

**Proceedings of the
1992 Southern Conservation Tillage Conference**

**Jackson and Milan, Tennessee
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Editors

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Forward

The first no-till conference was hosted by the Georgia Experiment Station at Griffin in 1978 with seven Southeastern States participating. The conference was expanded to include all 13 states in the Southern Region in 1985. In 1987, the Steering Committee voted to change the conference title to Southern Conservation Tillage Conference. The primary objective of the Conference became the promotion of conservation production systems, not just no-till, by providing a communication link between various agencies and personnel interested in resource conservation.

The use of conservation tillage has grown rapidly since the concept was first practiced in the 1960's. Its success is due, in large part, to the perception that it is a cost effective means of achieving both agricultural production objectives and soil and water conservation goals.

The 1992 conference theme "Conservation Tillage for Profitable Farming and Environmental Quality" was chosen to target the economics of changing to conservation tillage (weed control, fuel, labor, equipment, management, etc.) and preserve our land base resource as well as address conservation compliance. It is intended to include (1) farmers who are practicing conservation tillage, (2) research, Extension and Soil Conservation Service professionals studying and teaching conservation tillage, and (3) agribusiness consultants, farm suppliers, and commodity representatives.

This year's conference is being held in conjunction with the Milan No-till Crop Production Field Day at The University of Tennessee Milan Experiment Station. The conference includes a full day of oral and poster presentations at the West Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station in Jackson, TN, followed by a tour of the Milan No-till Crop Production Field Day. It is hoped that by combining these two events, the important message of conservation tillage will be amplified and dispersed to a much larger audience than would otherwise be possible. Certainly, we at The University of Tennessee welcome the opportunity to host this important conference, and we sincerely welcome you to Tennessee.

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