



Newsletter – January 2003

2003 GCTA Annual Meeting

The **2003 GCTA Annual Meeting** will be held **February 25-26, 2003** in **Metter**. The **S. E. Georgia Alliance** will host the meeting.

Motel accommodations are available at the Holiday Inn Express (all rooms are \$55; phone: 912-685-3000) and the Comfort Inn (\$49 for king and \$54 double; phone: 912-685-4100) in Metter. Be sure you ask for the "Conservation Tillage Meeting Discount". Rooms are also available at the Days Inn (912-685-2700) and the Metter Inn (912-685-2800).

The meeting will begin on Tuesday night, February 25, with supper at the Western Steer restaurant in Metter. The motels and the restaurant are located at the intersection of GA Highways 23 and 121 with I-16 on the south side of town.

The meeting on Wednesday morning, February 26, will begin at the Willow Lake Country Club in Metter. The Club is on GA Highway 23 on the north side of town.

Following the morning presentations and lunch on Wednesday, a field day will be held to look at different cover crops and treatments. The field day will be held at Jim Donaldson's farm located on GA Highway 46 just west of Metter.

Registration for the meeting is free if your GCTA dues have been paid for 2003. For others, the registration fee will be \$15.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. For additional information, please contact Lamar Black, GCTA President at (478) 982-4285.

3rd Conservation Tillage School

The **3rd Annual Conservation Tillage School** will be held **February 11-13, 2003 @ Douglas**. Over 100 people attended in 2001 and also in 2002.

The theme of this year's school is "**Feed the Soil, Save the Farm**". Again, the School will concentrate on the use of conservation tillage and cover crops with emphasis on improving soil quality. The speakers are farmers, researchers, and others from Georgia, Virginia, and Maryland.

Scholarships are available for farmers to attend the School.

Call (912) 384-1402 if you or someone you know wants to attend.

GA Soil Quality Card Updated

The "**Soil Quality Card for Georgia**" was updated in October 2002. (The original card was developed in 1999.)

Copies of the Card are being sent to all GCTA members.

Let us know if you want additional copies of the Card.

Billboard on I-75

A conservation tillage billboard was placed adjacent to I-75 South in south Georgia in October 2002.



A toll free number was provided for those wanting more information on conservation tillage. **Andy Page, NRCS, the Ocmulgee River Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Mid State Conservation Tillage Alliance** participated in this effort.

Rick Reed Retires

Rick Reed, County Agent in Douglas retired in December 2002. He worked with the UGA Cooperative Extension Service since 1974 in Statesboro, Metter, and Douglas.

Rick is a charter member of GCTA and helped organize the Coffee County Conservation Tillage Alliance, Inc.

We wish him the best in his retirement.

GCTA List Serve Available

To subscribe, send an email to: listserv@tifton.cpes.peachnet.edu. In the body of the message type (without the quotation marks): "subscribe ga-contill [your name]".

Calendar of Events

East Central Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance Meeting and Field Day at 10:00 AM on January 14, 2003 @ Millen. Dr. George Shumaker will speak on the new Farm Bill and a sponsored lunch will be served. In the afternoon, there will be a field day to demonstrate some farm equipment. Contact Lamar Black @ (478) 982-4285 for reservations.

3rd Annual Conservation Tillage Systems School. February 11-13, 2003 @ Douglas. (See page 1 for more information.)

GCTA Annual Meeting. Feb. 25-26, 2003 @ Metter. Contact Lamar Black @ 478-982-4285. (See page 1 for more information.)

26th Southern Conservation Tillage Conference. June 16-18, 2003 @ Texas A&M.

Conservation Tillage Alliances

Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance, Inc. gcta-ga.org

Coffee County Conservation Tillage Alliance, Inc. ccta.net

East Central Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance

Mid State Conservation Tillage Alliance

Southeast Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance

Worth County Conservation Tillage Alliance

GCTA Board Members for 2002

David Batchelor, Douglas	Glen Harris, Tifton
Lamar Black, Millen	Stan Hillis, Girard
Max Carter, Douglas	Scott Moore, Elko
Jim Donaldson, Metter	Steve Spooner, Sylvester
Richard McDaniel, Waynesboro	