both sides in hot oil. (After browned I put it in crockpot). Stir in reserved flour mixture in skillet. Combine 1/2 cup water and Worcestershire sauce; stir into skillet. Cook and stir till thickened and bubbly. Pour on top of meat in crockpot and cook on low for 8 hours or high for 4 hours. Serves 8. Serve with beans and corn bread. Add tossed salad and maybe apple pie for dessert.

\* We plan to include some recipes in each issue that are great for harvest time for taking to the field or for having ready at the end of the day. If you have a great recipe or tip we can pass along, please send it to: Gale Loeffler, High Plains Co-Conference Coordinator, galeloeffler@earthlink.net



## Central Great Plains Research Station Field Day Akron, Colorado Wednesday, June 15, 2005

The USDA-ARS research station would like to encourage everyone to attend the summer field day on Wednesday June 15, 2005. The Field Station is located 4 miles east of Akron on highway 34. This year registration will begin at 7:30 AM with the tours beginning at approximately 7:50am. Lunch will be provided to all registered attendees immediately following the tours. The wheat crop is looking really nice this year following some good winter moisture for a change! The scientists are eager to present and discuss some of their current research topics.

### Dr. Merle Vigil will discuss the following two topics:

- **Economic Summaries from The Alternative Crop Rotation (ACR) Project**
- **Multi-State Project Examining Skip Row Planting**

Last year there were some really interesting yield results from the “plant two – skip two” planting pattern. Further studies to examine weed control issues, other crops, and moisture use of this planting pattern are ongoing and will be discussed. Dr. David Nielsen and Joel Schneekloth will detail their preliminary efforts at developing water-use functions for canola and other *Brassica* species that may be used to produce biodiesel. Dr. Joe Benjamin will discuss the long term impact of cropping intensity and tillage on soil hydraulic properties. Could occasional tactical tillage for both weeds and soil compaction be a good thing? Dr. Brien Henry will examine herbicide resistance issues and his ongoing efforts to detect both roundup drift and roundup resistant weeds. Dr. Maysoon Mikha will discuss some of her ongoing projects that deal with soil carbon (sequestration), and soil aggregate size distribution in long term no-till plots. Dr. Francisco Calderon will outline several of his projects that deal with rapid assessment of soil composition using NIR spectroscopy. Additional projects of Dr. Calderon include soil microbial and fungal interactions. Finally, several CSU cooperators, including Dr. Scott Haley, will discuss recent progress in the winter wheat variety trials in addition to various pasture and rangeland topics.

A hearty appreciation is extended to all the producers and last year's sponsors: CCTA, Washington County and Cope SCD, Citizen's National Bank, Agri-Inject, Kay-Jan, Wickham Tractor, Yeamans and Sons, M&M Co-op, Pioneer Hybrids, Triumph Seed, Wagers Seed, Bank of Colorado, Perry Brothers Seed, Bret Poland of Edward Jones Investments-Brush, YW Electric, Syngenta NK seed, Pawnee Buttes Seed, Monsanto / Dekalb / Asgrow Seed for making this event possible. Through cooperative efforts with NRCS, Colorado State University, KSU, Nebraska, and the various producers' organizations, quality research and programs such as the Field Days where results can be shared are possible.

### ON THE LIGHTER SIDE... **Making a Profit at No-Till Farming**

A husband and wife were driving down a country lane on their way to visit some friends. They came to a muddy patch in the road and the car became bogged. After a few minutes of trying to get the car out by themselves, they saw a young farmer driving his tractor down the lane.

