



Winter Newsletter January 2009

## 2009 GCTA Annual Meeting Returns to Hawkinsville

Come join us for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance (GCTA) in Hawkinsville, Georgia on February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Together we will explore how conservation tillage can be an important component of your farming operation.

The meeting begins at 6:00 pm Tuesday at “The Steakhouse” 101 Buckan, Ave. off the Hwy 341 Bypass, Hawkinsville, GA. After dinner there will be a presentation about taking a broad brush approach to weed control in conservation tillage systems.

The Educational Program and Business meeting will be Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup> at the

Middle Georgia Technical College on Hwy 247, in Hawkinsville. Registration begins at 8:30 am. The agenda will provide good information as well as allowing plenty of time to ask questions, share experiences, and get answers on many topics related to conservation tillage.

Topics to be presented are:

- Appropriate cover crops for conservation systems in Georgia
- Commodity markets – what to expect in a changing economy
- 2008 Farm Bill – impacts on conservation practices, implementing new rules

### Upcoming Events

**February 26-27-** GCTA Annual Meeting, Hawkinsville, GA See meeting insert for full details.

**March 19-21-** Georgia Organics Annual Conference, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA. <http://www.georgiaorganics.org>

The GCTA annual business meeting will be held right before lunch and a field tour has been planned for the afternoon by Mr. Ronnie Barentine, Pulaski County Extension. The tour will include new conservation tillage equipment as well as demonstrations of conservation tillage practices used in Pulaski County.

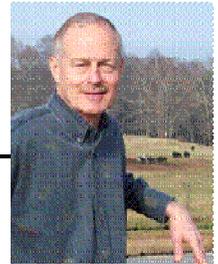
The GCTA Board encourages you to be a part of the annual meeting. See you in Hawkinsville.

For more information, contact Gary Hawkins, 229-386-3914, [ghawkins@uga.edu](mailto:ghawkins@uga.edu)



Photo at left, scene from the 2008 GCTA Annual Meeting field tour & demo, by Stephen Norris

## No-Till Advocate Wayne Reeves Retires from USDA-ARS



On January 3, 2009, Dr. Wayne Reeves retired after 33 years of federal service. Wayne is well known as an ardent supporter of conservation production practices and for his tireless research and outreach efforts on cover crops and other management techniques critical for successful conservation tillage systems. His research has resulted in many innovations adopted by producers across the Southeast. His passion for transferring research results to producers has been evident from the many presentations he has made to producer groups, certified crop advisors, extension agents, training workshops and policy makers. He is a firm believer that research should not gather dust in journals, but must be transferred to those that can benefit from it.

Many of Wayne's research accomplishments came while working as an agronomist at the Soil Dynamics Research Unit, Auburn, Alabama. They have continued even as he served as Research Leader at J. Phil Campbell Sr. Natural Resource Conservation Center, Watkinsville. Wayne is recognized nationally and internationally as an authority on management of soil compaction, conservation tillage systems, soil quality and sustainable cropping systems. He received numerous awards from both customer groups and professional organizations, including being selected as a Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America. In 1997, he received recognition for his outstanding research in conservation tillage by being selected as the ARS' Distinguished Senior Research Scientist of the Year.

Wayne's immediate plans are to spend more time with his grandkids, catch up on some things around the house and do some hunting and fishing. His career plans are to remain a collaborator with ARS to further the impact of conservation systems research through technology transfer, and to increase customer recognition of ARS and the J. Phil Campbell Sr. Natural Resource Conservation Center. We know that with his passion for conservation tillage and cover crops he will not be a stranger.

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### ***Save the Date – GCTA Annual Meeting – February 24-25***

The cost to attend the annual meeting is included with your GCTA dues. Dues to the state alliance are \$15/year. If you are a member of a local alliance, GCTA dues are included with your local dues. You may pay your GCTA dues at the annual meeting registration. If you are not attending the annual meeting, you may send your dues to:

Jim Donaldson, GCTA Treasurer  
764 Sam's Creek Church Road  
Metter, GA 30439

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#### GCTA Board Members

Lamar Black, Millen  
Ronnie Barentine, Hawkinsville  
Jimmy Dean, Athens  
Jim Donaldson, Metter  
Glen Harris, Tifton  
Bob Rawlins, Rebecca  
Don Register, Chula  
Steve Spooner, Sylvester  
Robert Thompson, Kathleen

#### Conservation Tillage Alliances

Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance  
Coffee County Conservation Tillage Alliance, Inc.  
East Central Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance  
Mid State Conservation Tillage Alliance  
Southeast Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance  
Upper Suwannee Conservation Tillage Alliance  
Worth County Conservation Tillage Alliance



Mr. Don Register smiles as he is awarded the Outstanding Service Award at the 2008 GCTA Annual Meeting. The award was given in recognition of Mr. Register's outstanding contributions to the Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance.

