



COLORADO
CONSERVATION
TILLAGE
ASSOCIATION

CCTA JOURNAL

October 2005

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE...

As I look out the window while I am writing this, it is evident that summer is winding down as the sun is rising later in the morning and the country side has that fall look to it. I trust your summer has gone well. As I remember when I wrote the last message it was raining out and the wheat crop was looking real good for that time of year. I know there were lots of disappointments in the crop this year as Mother Nature and disease took a toll on many of you. The hot temperatures of late have sure reduced our top moisture in our ground. As we are planting wheat there are places that will have to have some more moisture to get the wheat up. I think about the high priced inputs such as fuel and fertilizer and look at the low prices we are getting, I am reminded about the table of parity prices for crops and livestock that we have all seen from time to time. It seems like an imaginary figure, which could never come to pass but I did see it this summer. If you would have attended the Elbert County 4-H market sale and seen what those kids were getting for their livestock then you would have agreed that parity or twice the price of parity had been achieved. Life would sure be easier if our prices would be close to parity.

The CCTA board and co-coordinators are diligently working on this year's conference program. Our conference will be Jan 31 and Feb 1, 2006 in Greeley, CO. Mark your calendars for this event and plan to join us. You will notice some changes in our format and also this year we are able to have the conference in the newer building at Island Grove instead of sharing three different ones. Hopefully the topics and speakers will help as you plan for next years cropping format for your particular farm. We will have a complete agenda in our newsletter as we get closer to conference time.

CCTA has a web site which you can view at any time to get up to date information on what's going on. There will be conference registration information on there also. Our website is www.highplainsnotill.com so look it up whenever you can. As a board we want you to be actively involved so give us ideas on topics so we can address those things that are important to you. Every year we try to incorporate things that are of interest to all of you.

In closing I hope, if your wheat crop was slim, that your fall harvest will help make up some difference. The warm temperatures are making the crops come around so hopefully there won't be any of that December harvesting this year. Have a safe harvest!

Jack Maraville



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 No-Till Conference.

Dennis A. Kaan, Akron,

Dennis A. Kaan serves one-half time as an Agriculture and Business Management Specialist with Colorado State University Cooperative Extension in the Northern Region and one-half time as Golden Plains Area Director. Dennis received a B.S. degree in Agricultural Business in 1989 and a M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics in 1991, both from the University of Wyoming. Prior to coming to Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, Dennis was employed with the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation as an Agricultural Economist and the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service as a Farm and Ranch Management Specialist. Dennis was raised on a ranch near Lusk, WY. Dennis is married to Cheryl and both enjoy two great kids, Melissa, age 15 and Dustin, age 8.

One focus of Kaan's in Cooperative Extension has been on crop cost of production analysis. He has utilized this information in many other research projects, most notably economic evaluations of intensive dryland crop rotations. He has worked with Paul Burgener at the University of Nebraska and Dan O'Brien at Kansas State University to conduct regional analyses on the subject.

Jon Wicke, Eaton, Colorado

Jon Wicke was born and raised on a family farm/ranch north of Atwood, KS, where his father and mother are still active. He graduated from Fort Hays State University in 1982, and began his career with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in March, 1983. Jon worked for 17 years for the SCS/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas, 12 years of which he served as District Conservationist in Ness City, KS. In February 2000 he and his family moved to Colorado, where Jon serves as District Conservationist at the Greeley Field Office.

Jon and his wife Gail, and their two sons, Neil (19) and Aaron (16), live in Eaton CO. Gail works for the Eaton School District, while Neil attends Aims Community College and Aaron is a student at Eaton High School. Jon and his family enjoy baseball and numerous other sports, as well as fishing, outdoor activities, and helping out on the farm whenever possible.

Jon has gained first-hand experience with the advantages of conservation tillage and no-till farming practices on his family's farm, where conservation tillage practices have been in use for over 30 years. This on-farm experience combined with his work with the NRCS has provided good insight into the challenges and rewards of conservation tillage. As an advocate of conservation tillage, Jon looks forward to providing support to the CCTA and promoting the use of conservation tillage in Colorado.

