

Foreword

Conservation tillage systems offer great benefits for southern U.S. agriculture. These systems effectively address some of the major production limitations faced by farmers in the region, including soil erosion, drought and poor soil structure. They also provide savings in labor, machinery and fuel. Conservation tillage is an integral part of minimizing the negative environmental impacts of crop production.

The purpose of the Southern Conservation Tillage Conference for Sustainable Agriculture is to encourage investigation and improvement of conservation tillage systems and to expand their use in southern agriculture. Since the first conference in Georgia in 1978, the conference has served as a forum for exchange of information and ideas. The widespread adoption of conservation tillage systems is due in no small part to the efforts of conference participants in the various states.

The theme for this year is "*New Technology for Conservation Tillage*". It was chosen to emphasize the new opportunities that biotechnology, precision farming and other emerging technologies offer for conservation systems. The conference will also address more traditional areas which continue to be of interest in refining and adopting conservation tillage systems.

The conference is being held in conjunction with the 16th Annual Milan No-Till Field Day. This is one of the premier events in the South for presenting conservation tillage research and new technology to farmers.

We at the University of Tennessee welcome the opportunity to host the conference. We welcome you to Tennessee, the West Tennessee Experiment Station and the Milan No-Till Field Day.

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