

CONSERVATION MYTHS



ISAP's 2022 Risk Management Conference is a free 3-part webinar series 'debunking' popular myths that may be impeding adoption of soil health and conservation drainage practices. The series will look beyond the environmental benefits of conservation cropping systems to highlight the production and economic benefits producers can gain by transitioning to a soil health system.

ISAP is excited to be joined by several experts who will share their unique perspectives and experiences to debunk myths about adopting conservation on the farm. Explore the following program to learn more about our guest speakers and what they will be sharing throughout the webinar series!



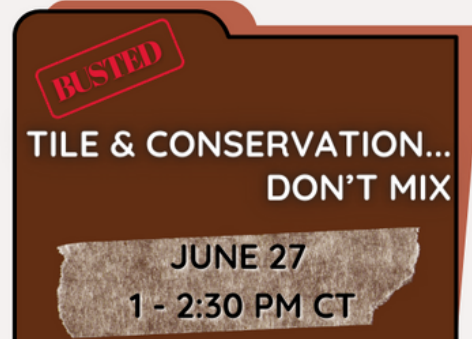
**COVER CROPS...
JUST ANOTHER INPUT**

JUNE 13
1 - 2:30 PM CT



**CONSERVATION...
COSTS TOO MUCH**

JUNE 21
1 - 2:30 PM CT



**TILE & CONSERVATION...
DON'T MIX**

JUNE 27
1 - 2:30 PM CT

The Risk Management Webinar series aims to increase the knowledge of farmers, landowners, and advisers, bringing the agriculture industry together to highlight how conservation practices go beyond the environmental benefits and build resiliency for Illinois farms. Continuing education credits, CEU's, will be offered.



The first webinar in the series will take on the myth that “**Cover Crops Are Just Another Input**,” exploring the agronomic benefits of taking a systems approach to improving soil health.



Benefits of Biologically Active Soils

Jerry Hatfield

Retired USDA-ARS Laboratory Director;
presently Agricultural Consultant

Jerry L. Hatfield received his PhD from Iowa State University in 1975 in the area of agricultural climatology, MS in agronomy from the University of Kentucky in 1972, and a BS in agronomy from Kansas State University in 1971 and is the retired Director of the USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in Ames, Iowa. He worked in California at the University of California-Davis from 1975-1983 as a biometeorologist working a range of different crops, joined USDA-ARS in 1983 at the Plant Stress and Water Conservation Unit in Lubbock, TX where he stayed until his transfer to Ames to develop the research program of the National soil Tilth Laboratory (renamed the National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment in 2009). His research focused on the interactions among the components of the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum and their linkage to air, water, and soil quality. His focus has been on the evaluation of farming systems and their response to water and nitrogen interactions across soils and remote sensing methods to quantify field variation.



Nutrient Management in Soil Health Systems

Kirk Kimble

Peoria County Farmer

Kirk and his wife Tiona are the fifth generation farming the land. Kirk's great-great grandfather started farming in central Illinois around the turn of the 20th century and the Kimble family has farmed there ever since. Tiona and Kirk have three daughters who have all been involved in Future Farmers of America and help out on the farm. The Kimbles practice no-till on every acre. When Kirk began farming, he tried no-till in order to save money by not purchasing more equipment, and he liked the results. With the big rain events occurring more frequently, Kirk says it just works well on his land for keeping erosion at bay.



Weed Control Benefits of Cover Crops

Frank Rademacher

Champaign Co Farmer & PCM

Conservation Specialist

Frank is a conservation specialist at Precision Conservation Management and farmer in EC Illinois. He farms with his father Eric, on a 600 acre corn/soybean farm in East-Central Illinois that practices cover crops, continuous no-till and input reduction. Frank graduated from the U of I in 2018 with a degree in Crop Science focusing on integrated pest management. At PCM, he enjoys using his agronomy background and on-farm experiences to help farmers make effective conservation decisions.