Ruthanne Koch, Arriba,

Ruthanne Koch has been on the CCTA Board as an industry representative since 2000. She and her husband, Bernie, own Koch-Operations, Inc., an aerial spraying business in Arriba, CO. Since their beginnings 23 years ago, they've added custom goundrig application, chemical/seed/fertilizer sales, and crop consulting of services offered.

Ruthanne originally joined the CCTA Board because of her desire to give back some time and effort in return for the professional career growth she felt she received from previous conferences. This year Koch is taking a step back from some of her responsibility as the CCTA past treasurer. *"I believe I had achieved one of my goals in helping the association run more efficiently by applying for and finally getting the Federal Tax Exempt status approved. Now I want to focus my final term on growing the organization."*

As a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA), Ruthanne is an advocate for the crop consultants who attend the annual conferences. While determined to maintain some balance to the conference program, she admits that the organization is primarily committed to the concerns of the growers and some years the conference topics and speakers reflect that priority more obviously than others. *"We honestly work very hard at trying to provide something for everyone, including the spouses. This coming year especially, I think we have an excellent line up."*

As for opinion of the CCTA membership as a whole...Koch says, *"What a great group to work with and for; most growers involved in this organization are innovators, and progressive 'out-of-the-box' thinkers.' They keep me motivated and challenged to do my job better and I appreciate that. Serving on the board has truly been a rewarding experience for me."*

Skip Row Site Tour Beneficial for Producers

By Dennis A. Kaan, CSU Golden Plains Area Extension Director

CCTA members and local producers had the opportunity to see first hand skip row planting techniques recently through a series of site tours hosted by CCTA board members. A total of seven site tours were held with approximately 130 participants attending at least one site tour. The CCTA Board of Directors would like to say “thank you” to all who took the time to attend and “thank the sponsors” for hosting refreshments at each site.



The site tours were beneficial for site hosts and attendees alike. There was ample opportunity for discussion between agronomists, who are monitoring this new planting technique, and producers, who have already implemented it or are considering implementing the technique. Options for weed control, variety selection and equipment setup were common topics of discussion.

In follow up to the summer tour, skip row planting will be a focus area during the **High Plains No Till Conference**, scheduled for January 31 and February 1, 2006. Speakers will include researchers who are studying nutrient and water use by plants in skip row configurations as well as a producer panel from the site tours discussing their results with this planting technique. The conference will be another opportunity to talk with researchers and producers about their experiences and share ideas for the future.

Summer tour site hosts were: Ken Remington, Akron, CO; Steve Millage, Holyoke, CO; Chris Bogert, Dix, NE; Jack Maranville, Matheson, CO; Dave and Jacob Wagers, Brush, CO; Darus Fix and Duane Dodsworth, Wray, CO; and the Central Great Plains Research Station, Akron, CO.

FARM MEALS ON WHEELS

Let's face it, the guys are in the field, you have a list as long as your arm to get done at home and there is a church potluck supper in the evening. This side dish doesn't take a lot of baby-sitting or preparation time. It does most of the cooking "on its own." Plus all you have to do is unplug it, pack it up, put it in the car and wheel on down the road.

Texas-style Beans*

2 cups pinto beans	1/4 pound salt pork, diced (you could use bacon or ham bone)
1 cup chopped onion	1 clove garlic, minced
2 teaspoons salt	Dash pepper
1 tablespoon sugar	2 16-ounce cans tomatoes, cut up
3/4 cup diced green pepper	6 drops bottled hot pepper sauce

In 2-quart bean pot or casserole, cover beans with water; soak overnight. Add salt pork, onion, garlic, salt and pepper. Simmer beans, covered, for 2 hours. Add tomatoes, diced green pepper, sugar, and bottled hot sauce; simmer, covered, for 3 hour more.

* 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, E-mail address is located on back.



Mark Wagers Memorial Progressive Farming Award

Mark Wagers was a founding board member of CCTA. He lost his life in a tragic auto accident in 2004. Mark was a very progressive farmer – always willing to try something new. He never hesitated to invest the time and effort to evaluate non-traditional crops, farming practices, new varieties of various crops, and new types of equipment. His meticulous record keeping efforts gave credibility to his assessments, and he was a valuable source of information for others.

