

**Proceedings**

**1995 Southern Conservation Tillage Conference  
for Sustainable Agriculture**

**Jackson, Mississippi**

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***Conservation Farming  
A Focus on Water Quality***

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# Foreword

Following the 1987 No-Till Conference name change, Mississippi hosted the first newly named Southern Conservation Tillage Conference, the aptly chosen theme of which was “Conservation Farming: A Focus on a Better Future.” The 1988 theme provides a segue to the 1995 theme, “Conservation Farming: A Focus on Water Quality.” Coupling the terms of conservation farming and water quality captures the essence of the Conference’s long-standing commitment to promote the study and use of farming practices aimed at achieving viable agricultural productivity and conservation of soil and water resources.

A brief trip back to the future serves as a reminder of the recognition by ancient farming societies of the value of conservation farming practices, a concept which is now a rapidly developing arena for the potential application of recent technologies, such as satellite-assisted farm management based on site-specific soil properties. The timeless appeal of conservation farming can be attributed, in the main, to its amenability to the application of principles of scientific inquiry. This has permitted an ever-improving understanding of the relation of underlying natural processes to agricultural production, and positive or negative changes in the status of soil and water resources. From this foundation has sprung the potential for reduced economic requirements and optimization of desired outcomes in farm productivity and environmental quality.

Farmers and farm managers have been made keenly aware that a better future for farming is intimately linked to society’s focus on water quality — and that the future is now. Mississippi is proud to host this year’s conference, the purpose of which is to convey, in a useful format, the results of scientific experimentation and observation that help provide the means by which the goals of conservation farming and society may be closely aligned. .

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