BUSTED

**CONSERVATION...
COSTS TOO MUCH**

JUNE 21
1 - 2:30 PM CT

The second session will review the economic benefits of transitioning to a soil health system, busting the myth that “**Conservation Costs Too Much.**”



Reaping the Rewards

Ryan Batts

U of I Extension Specialist, Farm and Financial Management

Ryan Batts is an academic professional in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics and has been the coordinator of the FAST (Farm Analysis Solution Tools) programming. He has been involved with putting together annual training sessions, developing tools, and creating support materials for the tools. Ryan is also a farmer in Central Indiana. The farm transitioned to no-till starting in the late 1980s and has been incorporating various cover crops starting in the early 2000s.



Your Soil Health Balance Sheet

Paul Dietmann

Senior Focused Lending Specialist at
Compeer Financial

Paul Dietmann is Senior Focused Lending Specialist at Compeer Financial, a member-owned rural lending cooperative and Farm Credit System institution serving the upper Midwest. He co-leads Compeer's Emerging Markets Program, which provides loans and business planning assistance to farmers who market their products through local food systems.

Dietmann holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois, and a Master's Degree from UW-Madison. He is co-author of the books *Fearless Farm Finances: Farm Financial Management Demystified* and *Financial Risk Management for Specialty Crop Farmers*, and author of *Turning Grain Into Dough: Farm Financial Management for Organic Grain and Crop Rotation*.



Turning Red Into Green

Dallas Glazik

Farm Bill Biologist, Pheasants Forever

Dallas grew up on a grain and cattle farm in east central Illinois and received a degree in Restoration Ecology from the University of Illinois. His work in precision agriculture and conservation has allowed him to incorporate profitable habitat on his farm and many others across Illinois. Dallas works with farmers to determine a layout, select a seed mix, and install and manage strips of prairie vegetation for erosion control on the farm.

BUSTED

TILE & CONSERVATION... DON'T MIX

JUNE 27
1 - 2:30 PM CT

The myth "**Tile and Conservation Don't Mix**" is a misconception that may be limiting farmers' interest in adopting conservation practices.



A Roadmap for Better Tile Drainage

Ehsan Ghane

Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Michigan State University

Dr. Ehsan Ghane is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist at Michigan State University. His research and extension interests are focused on topics of water quality and agricultural drainage. Dr. Ghane provides education to diverse stakeholders, including producers, drainage contractors, crop advisors, conservation professionals, and agency personnel while working to translate his applied research into educational Extension products.

Dr. Ghane's primary research goal is to increase the performance and profitability of subsurface drainage systems, and reduce their harmful water-quality impact. He is interested in innovative practices that reduce nutrient loss to surface water and conserve water for crop production, including controlled drainage, saturated buffers, and drainage water recycling. Additionally, Dr. Ghane is interested in modeling agricultural water management systems at the field scale. He strongly values diversity and interdisciplinary research in advancing the agricultural engineering field and accelerating scientific discovery in the drainage community.



Benefits of Managing Tile Water

Isaac Ferrie

Director of Research & Agronomist,
CropTech Consulting

Isaac is a Certified Crop Adviser and the GIS Project Manager, he graduated from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville earning a Bachelors Degree in Geography, specializing in Geographic Information Systems. Isaac also received a Master of Professional Studies from Northeastern University in Geographic Information Technology. He has been working "hands on "since 2003 helping to coordinate and implement many of the test plots that CTC has a hand in each year. Isaac, his wife Abbi, and their three children live in Heyworth. In his free time Isaac enjoys hunting and fishing.



Tile's Role in Soil Health and Productivity

Jeff O'Connor

Farmer, Kankakee Co. SWCD Chairman,
IL Soybean Association Director at Large

Jeff O'Connor is a 6th generation farmer from Kankakee, IL. He earned a bachelor's degree in Ag Economics from the University of Illinois in 1988. He currently farms 800 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat, including non-GMO soybean varieties for specialty markets domestically and overseas. Jeff has been using cover crops, strip tillage and controlled water drainage for nearly 10 years and enjoys watching his soil structure and resiliency improve. He has been a Certified Crop Advisor for 20+ years with a Sustainability Specialist certificate, has served on the Kankakee Soil and Water Conservation Board for 20+ years and serves the Illinois Soybean Association as an At-Large Director. Jeff has been married for 28 years to Gina and has three grown children with one grandchild.