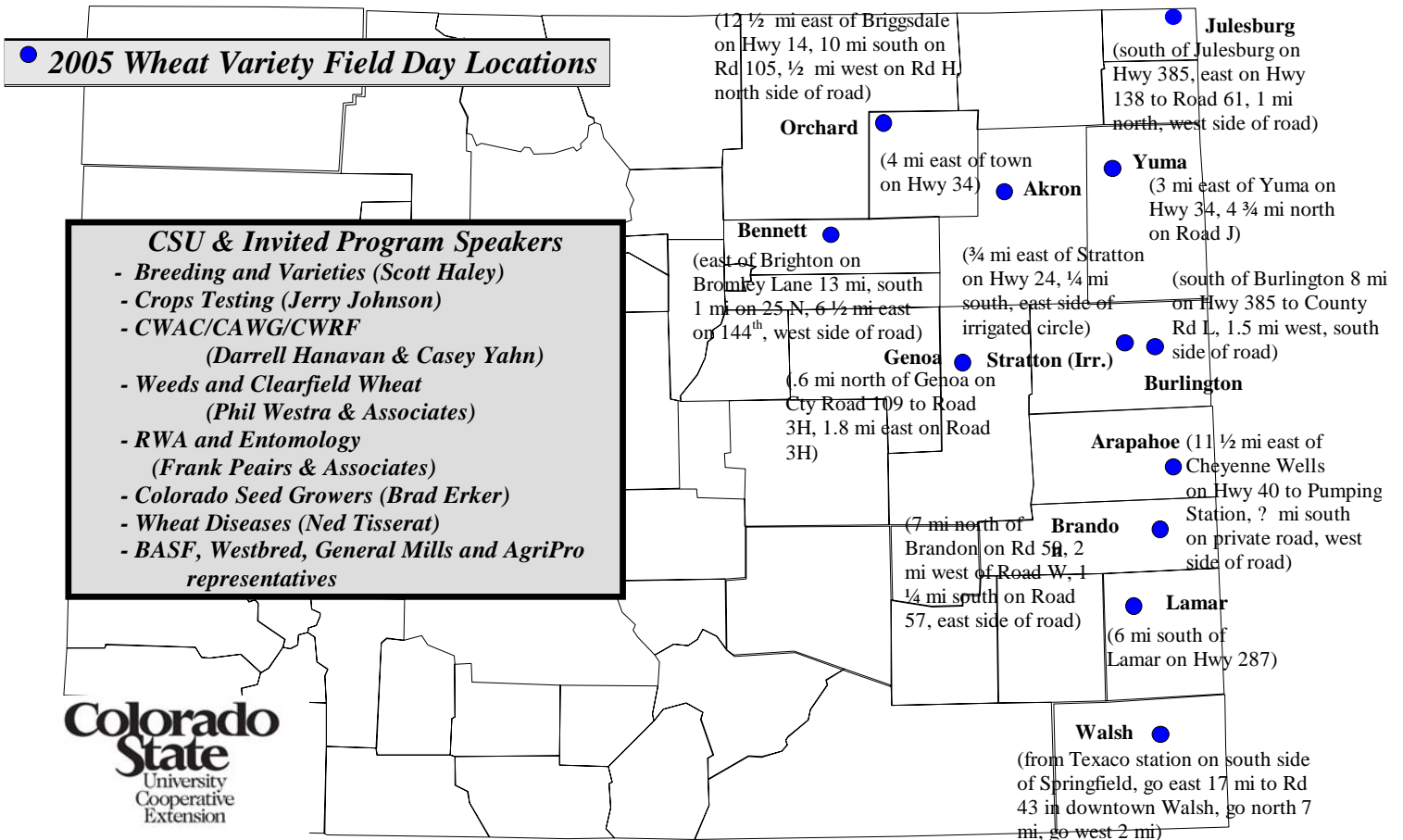
The farmer stopped when he saw the couple in trouble and offered to pull the car out of the mud for \$50. The husband accepted and minutes later the car was free. The farmer turned to the husband and said, "You know, you're the tenth car I've helped out of the mud today."

The husband looks around at the fields incredulously and asked the farmer, "When do you have time to plough your land? At night?"

"No," the young farmer replied seriously, "Night is when I put the water in the hole."



# Colorado Wheat Field Days 2005



Walsh (\*CM)  
Lamar (\*CM)

June 13 (Mon) 11 a.m. at Plainsman Research Center, Baca County  
June 13 (Mon) 6 p.m. at John Stulp's house, Prowers County

Brandon  
Arapahoe (\*CM)  
Burlington (\*CM)

June 14 (Tues) 9 a.m. at Burl Scherler Farm, Kiowa County  
June 14 (Tues) 12 p.m. at Dennis & Matt Campbell Farm, Cheyenne County  
June 14 (Tues) 4 p.m. at Randy Wilks Farm, Kit Carson County

Akron (\*CM)  
Yuma (\*CM)

June 15 (Wed) 8 a.m. at Central Great Plains Res. Station, Washington County  
June 15 (Wed) 4 p.m. at Andrews Brothers Farm, Yuma County

Julesburg (\*CM)  
Orchard (\*CM)

June 16 (Thurs) 8 a.m. at David Deden Farm, Sedgwick County  
June 16 (Thurs) 12:30 p.m. at Cary Wickstrom Farm, NW Morgan County

