



Dear Conference Participant,

Welcome to the 30th year of the Southern Conservation Agricultural Systems Conference. The theme for this year's conference is "Sod based rotation-the next step after conservation tillage". For those involved in the Southern Extension/Research Activities (SERA) Information Exchange Groups (IEG) meetings for some time, you have seen the innovations in conservation tillage over the years in equipment and management techniques along with what genetic technology has done to advance the movement to more conservation tillage.

This conference and field tour will focus on the benefits of the sod based rotation to the economics, risk management, and environmental impacts to the farm. This is the first year that heads of other conservation groups from around the country have joined with our group to develop a more national united front for conservation tillage efforts with leadership from the Conservation Technology Information Center.

A goal of this conference is to bring people together that have taken on the task of making conservation tillage work and conserving and enhancing natural resources while making the system economically attractive to growers. It is my hope that the conference will expose others to the value of perennial grasses in row crops systems and stimulate them to look at these systems with livestock. As farming becomes more complex and expensive, land and other resources will need to be utilized for longer periods throughout the year and the sod/livestock cropping system does intensify both labor and land utilization.

For those of you attending from outside Florida, I hope that you experience a small piece of the beauty of North Florida including such places as Wakulla Springs where some of the Tarzan movies were made about 30 miles SE of Quincy. This is an excellent place to see alligators in the wild and have a jungle cruise (at a cheap price) to see other wildlife. I hope you will enjoy your time here and we are open to working with others in our systems research.

Sincerely,

David Wright
Chair of the 2007 SCASC