In recognition of Mark's efforts to advance the adoption of conservation farming practices, the CCTA Board of Directors has established the **Mark Wagers Memorial Progressive Farming Award**.

Mark Wagers Memorial Progressive Farming Award Application Information

Deadline: Postmarked by January 2, 2006

Application to be sent to: Curt Wirth, CCTA Vice President, 35221 MCR 14, New Raymer, CO 80742.

Application must contain:

1. Name, complete mailing address and phone.
2. Short paragraph describing operation, method, rotational crops, and estimated years involved in conservation tillage practices. (*pictures optional*)
3. Include photo of applicant at time of application, *if possible*.

***Current CCTA Board Members are not eligible.**

Winner will be recognized at the High Plains No Till Conference, in the Conference Proceedings, the Website and receive a plaque at the Annual Meeting, February 1, 2006, Island Grove Regional Park, Greeley, Colorado.

**Find Fall Agri-Tourism Activities at
www.coloragoagriculture.com**

The leaves are changing colors, and there is a chill in the air. This time of year brings a variety of family events involving agriculture, including pumpkin patches and corn mazes.

The online corn maze and pumpkin patch list features farms across the state and a variety of pumpkin festivals that are taking place in October. In addition to pumpkin related activities, the site also lists corn mazes, agricultural tours, wineries, farmers' markets, festivals and dude ranches.

Picking out the perfect pumpkins and exploring a maze of corn have become a fall tradition for many families." When selecting your pumpkin, choose clean, well-shaped pumpkins with no cracks in the rind and avoid pumpkins with soft spots or decay. More than just a beautiful decoration, pumpkins are nutritious. They are fat free, sodium free, a good source of Vitamin C and high in Vitamin A.

Colorado Agri-Cultural Photo Contest

Photographers of all ages are encouraged to capture the essence of Colorado Agriculture on film and enter the 2005 "**Colorado ...it's Agri-Cultural**" photography contest. "*Since the contest began in 1998, we've received hundreds of photographs representing every aspect of agriculture in the state,*" says Commissioner of Agriculture Don Ament. "*These pictures are used in publications covers, brochures and presentations to educate the public about the contributions of Colorado agriculture.*" **Entries must be submitted to the Colorado Department of Agriculture with an official entry form by December 31.** Judging will be based on theme, creativity and technical quality; and prizes will be awarded in four categories, livestock, people, crops and scenes from a farmers' market. The photographer who best depicts the "spirit" of Colorado agriculture will receive a Kodak EasyShare CX7430 digital cameral. Visit www.coloradoagriculture.com or call 303-239-4119 for complete contest rules and an entry form.

