

———— TRACK 2: BUILDING SOIL HEALTH EXPERTS ————

Advanced Training for Professionals

This is a special track of sessions for agriculture service professionals.

Separate registration is required in addition to the regular summit registration.

10:15 a.m. Introductions

10:30 a.m. **Dr. Michael Lehman**, “Managing Cropping Systems to Promote Soil Microbe Populations”



Dr. Lehman’s research interests/responsibilities include evaluating soil microbiological responses to agricultural management practices and determining if these effects are ecologically or economically significant, and contributing to development and adoption of agricultural management practices that utilize soil microorganisms to minimize input requirements for regional crop production systems.

Noon: Deli Sack Lunch provided.

1:00 p.m. **Dr. Richard Haney**, “Measuring Soil Microbial Activity”



Dr. Rick Haney received his PhD in Soil Fertility/Chemistry/Microbial Ecology from Texas A&M University in 2001. He has worked as a research scientist for the past 13 years as a Research Soil Scientist for the USDA-ARS, at the Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory, Temple, Texas. He is responsible for developing research on soil microbial activity, soil testing methodologies, and cropping systems for organic and conventional farming. This research includes the development of methods for evaluation of short-term soil microbial activity as a tool for assessing the nutritive potential of various land management systems and the characterization of the role of various soil organic C and N fractions (i.e., microbial biomass, and mineralizable C, N and P) in nutrient cycling and biophysical alteration of soil. Prior to receiving his PhD, Dr. Haney was employed as a farmer and consultant in western Oklahoma.

2:30 p.m.

Dr. Scott Wells, “Cover Crop Establishment Strategies “



Dr. Scott Wells

Assistant Professor, CFANS Agronomy/Plant Genetics, UMN Twin Cities

Dr. Wells completed his PhD at North Carolina State University researching weed suppression mechanisms of roller-cripped cover crops in organic corn and soybean systems. His current research program focuses on improving the yield and quality of forage production systems including alfalfa, warm and cool season grasses, and small grains, along with employing a systems approach to improving the both the economical and environmental sustainability of corn and soybean production in Minnesota.

Current projects include emergency forages, alfalfa management, double cropping forages and small grains, establishment of cover crops in corn and soybean systems, and assessing the water and soil quality impacts of cover crops, crop rotation and perennial based production systems.

3:30 p.m. **Allen Williams**, “Integrating Cover Crops and Livestock into Cropping Systems”

Dr. Allen Williams is a champion of the grass-fed beef industry as well as a leader in cutting



edge grazing methodology. Dr. Williams is a sixth-generation family farmer and holds BS, MS degrees in Agriculture from Clemson University and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State. He spent 15 years in academia in research, teaching, and extension, and has written more than 300 peer-reviewed and popular press articles. In 2000, he left academia and founded LMC, LLC. Since that time, he has worked with more than 3,500 farmers and ranchers in the US, Canada, Mexico, and South America. Dr. Williams currently serves as Chairman of the Association of Family Farms, Co-Chair of the Grassfed Exchange, Co-Project Leader of the Pasture Project, Facilitator in the USDA BFRDP EET program, and lead investigator in soil microbial research as a replacement for chemical fertilizers. Allen has been an invited speaker at over 400 regional, national, and international conferences and symposia.