

January 6, 2005

Dear Conservation Partner:

The PA No-Till Partnership cordially invites you to attend an exciting event to solidify the formation of the *Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance*. **An informational meeting will be held on Friday, March 4, 2005, in Spring Mills, Centre County, PA (directions included). Registration will begin at 9:30 AM, with the program taking place from 10:30 AM until 5:00 PM (Refreshments, meals and networking included!). Your review and response to the enclosed materials is requested by Friday, February 25, 2005.**

Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance members will include successful no-till producers, agribusinesses, lending institutions, consultants, conservation districts as well as supporting state, federal and local agencies and others interested in supporting the no-till effort. Intended goals of the Alliance include: information exchange between no-tillers in PA and throughout the country, sharing of new technology and research as well as input regarding sediment and nutrient management issues related to agriculture. The Alliance will also help to coordinate and support activities between regional no-till groups and partners within the Commonwealth.

The Alliance Board of Directors will consist of no-till farmers and those supporting no-till agriculture in the private sector. The role of agencies will be to provide support and technical guidance as needed. If you would like to have a larger role in the *Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance* by serving on the Formation Committee (which will determine Alliance structure), please check the appropriate box on the enclosed registration form. A working breakfast meeting for interested individuals will be held on **Saturday, March 5, 2005 from 8:00 AM until 11:00 AM**. Overnight lodging can be provided for those expressing desire to serve on the Alliance Formation Committee.

Please join us for this very important event. If you have questions or would like to review a draft copy of the bylaws, please contact Susan Parry, Capital Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator, at (717) 948-6633. Your input is appreciated and will be essential to the ultimate success of this effort.

Yours in no-till farming,

PA No-Till Partnership members:

Amy Bradford, PennAg Industries Assoc.
Andrea Sharretts, PA Farm Bureau
Steve Groff, Cedar Meadow Farms
PA Association of RC&D Councils

Mark Goodson, PSU Cooperative Extension
Jay Braund, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
Sjoerd Duiker, PSU Dept. of Crop and Soil Sciences
Joel Myers, Natural Resources Conservation Service

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS- please circle one or two that you are most interested in:*

1. Farmer networking and education
2. Public outreach
3. Research
4. Program support
5. Alliance structure (bylaws, etc.)
6. Other suggested breakout groups: _____

**PLEASE CHECK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY TO YOU:*

_____ I WOULD LIKE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PA NO-TILL ALLIANCE.

_____ I WILL BE STAYING FOR THE SOCIAL AND DINNER (4:30 - 6:00 PM).

_____ I WOULD LIKE TO SERVE ON THE ALLIANCE FORMATION COMMITTEE.

_____ I WILL ATTEND THE BREAKFAST MEETING ON SATURDAY
(Note: We will contact you for lodging information).

Cost: A nominal \$15.00 fee is needed to cover the cost of meals (lunch and dinner) and refreshments. Please include a check made payable to *Capital RC&D Area Council, Inc.* and mail to the address listed below no later than February 25th. Early responses are appreciated. Registrations received after February 25th or at the door will be \$20.00.

Location/ Directions: The meeting will be held at the New Hope Lutheran Church, located along Route 45 (4.0 miles east of the intersection of Routes 144 and 45, 1.3 miles west of Spring Mills), approximately 18 miles east of State College. Turn South off SR 45 onto Stone Field Road and immediately turn left onto Cobblestone Court. The street address is 119 Cobblestone Court.

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO:

**Attn: Susan Parry, Coordinator
Capital RC&D Area Council, Inc.
108-109 Church Hall, PSH
777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
Phone: (717) 948-6633**