Stratton (Irrigated)  
Genoa (\*CM)  
Bennett (\*CM)

June 20 (Mon) 9:30 a.m. at Pautler Bros. Farm, Kit Carson County  
June 20 (Mon) 12 p.m. at Ross Hansen Farm, Lincoln County  
June 20 (Mon) 5 p.m. at John Sauter Farm, Adams County

(\*CM = Complimentary Meal at the Field Day)



## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual High Plains No-Till Conference Highlights**

By Dennis A. Kaan, Golden Plains Area Director, Colorado

The 2005 edition of the High Plains No-Till Conference was a success on many fronts. The Board of Directors and Event Coordinators worked hard to put together a diverse and educational conference that proved beneficial to all participants. Producers with interest in no-till and other conservation practices traveled from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming to hear the latest scientific research and producer application of these conservation techniques.

The conference was opened with a keynote address from Dr. Ron Hansen from the University of Nebraska. Dr. Hansen's talk, titled "The Unspoken Words of a Farm Family", captured everyone's attention and opened several lines of discussion around the subject of life for farm families and the struggle to keep good communication flowing among all generations involved in any family farm. Throughout the two-day schedule, several other keynote speakers addressed the audience. Nolan Doeskan, Colorado State University, presented an update on climate conditions in Colorado for 2004 and gave us a glimpse into 2005 and what we may expect from mother nature. Larry Kleingartner of the National Sunflower Association presented the latest information regarding opportunities for sunflower production, pricing and marketing. Moe Russell of Russell Consulting Group presented a talk entitled "Finance and Market Return on Equity." Participants learned the relationship between their individual financial structure and how this relates to return on equity calculated on a market value basis.

Conference participants were able to attend a wide variety of breakout sessions thanks to the efforts of the Board of Directors to secure top notch speakers. Some of these topics included leading edge conservation practices such as skip row planting, no-till and strip-till conservation practices in dryland and irrigated settings. Other "high tech" topics included GPS mapping and the latest in sprayer technology. Breakout sessions included both scientific research and producer panels discussing the good, the bad and the ugly of all of these practices and technologies. Other topics participants found useful included worker protection standards, alternative forage crops, market conditions and advances over time, and crop production practices. For the spouses in the group, topics of interest included "Eat Smart, Stay Healthy."

The Trade Show proved to be the best ever for conference participants and vendors alike. There were a total of 50 vendor booths set up during the conference, the most ever. Vendors traveled equally as far as the conference participants did to show their wares, coming from Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming. There was a wide variety of booths in place including equipment dealers and suppliers, chemical suppliers and applicators, grain merchandisers, seed dealers, cooperatives and crop insurance agents. All in all there was a wide variety of vendors available for conference participants to mingle with and discuss crop input needs for the 2005 crop year.

## **CCTA to Host Summer Tour Highlighting Skip Row Planting Techniques**

The CCTA Board of Directors, in cooperation with CSU Cooperative Extension and USDA Central Great Plain Research Station will host a summer tour this year focusing on skip row planting techniques. The tour is currently in the planning stages and the board is working hard to put together an educational tour that will be easy for producers to work into their schedule.

The tour will be a site tour, with hosts available at each site that will discuss advantages and techniques for implementing skip row planting. The Board is looking to host five sites throughout northeast Colorado and the panhandle of Nebraska. The tours will be held during the second and third weeks of August when it will be most beneficial to see the results of this planting technique in the field. As the Board is already looking ahead to our Annual Meeting in 2006, skip row planting will be a topic on the agenda. Harvest results along with other measured variables in the field will be shared and discussed at that time.

Please watch your local media and check back to our web site regularly for details regarding times and locations for this beneficial tour. The CCTA Board is excited to present this tour and tie the topic into the Annual Meeting. This will be educational and beneficial approach for producers throughout the region.

# CCTA JOURNAL

## Russian Wheat Aphid

Submitted by Dennis Kaan, Golden Plains Area Director, Colorado



We have been seeing Russian wheat aphid (RWA) in the Golden Plains Area and neighboring counties in Colorado. Dr. Jeff Peairs, Colorado State University, has indicated spraying for Russian wheat aphid in western KS, OK, TX and Colorado. The weather has been conducive to its activity so far.

