

**No-Till Notes:**  
**“Auld Lang Syne”**

By Stephanie King, NRCS and Billie O’Bryan, UNWNRD

Auld Lang Syne? An interesting question! It may be the most famous song throughout the world, and yet only a handful of people actually know the words. To satisfy your curiosity, these three simple words literally translated, mean “old long ago.”

I think the words No-Till can be categorized in much the same way, everybody has heard of it, but how much of it is really understood. The past several articles of “No-Till Notes,” have attempted to do just this, by discussing the benefits of a continuous no-till system, which increases residue, soil health, water holding capacity, soil fertility and intensified rotations. If you want to make a continuous No-Till system your new year’s resolution, tremendous opportunities await you.

The No-Till on the Plains (NTOP) Winter Conference (Jan 29-30) and Agriculture’s Innovative Minds (AIM) Symposium (Jan 31) in Salina Kansas is just around the corner. Mark your calendars to attend one or both of these events. Those who attended the NTOP meeting in Gering this past November got a taste of what this conference has to offer. The conference is set up to meet the needs of all levels of no-tillers. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned veteran there is something for you. The presenters are a mix of producers, researchers and industry. Some of the session topics include: No-Till 101; utilizing No-Till under irrigation; nitrogen dynamics and management; economics; cover and alternative crops; livestock grazing systems; an approach to weed management and much more. The AIM Symposium is a separate meeting with the premise of “Challenging the Innovators.” The exploration of cover crops, crop rotations and soil biology will be discussed in much greater detail.

Registering online is preferred, so log on to [www.notill.org](http://www.notill.org) or call 1-888-330-5142. Registration is available for: Winter Conference 2008; AIM Symposium 2008; or a Package Deal (WC + AIM). Register before January 15<sup>th</sup> and save.

Producers in agriculture are being faced with a lack of water and increased water restrictions statewide. It is a challenge to manage irrigation water and to remain profitable while doing so. Continuous No-Till farming methods stand up to this challenge, as well as being educated on water issues in your Natural Resources District (NRD).

The Upper Niobrara White NRD will host the 2008 Water Issues Meetings on January 29 at the Legion Hall in Alliance and January 30 at the Legion Hall in Rushville. Several pertinent topics will be covered by the Upper Niobrara White NRD staff including: wellhead protection, water quality, meter issues, ground water management and information about the fully appropriated status of the NRD.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will discuss surface water and give an integrated water management update. Steve Sibray, from the University of Lincoln

Conservation and Survey Division, will explain geology and water availability within the Upper Niobrara White NRD. Dennis Heitman from the Department of Environmental Quality will talk about livestock waste issues. This is an informal meeting including a complimentary lunch and producers are welcome to ask questions throughout. Please call the Upper Niobrara White NRD at 308-432-6190 by January 21 to RSVP.

Mark Watson, No-Till Education Coordinator for the Nebraska Panhandle, has several meetings scheduled for each month starting in January. These meetings are for producers to receive more in-depth information on no-till. All meetings start at 9 a.m. and run until noon. The first week of meetings is January 14-18 starting January 14 in Rushville, January 15 in Alliance, January 16 in Oshkosh, January 17 in Sidney and January 18 in Scottsbluff. The second week of meetings is February 11-15, the third week of meetings is March 3-7 and the fourth week of meetings is scheduled for March 17-21. Each week of meetings will have the same town rotation. For more information contact Mark Watson at 308-760-5259.

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