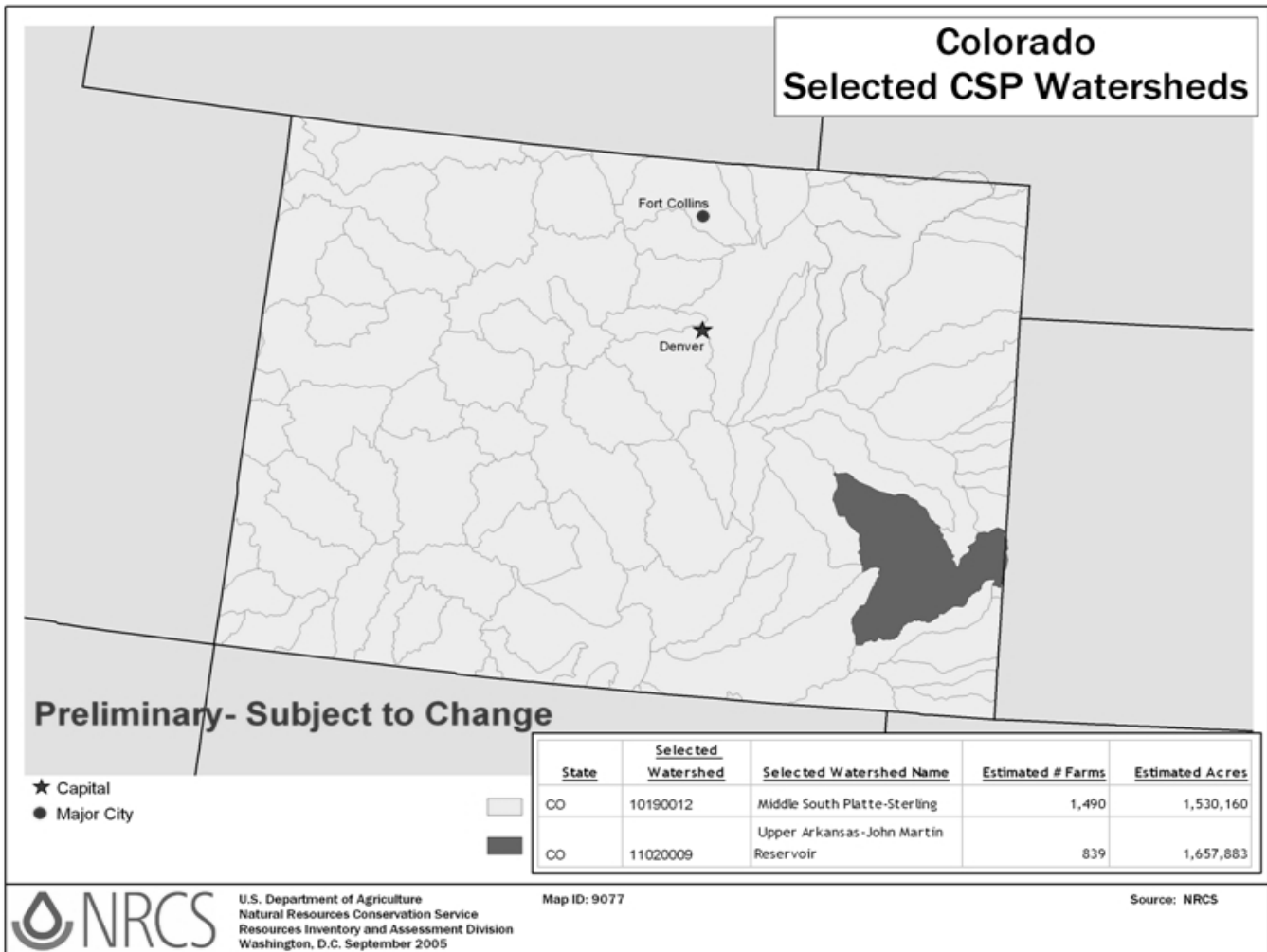


CSP Watersheds Selected for 2006

Submitted: Jon Wicke, District Conservationist, Greeley, CO

USDA has announced that 110 watersheds, with at least one in all 50 states, Guam and Puerto Rico, will be eligible for the 2006 Conservation Security Program (CSP). These watersheds represent nearly 137,000 of the nation's potentially eligible farms and ranches, covering nearly 50 million acres that are evenly split between cropland and grazing land. Two watersheds in Colorado were selected, including Middle South Platte–Sterling, and Upper Arkansas-John Martin Reservoir. The sign-up period will take place early in fiscal year 2006. A sign-up announcement will be published that will detail specific program requirements in the watersheds. For more information about the 2006 Conservation Security Program and a list of all the watersheds selected, visit the NRCS website at www.nrcs.usda.gov

Colorado map of selected Watersheds





UPDATE - 2006 HIGH PLAINS NO-TILL CONFERENCE

January 31- February 1

Website

The site for keeping current on the High Plains No-Till Conference and other CCTA Activities is www.highplainsnotill.com

Location

The conference will be at Island Grove Regional Park in Greeley, Colorado in the Events Center.

Conference Registration

Available on the website sometime in October.

Online registrations will be available through PayPal. Also look for a registration form in the November CCTA Journal.

Keynote Speakers and Workshops

There are 2 keynote speakers and 36 breakout workshops throughout the conference. In addition there will be a number of educational workshops of interest to spouses. Check the Website for a list of the workshops. They will be posted as they are confirmed. The November CCTA Journal will contain information on workshops as well.

Trade-Show

There will be a multitude of vendors from large equipment, to seed distributors, consultants to computer techs and more. Vendors will be listed on the website as they are confirmed. Get your application in early!