RWA can be found in winter wheat, usually on the younger leaves, from emergence in the fall to grain ripening. Aphid feeding prevents young leaves from unrolling. RWA colonies are found within the tubes formed by these tightly curled leaves. Infested leaves have long white, purple or yellowish streaks. Heavily infested plants are stunted and some may appear prostrate or flattened. After flowering, some heads are twisted or distorted and have bleached appearance.

### New Biotypes

A number of Russian wheat resistant varieties were released by Colorado State University. These varieties included Prairie Red, Ankor, Halt, Prowers 99, and Yumar. Stanton, a resistant variety released by Kansas State University. In 2003, these varieties accounted for one fourth of the wheat acres in Colorado. In 2003, Russian wheat aphid infestations in Prairie Red (resistant variety) were observed in southeastern and east central Colorado. Plants were observed with heavy infestations and susceptible symptoms. In the past, occasionally they had been observed with heavy infestations but these plants always showed resistant symptoms. Greenhouse tests of Russian wheat aphids from Prairie Red on other resistant and susceptible varieties confirmed the presence of a number of new biotypes that attack all existing resistant wheat varieties in Colorado.

### Important facts about Russian wheat aphid Biotypes and their management

- We have the original biotype (Biotype A) of Russian wheat aphids in eastern and adjacent areas.
- We have new biotypes
- The new biotypes have not replaced the original biotype.
- Ankor, Halt, Prairie Red, Prowers 99, Stanton and Yumar are effective against (original) biotype A but susceptible to new biotypes.
- Infestations by new Biotypes will need to be managed conventionally on all Colorado varieties. This means that the crop will need to be scouted and treated with an insecticide if economic thresholds reached (see table below).
- Other management tactics such as biological control and cultural practices should be equally effective against both biotypes.
- Russian wheat aphids must be managed with a combination of management tactics if we are to minimize the development of future biotypes. Complete management recommendations are available at <http://www.highplainsipm.org> and <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05568.htm>

Insecticides recommended for RWA control are in the High Plains Integrated Pest Management Guide which is available at [www.highplainsipm.org](http://www.highplainsipm.org). If you see Russian wheat aphid infestations on your resistant varieties, please report to your county extension office or departments of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management and Crop Sciences at Colorado State University. Plants with even a single infested or damaged tiller should be considered infested.

## 2006 Update – 18<sup>TH</sup> Annual High Plains No-Till Conference

**Date: January 31 and February 1, 2006**

**Location: Island Grove Regional Park in Greeley, Colorado**

Plans for the 2006 Conference are already in the making. CCTA Board members have identified topics and are lining up outstanding speakers.

Conference Coordinators are pleased to announce the entire conference will be held in the Events Center at Island Grove Regional Park. Everything will be under one roof. There will be reduced rates for lodging in Greeley and vendors will be pleased to find the rates will be honored during their stay while at the Farm Show the week prior.

If plans work out, there will be a number of workshops geared to the interests of the farm wife in recognition that all farm businesses involve husband and wives, as partners.

**CCTA JOURNAL**  
219 Cattail Bay  
Windsor, CO 80550

**2005-2006 CCTA BOARD  
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Jack Maranville, Matheson, CO – President  
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Casey Stults, Vernon, CO  
John Turner, Brush, CO  
Jon Wicke, Greeley, CO

**Have a question or concern, please  
contact us.  
We will be happy to assist you.**

**Kathy Rickart, Co-Conference Coordinator**  
Facilities, Vendors, Sponsors  
[notillkathy@comcast.net](mailto:notillkathy@comcast.net)

**Gale Loeffler, Co-Conference Coordinator**  
Speakers, Proceedings, Evaluations  
[galeloeffler@earthlink.net](mailto:galeloeffler@earthlink.net)

**Send address corrections or names to be  
added to the CCTA Journal mailing list to:  
Kathy Rickart (address above)**

**CCTA Board Meeting**

June 15, 2005

ARS Central Great Plains Research Station  
Akron, CO

1:00pm or following Wheat Field Day Tours

**CCTA Developing New Internet Web Site**

The CCTA Board of Directors is working with Hale Broadcasting Inc. to develop a new web site. This web site will be a place where anyone can go on the internet and find current topics and events related to CCTA, the Annual Meeting and conservation tillage.

The url for the web site is [www.highplainsnotill.com](http://www.highplainsnotill.com). The web site is anticipated to be up and running by June 1, 2005. Internet users will be able to go to the site and find current information regarding CCTA events and other events and information important to producers practicing conservation tillage. Annual Meeting participants who liked the ease of registering for the event online will once again be able to do that from this web site.



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