

"Do Cover Crops help your "bottom-line"--The Economic Benefits and Costs of Cover Crops upon Cash Crops, Livestock and Soil Health?"—Led by Gail Fuller and Experts

Date & Place—Wed. Dec. 18th, 8:45 AM-3:30 PM, [UNL Kimmel Education Center](#) (multimedia), 5985 G Road, Nebraska City
Cost—pre-register (**required**), mail \$12 (to UNL) by Friday Dec. 13th (lunch & materials), 1824 N. Suite 102, Auburn, NE 68305; contact Gary Lesoing, 402-274-4755, (**updated # as of Nov. 26th**) UNL Nemaha Extension and SARE.



Gail is a **well-known** and highly sought presenter and producer from Emporia, KS. He has presented at many national and regional conferences including at the national "[No-Till on the Plains](#) (NTOP)," Salina, KS. He has experimented with no-till since the mid-1980's, becoming 100% no-till in 1995, recognizing that "**The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself**" (FDR).

Gail believes integrating covers/biological primers is the best and fastest way to improve soil health. Building crop diversity, above **and** below ground, is key to increasing soil health AND why his cover crops (CC) are ALL "mixes." He also grows companion crops and living mulches while incorporating cattle into the equation through intensive, rotational aka "mob" grazing. "The key to no-till is cover, and the key to covers is livestock" **but** one has to know the economic costs and benefits because each management step has a cost/benefit. ***Josh Lloyd, President** of the NTOP, will present and make available his economic analysis and tool. **Ray Ward** will discuss the +/-s of anhydrous ammonia upon soil health and CCs. Several, experienced CCers from our region will discuss rotations & practical solutions. NRCS will discuss resources & grants.



Successful Growing Begins Here



*Bring your iPad or laptop...see below...

- 8:45-9:15 Registration (90 available spots)
- 9:15-10:00 Cover Crops, Economics and My Story—Gail
- 10:00-11:15 Crop Rotations, Inputs and FAQs intro.—**Jody Saathoff** (participant on several Dakota research tours, [Aurora Coop](#). and CC Agronomist); **Rich Russel**, [Arrow Seed](#); two, NE producers dealing with drought, incorporating alternate cash options & CC; **THEN**
 --begin learning groups (based upon CC goals); co-facilitated by an NRCS consultant & presenter
- 11:15-11:50 Introduce a CC "cost-benefit analysis" spreadsheet, scenario tool--Gail and **Josh Lloyd**
- 11:50-12:20 Learning group work--adapt the tool to your operation, bring your laptop to share & view scenarios
- 12:20-1:00 catered lunch--**John Pape**, [worldfoodprocessing.com](#) "Enhancing CC & Value Added Soybeans"
- 1:00-1:40 panel—producers, Bill Volkmer (Syracuse), Steve Mills (Wilber), TBA; **Randy Pryor**, Saline Ext. Agent, and NRCS (tba), "Lessons From Our Work & CC Experience; FAQs--Gail facilitates
- 1:40-2:50 **Ray Ward** ([Ward Labs.](#)) discusses his farm, anhydrous, soil tests and his "next steps" with CC; Gail, Josh, Ray and co-facilitators lead the last learning group work on "input options."
- 2:50-3:15 **NE NRCS** discusses the program resources for CC, soil health & grazing: EQIP and the CSP. Trends & Options with Cover Crop seeds by [Arrow](#), [Stock Seed Company](#) and [Green Cover Seeds](#)
- 3:15-3:30 Next Steps in Your Economic and Soil Health Plans—Gail and tba

*Confirmed sponsors as of 11.25.13, please refer to the present images and weblinks (to be updated).

