



Georgia
Conservation
Tillage
Alliance

SEPTEMBER 2001 NEWSLETTER

New GCTA Members

We welcome the following new members to GCTA:

Tom Cary, Sylvester

Roy Hardin, Arabi

Dale Heath, Girard

Chuck Johnson, Marshallville

Joe Napier, Warner Robins

David Selph, Pineview

Grady Shaw, Ft. Valley

Bobby Thompson, Marshallville

Robert Thompson, Kathleen

GCTA Membership Dues

If you have not paid your GCTA dues for 2001, please do so soon. Mail your check and current address to: **Max Carter, GCTA Treasurer, 1671 Warren Carter Road, Douglas, GA 31533.**

2002 Southern Conservation Tillage Conference

The 25th Annual Southern Conservation Tillage Conference for Sustainable Agriculture will be held June 24-26, 2002 in Alabama. Registration will be held on June 24 in Auburn. On June 25, technical presentations will be given. A field day will be held on June 26 at the E. V. Smith Research Center in Milstead, AL, 30 miles southwest of Auburn off I-85.

A web site is being developed to provide more information about the Conference.

The first Conference was held in Griffin, GA in 1978. The conference is rotated among the states in the southeast US. For more information about the 2002 Conference, contact **Kirk Iversen**, USDA-ARS and Auburn University, at 334-844-4741, ext. 179 or <kiversen@acesag.auburn.edu>.

Did You Know?

- Grazing cover crops causes more soil compaction than that near the soil surface. Grazing animals can affect the natural hardpan to a soil depth of 13-17 inches according to **Dr. Wayne Reeves**, USDA-ARS in Auburn, AL.
- It is important on how you take soil samples in long-term conservation tillage fields. **Dr. Glen Harris** of UGA recommends that for every soil sample taken in the row, that you take 10 samples between the row. He also recommends that you take a sample at a depth of 0-2" and a separate sample at a depth of 2-8" in the same hole.
- A study at the University of Iowa illustrates how extensive the root system of a rye plant may be. A rye plant was grown for 4 months in 1 cubic foot of soil. It was determined that this one plant had approximately 13,800,000 roots, with a length of more than of 385 miles and a surface area of about 2,550 square feet. The root hairs on this plant numbered approximately 14 billion, with a total length of more than 6,600 miles and a surface area of about 4,320 square feet. This illustrates the growth of a rye plant that takes place beneath the ground surface. Source: *The Yearbook of Agriculture*, 1957.

Change of Address

If your mailing address has changed, please notify:
Max Carter, GCTA Treasurer, 1671 Warren Carter Road, Douglas, GA 31533.

North Carolina Soil Quality Team Visits Georgia

USDA-NRCS and GCTA hosted the North Carolina Soil Quality in Georgia on August 14-15, 2001. The NC Soil Quality Team visited with Lamar Black at the Tilmanstone Farm (Millen) and the J. Phil Campbell, Sr. Natural Resources Conservation Research Center (Watkinsville). The NC team has members from many different disciplines and strives to keep up to date on soil quality improvements being made with long-term conservation tillage on farms and research stations.



Bobby Brock, NC, is all smiles with the amount of rye residue being managed at the Tilmanstone Farm



Lamar Black (L) discusses soil quality improvements on the Tilmanstone Farm with the NC Soil Quality Team.



Harry Schomberg (L) discusses P1 Watershed research results with the NC Team. The P1 has been in continuous no-till since 1975.

Georgia Conservation Tillage Photo Gallery - Crops in 2001



Mary Leidner with Brian Ponder's strip-till watermelons - Tift Co.



No-till cotton and heavy residue on Jamie Jordan Farm - Floyd County



Mary Leidner with no-till peanuts on Pond-O-Gold, Inc. Farm - Tift County

(Photos provided by USDA-NRCS)



Lamar Black's strip-till cotton in heavy rye residue - Jenkins Co.

Calendar of Events

"Come and Go at Your Leisure" Conservation Tillage Field Day, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2001, Perry, GA. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call Andy Page @ 478-987-2280, ext. 3.

Sunbelt Ag. Expo, Oct. 16-18, 2001, Moultrie, GA 229-985-1968 or www.sunbeltexpo.com

GCTA 8th Annual Meeting, February 26-27, 2002 (*tentative dates*) Perry, GA

25th Southern Conservation Tillage Conference for Sustainable Agriculture, June 24-26, 2002, Auburn, AL. Contact Kirk Iversen @ 334-844-4741 or kiversen@acesag.auburn.edu.

Conservation Tillage Alliances in Georgia

- Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance, Inc. (GCTA)** (gcta-ga.org) - Est. 1993
- Coffee County Conservation Tillage Alliance, Inc. (CCCTA)** (cccta.net) - Est. 1994
- East Central Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance (ECGCTA)** - Est. 1998
- Mid-State Conservation Tillage Alliance (MSCTA)** - Est. 2000
- Southeast Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance (SEGCTA)** - Est. 2001

GCTA Board Members for 2001

Lamar Black, President, Millen

Roger Smith, Vice-President, Abbeville

Brian Ponder, Secretary, Omega

Max Carter, Treasurer, Douglas

David Batchelor, Douglas

Glen Harris, Tifton

Stan Hillis, Girard

Richard McDaniel, Waynesboro

Steve Spooner, Sylvester