

Proceedings

1988 Southern Conservation Tillage Conference

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Foreword

The first no-till conference was hosted by the Georgia Experiment Station at Griffin in 1978, with seven southeastern states as participants. The Georgia Station was the host again in 1985, when the Conference was expanded to include all 13 states in the Southern Region. In 1987, when Texas served as the host state, the steering committee voted to change the conference title to *Conservation Tillage Conference*. The primary objective thus becomes the promotion of conservation production systems, not just no-till, by providing a communication link between various agencies and personnel interested in resource conservation.

Farm managers currently face a tremendous challenge — conserving farm resources while increasing production and reducing soil degradation and water pollution. In order to survive, farmers must remain competitive and productive, but must be concerned with the use and management of soil and water resources as well as other resources such as energy, fertilizers and pesticides more than ever before. Agriculture is still the backbone of the American economy; but agriculture is no longer exempt from accountability of actions that may degrade the environment.

The 1988 conference theme, “Conservation Farming: Focus on a Better Future,” was chosen because of its relevancy to other actions currently underway to promote improvements in teaching, research, and extension activities to keep the Mississippi farm community well informed and on the cutting edge of science and technology. Speakers recognized for their knowledge and experience, including farmers, were chosen to discuss issues and components of conservation farming systems that are pertinent to the conference title and theme. The proceedings contains invited and voluntary contributions that are relevant to the conference title and theme. We appreciate the opportunity to host this annual conference, especially during the year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station system.

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