Conservation Tillage Conference is largest ag meeting in NW Ohio

In less than a month, the agriculture community will meet at the Conservation Tillage Conference, the largest agriculture meeting in northwestern Ohio.

This annual two-day conference will be held March 6 and 7 on the campus of Ohio Northern University in Ada.

The meeting and program have been developed by the Ohio State University Extension agriculture and natural resources educators in the surrounding counties with assistance from local Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources and Conservation Services.

The conference will include over 60 speakers and a trade show that will have product displays and representatives from over 40 vendors.

Four concurrent program sessions will occur each hour of the day from approximately 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Over 400 farmers, consultants, industry representatives, government officials and the curious will meet each day of the two-day conference to listen to university specialists, industry representatives, and producers discuss new products and ideas for agriculture.

A national symposium on "Healthy Soil for Healthy Water" will be one of the breakout occasions on both days. Theme during the symposium will include: Building Soil Health, Healthy Foods from Healthy Soil, Precision Nutrient Management, and Healthy Water.

The popular “Corn University” and “Soybean School” will be offered again as part of the other sessions. Eleven state extension specialists from six land-grant universities will be giving the presentations.

Corn topics include controlling input costs for high-yielding corn, tools for nitrogen management, disease issues and solutions, and key management practices for Ohio production.

Corn breakout programs will be on March 6 between 10:35 a.m. and 4:35 p.m.

Soybean topics include economic considerations on whether to plant corn or soybeans, management practices to increase yields, late-season insect problems, resistant weed management, and variable seeding rate.

Soybean programs will be on March 7 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:20 p.m.

Other breakout sessions on Tuesday include manure and nutrient management, and precision ag and digital technologies. For Wednesday, the other breakout sessions will have presentations on water quality research, best management practices to improve water quality, alternative crops, and atypical pests.

Alternative crop topics include hops, matting barley, honeybees, woodlots, blueberries and brambles. Atypical pests include slugs, voles, geese, turkeys, deer, and invasive plants.

The Conservation Tillage Conference fee is $85 for both days ($65 for one day) if paid online before Feb. 22.

Registration after that, or the day of, is $90 for one day or $165 for both days. Registration information and a detailed program schedule may be found at http://ctc.osu.edu.

Certified Crop Advisers (CCA) will be able to receive seven hours of continuing education credits each day. Hours will be offered in all categories, particularly in the hard-to-get categories of soil and water management and nutrient management.

Dicamba training will be offered each day from 1 to 2:30 p.m. for farmers who need certification to apply new dicamba herbicides. Monsanto will be providing the training.

Separate registration is required for the dicamba training and can be completed at www.ohiodicambaextend.com.

Training. Certified Crop Advisers who attend the training can get 1.5 continuing education credits in pest management.

The Conservation Tillage Conference is a great program to learn about the latest management and conservation practices in crop production and to network within the agricultural community.

Please contact the OSU Extension Office Hancock County, 419-422-3851, or lentz.38@osu.edu for additional information.

The Extension office will also offer a corn, soil fertility program from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 20. Call 419-422-3851 or lentz.38@osu.edu to register.

Title of the program is "Nitrogen Stabilizers, Starters, Micros, Sulfur and Nutrient Enhancers — How Important Are They for Corn Production?" CCA credits will be available. This program is free to the public.

Lentz is extension educator for agriculture and natural resources for The Ohio State University Extension Service in Hancock County. He can be reached at 419-422-3851 or via email at lentz.38@osu.edu.

Lentz can be heard with Vaun Wickerham on weekdays at 6:35 a.m. on WFBN, at 5:43 a.m. on WKXJ-FM, and at 5:28 a.m. at 106.3 The Fox.