

Forum on Cover Crops & Soil Health: *Harvesting the Potential*

(Includes Nat'l Cover Crop Conference live webinar to NRCS/SWCD/Extension offices)

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County¹

480 N. Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Free – Preregister by 2/14, Carol MacNeil: crm6@cornell.edu or 585-394-3977 x426

- 9:00 Registration, coffee, soil health demonstrations, and introductions** – Carol MacNeil, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program, and Dan Weykman, USDA-NRCS, Canandaigua
- 10:00 Webinar from Omaha: The big picture: Conservation, cover crops and soil health** – Howard G. Buffett², and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack (invited).
- 10:45 Experiences with cover crops, and impacts on soil health:**
Dan DeSutter, Indiana – Raises no-till cash crops, and livestock, on 4,300 acres. He seeds cereal rye, oilseed radish and crimson clover cover crops.
Dave Brandt, Ohio – Raises cash crops on 900 acres, most of it no-till with cover crops. He uses ryegrass and some hairy vetch.
Clay Mitchell, Iowa – Raises cash crops on 2,500 acres using precision agriculture, with a focus on soil conservation.
Gabe Brown, North Dakota – Raises cash crops and livestock on 5,400 acres. He uses no-till, highly diverse cash crop and cover crop rotations, and mob grazing.
- 11:45 Discussion; Plans for Grower Discussion Group meetings and summer field days; Info on assistance for good soil health management** - Dan Weykman, NRCS, Canandaigua, and Carol MacNeil, Cornell Cooperative Extension Regional Vegetable Program.
- 12:30 Adjourn, or open discussion**

¹Directions:

- From I-90 take Exit 44/ Canandaigua. Go south on Rt. 332 several miles to Canandaigua city limits. Turn right/west at 480 N. Main St, between Pudgies and the American Legion.
- From Route 5 & 20, turn north onto Rt. 332/S. Main St. and drive straight through most of Canandaigua. Just past the American Legion turn left into 480 N. Main St.

²Howard G. Buffett is a farmer in IL, a conservationist, and philanthropist. For info on the Howard G. Buffett Foundation go to: <http://www.thehowardgbuffettfoundation.org/>

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