Dwayne Beck, Shaun Casteel, and Emerson Nafziger headline CTC, March 4-5

Dwayne Beck, who has held the position of manager of this world renowned farm, Dwayne Beck, will speak at the general session of the Conservation Tillage Conference, on the topic “Healthy Soil: We know one when we see one.”

Beck says, “Soil health is a term that defies definition. Like beautiful people, we know one when we see one.”

The Conservation Tillage Conference will have a line up of about 60 speakers for the annual program at Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio.

The full program and registration information can be found on the website: ctc.osu.edu. In addition, flyers are in county Extension offices. Information has been emailed to previous attendees (or mailed to those without an email address). Crop consultants in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan will receive an email later this month listing available CEU credits. Registration is the same as last year: $65 for one day; $85 for both.

The General Session starts at 9:30 Tuesday, March 4. In addition to the keynote, awards will be presented by Ohio Certified Crop Advisers and Ohio Farmer magazine.

Note that a Cover Crops session will begin at 8:00 a.m. and run all day Tuesday. This session will break for Dwayne Beck’s presentation.

Starting at 11:00, concurrent sessions take over. The Tuesday program includes: Corn University; Advanced Scouting; and Nutrient Management (both days). The sessions will end about 6:00 p.m.

The Wednesday lineup of four concurrent sessions starts at 8:30 and includes:

- Soybean School; Water Quality; Nutrient Management; and Machinery, Precision Farming and Soil Quality. Those sessions will end about 4:30 p.m.
- The Cover Crops session starts at 8:00, and includes: John Lundgren (USDA-ARS), Ryan Stockwell (U.S. Wildlife Federation), Bob Barr (IUPUI), Dave Brant, Dwayne Beck, and OSU Extension Educators Steve Prochaska, Rafiq Islam, Alan Sundermeier, and Jim Hoorman. Topics include: cover crop mixes, interseeding, crop insurance issues, pest management, building organic matter, and erosion control.
- The Advanced Scouting session includes Jeff Hamlin (Climate Corp), Jonah Johnson (Pioneer), Justin Petrosino (Monsanto), Alex Lindsey (OSU), Nancy Taylor (OSU) and a speaker on drones for agriculture. Topics include: corn stress, new technology for viewing and analyzing crop growth, and First Detector updates.
- Corn University will feature four Extension Specialists including Ohio native Emerson Nafziger (University of Illinois); Bob Nielson (Purdue); and Peter Thomson (OSU).

Nutrient Management sessions will be held Tuesday starting at 11:00, and all day Wednesday. Presenters include: Jim Camberato (Purdue); Kevin King, Dan Jaynes, and Mark Williams (USDA-ARS); Kendall Stucky (SWCD); Tom Morris (Cornell); and five from OSU (Glenn Arnold, Laura Lindsey, Ed Lentz, Bruce Cleveenger, and Rafiq Islam). Topics include: manure application trials, reducing P in swine and dairy manure, P and N from controlled drainage tile, gypsum, adaptive management to reduce P and N, and N management for wheat.

Soybean School features Emerson Nafziger, Shaun Casteel (Purdue), and four from OSU (Laura Lindsey, Anne Dorrance, Ron Hammond and Harold Walters). Topics include: fertilizer needs for soybeans, removing limits on growth, disease management, 50 years of battling bean beans, and tillage/population research results.

The Machinery, Precision Farming and Soil Quality session will include Bill Lehmkuhl, Scott Shearer (OSU), and industry representatives from Precision Inflation, Firestone, Monsanto and Precision Planting. Topics include: planter setup, compaction, tire design to reduce compaction, automatic inflation adjustment, and new technology and systems for precision farming.

The Water Quality session will include: Bill Richards, Mike Starkey (Indiana farmer), Andrew Sharp (U. of Arkansas), Peter Kleinman (USDA-ARS), Brother Nick Renner, and four from OSU (Larry Brown, Vinayak Shedeak, Jon Witter, and Jim Hoorman). Topics include: phosphorus cycles, reducing P in surface water, two-stage ditches, woodchip bioreactors in drain tile, farm bill conservation practices, and cover crops to remove nutrients.