# *Glyphosate–Resistant Pigweed Problem in Cotton Systems*

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Georgia  
Conservation  
Tillage  
Alliance

Glyphosate  
resistance by  
Palmer amaranth

(*Amaranthus palmeri*) (or pigweed) has become a hot topic in conservation tillage circles over the last year. Resistance to glyphosate by pigweed was confirmed in Georgia in August of 2005 and has been reported in several other Cotton Belt states. Good agronomic practice is to rotate crops and chemicals to avoid the development of resistance in weeds, insects, and diseases. Unfortunately many producers have had little economic opportunity to grow different crops for a number of reasons. In addition, the system of glyphosate resistant crops has become so prevalent that rotation of crops doesn't mean that the weed control system changes along with a change of crops. It's not surprising that resistance to a single chemical would appear under these conditions.

In conservation tillage systems, a heavy residue cover crop like rye can help reduce the spread of glyphosate resistant weeds by suppressing weed germination and growth. When the winter cover crop is planted early and managed for maximum growth, a dense mat is formed on the soil surface. In addition, conservation tillage systems that minimize soil disturbance (direct seeding or minimum tillage) can help reduce seed germination. Since weed emergence and growth are suppressed by the physical barrier and shading of the residue, more residue results in better weed control. Maximizing residue amount

along with minimizing soil disturbance can go a long way in controlling weeds.

Experiments in Alabama and Georgia showed that cover crop residue is effective for controlling pigweed. In Alabama, rye was planted at three different dates in late fall and allowed to grow through the winter and early spring before being killed and rolled prior to planting a cotton crop. The earlier planted rye produced greater residue and was most effective in controlling pigweed. Treatments with winter fallow and traditional tillage had more pigweed than those with rye cover.

Because of limited postemergence herbicide options for controlling Palmer amaranth in both cotton and soybeans it is important to be very proactive when it comes to managing glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth. The University of Georgia has a publication with recommendations for controlling glyphosate-resistant pigweed. The National Soil Dynamics Laboratory and Auburn University have developed a publication "Controlling Glyphosate–Resistant Pigweed in Conservation Tillage Cotton Systems" that presents various control options and background information. The most important points to consider with herbicide resistance are to be proactive, monitor your fields, spot treat any escaping weeds, use good sanitation practices, and rotate your crops and herbicides.

For more information on this article, contact:  
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Harry Schomberg, [Harry.Schomberg@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Harry.Schomberg@ars.usda.gov)

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Price, A. J. K.S. Balkcom, R.L. Raper, C.D. Monks, R.M. Barentine, and K.V. Iversen 2008. *Controlling Glyphosate–Resistant Pigweed in Conservation Tillage Cotton Systems*. Special Publication No. 09 Available at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/Place/64200500/csr/SpecialPubs/SP09.pdf>

Culpepper, A.S., A.C. York, J. Kichler, A. MacRae, A.L. Davis, and T.M. Webster. 2007. *University of Georgia herbicide programs for Palmer Amaranth control in cotton*. Available at <http://www.cropsoil.uga.edu/weedsci/HomepageFiles/Palmer2008.pdf>

# GCTA ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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24-25 February 2009---Hawkinsville, GA

Come join us at our 16th Annual Meeting Feb. 24-25. GCTA was organized in 1993, with the first annual meeting in 1994 at Columbus. We have a long history of actively promoting conservation tillage and will continue in the future.

Lamar Black, President



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## MEETING SCHEDULE

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**Tuesday, 24 February** The Steakhouse Restaurant, Hawkinsville

6:00pm Registration

Supper

*Weed Control – A Broad Brush Approach in Conservation Tillage*

**Wednesday, 25 February** Middle Georgia Technical College/Hawkinsville Workforce Development Center

8:30am Registration continues

9:00am Program

- *Cover Crops in the Current Crop Rotations/Systems*
- *Commodity Markets in this time of Economic Uncertainty*
- *Conservation aspects of the 2008 Farm Bill*

11:00 Business meeting

Noon Lunch

Afternoon Field and Farm Tour of Pulaski County

*Door prizes include two \$100 Bass Pro gift cards, to be given away at the end of Wednesday's program*

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*Note: Topics & presenters subject to change*

**The Tuesday evening gathering will be at the:**

**The Steakhouse Restaurant**

341 Bypass  
101 Buchan Avenue  
Hawkinsville, GA  
478- 892-3383

**The Best Western Hotel (adjacent to the Steakhouse Restaurant)**

Located on the US 341 Bypass  
100 Buchan Drive  
Hawkinsville, GA 31036  
478-783-1300

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**Wednesday sessions will be held at the:**

**Hawkinsville Workforce Development Center**

**Middle Georgia Technical College**

243 Warner Robins Highway (Hwy 247)  
Hawkinsville, GA 31036  
(478) 783-3017