Scholarship Benefit

This year, during the High Plains No-Till Conference, a Benefit will be held to generate funds in hopes of being able to increase the number and/or the amount of the scholarship. On Tuesday night, January 31st, attendees can choose to attend the Union Colony Dinner Theater. Twenty dollars from their ticket of \$28.00 will go directly into the scholarship fund. There will be a limited number of seats available for this benefit, so you will want to get your reservations in early. Registration for the conference and the benefit will be on the website sometime in October and in the November CCTA Journal.

Trade Show and Sponsor Invitation

If you would like to be a sponsor of the High Plains No-Till Conference or a vendor at the Trade Show, please visit the website, www.highplainsnotill.com and you will find information and applications, if you haven't already received one in the mail.

The CCTA Board has planned specific Trade Show times into the program this year, along with the Trade Show being open throughout the conference. The Trade Show will be located in the Great Hall of the Events Center and will be sandwiched between workshops on the east and workshops on the west. The cost is \$250 and the registration **deadline is December 1** (*in order to be listed in the Conference Proceedings or on the Website*), **but will be accepted through the last day of the Colorado Farm Show.**

Sponsors provide general support to bring this conference to the farmers of the High Plains. Their generous donations aid in facility, equipment, administrative expenses, fees, and other conference production costs. Sponsors may also sponsor a specific activity such as entertainment, breaks and meals if so desired.

If you have questions, or need an application contact: Kathy Rickart, Co-Conference Chair (contact info on back of newsletter).



Conservation Quote

The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets, which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.

- [Theodore Roosevelt](#)



On The Lighter Side....of Farming

Three Little Pigs went out to dinner one night. The waiter came and took their drink order.

"I would like a Sprite," said the first little piggy.

"I would like a Coke," said the second little piggy.

"I want beer, lots and lots of beer," said the third little piggy.

The drinks were brought out and the waiter took their orders for dinner.

"I want a nice big steak," said the first piggy.

"I would like the salad plate," said the second piggy.

"I want beer, lots and lots of beer," said the third little piggy.

The meals were brought out and a while later the waiter approached the table and asked if the piggies would like any dessert.

"I want a banana split," said the first piggy.

"I want a root beer float," said the second piggy.

"I want beer, lots and lots of beer," exclaimed the third little piggy.

"Pardon me for asking," said the waiter to the third little piggy, "but why have you only ordered beer all evening?"

You're gonna LOVE this....

The third piggy says –

"Well, somebody has to go 'Wee, wee, wee, all the way home!'"



Close look at old corn stalks left standing from past harvest. The standing stalks helped catch additional snow over the winter to provide more moisture for the newly emerging (green) soybean plants. The stalks and other crop residue will slowly decompose to help nourish the new plants

(Conservation Technology Information Center Photo – permission granted)



Standing stalks of corn (in the foreground) will slowly decompose to provide natural mulch for the new seeds that will be planted in the spring.

(Farm Journal photo – permission granted)



New corn plants are growing among crop residues left from a previous harvest. Crop residues reduce runoff from farm fields to improve water quality.

(Conservation Technology Information Center Photo – permission granted)

The rows in this field have been ridged by farming equipment system known as ridge-till. The farmer then plants new seeds on top of each ridge while keeping the stalks and other crop residues on the surface of the field.

(Conservation Technology Information Center Photo – permission granted)



CCTA JOURNAL

2005-2006 CCTA BOARD MEMBERS

Jack Maranville, Matheson, CO – President
Curt Wirth, New Raymer, CO – Vice President
Dennis Kaan, Akron, CO – Secretary
Chris Bogert, Dix, NE – Treasurer
Jeff Farnik, New Raymer, CO
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Ruthanne Koch, Arriba, CO
Rod Pelton, Cheyenne Wells, CO
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

Gale Loeffler, Co-Conference Coordinator
Speakers, Proceedings, Evaluations
galeloeffler@earthlink.net

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

CCTA Scholarship Applications due October 15, 2005

Northeastern Junior College freshman returning as a sophomore majoring in Agronomy, Horticulture and Ag Business with a minimum of G.P.A. of 2.7 and a resident of Colorado are eligible to apply for the \$500 CCTA Scholarship.

For an application go to
www.highplainsnotill.com.

Applications are due at the NJC Agriculture Office in Beede-Haml by October 15, 2005.



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