



Farmers Corner

Conservation tillage alternatives

A series of meetings to help farmers evaluate the economics of various conservation compliance and tillage alternatives is scheduled in the Southeast Extension Area in February, reports Don Behning, Louisa County Extension Agriculturist. One of the meetings will be held in Wapello at the Farm Bureau Building, says Behning. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at about 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16. Lunch is on your own.

The morning session will feature Mark Hanna, Iowa State University Extension Agricultural Engineer and Al Seim, S.E. Area Extension Crop

Specialist. Hanna will review machinery requirements for various conservation tillage systems and how existing planters and other machinery can be used in minimum and no tillage systems. Seim will discuss weed, insect and disease management and soil fertility management in various conservation tillage systems.

The afternoon session will include a brief review of conservation compliance regulations and alternative systems by Randy Phelan, County SCS District Conservationist. The main discussion will center on economic analysis of some alternatives for typical HEL

situations in the county using different tillage options. Don Behning, Louisa County Extension Agriculturist will lead this discussion and will review the use of CRP as an alternative, plus discussion on Nitrogen and herbicide carryover.

This program is not intended to explain details of conservation compliance. The main thrusts of the program are to help farmers with equipment and pest management practices in conservation tillage, and to look at the economics of various conservation systems. Contact the Louisa County Extension Office for dates and times of other meetings.