

DAN TOWERY

Ag Conservation Solutions

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Professional Experience

Ag Conservation Solutions LLC, W. Lafayette, Indiana.

- Founded company in January 2005 drawing on 25 years experience with USDA NRCS. Provides national expertise and knowledge in no-till, cover crops, soil quality, biotechnology, precision farming and other conservation practices to growers, consultants, agribusinesses, media and others.

Conservation Technology Information Center, West Lafayette, Indiana.

Natural Resources Specialist, 1995 - 2005

- As the Natural Resources Specialist (USDA/NRCS) liaison with CTIC (a public/private partnership) organized the biannual National Crop Residue Management Survey, and provided information relating to Best Management Practices, precision farming, and soil quality to the ag media, consultants, and agribusiness.

USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, Champaign, Illinois.

State Agronomist, 1992 - 1995

- As State Agronomist provided technical information relating to Best Management Practices to NRCS employees, producers, agribusiness, and ag media.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Springfield, Illinois.

District Conservationist, 1983 - 1992

- As District Conservationist in Sangamon County, Illinois provided conservation information to landowners, producers, agribusiness, and media. Organized no-till club and grew no-till acres.

Soil Conservation Service, Tuscola, Illinois

District Conservationist, 1981-1983

- As District conservationist in Douglas County, Illinois provided conservation information to landowners, producers, agribusiness and media. Assisted SWCD in starting ridge-till program.

Henry County Board, Cambridge, Illinois

Soil Scientist, 1979-1981

- As a county soil scientist soil types were mapped as part of USDA effort.

GrowMark, Tremont, Illinois

Fertilizer Plant Manager, 1978- 1979

- As plant manager of fertilizer plant responsible for developing nutrient recommendations, sells of fertilizer, lime and herbicides.

EDUCATION

University of Illinois, 1993 - 1994

- 4 Agronomy graduate courses.

B.S. in Agronomy, Western Illinois University. 1974 - 1977

- Honors.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Soil & Water Conservation Society
- Elected At-large Board member
- The Nature Conservancy
- Wildcat Creek Foundation
President 2008 - present

Recent Awards

- No-till Innovator Award in Research and Education 2005 – No-till Farmer magazine

Recent Publications

- The Nature Conservancy's Risk Protection Program - A Model to Improve Soil and Water Quality – describes TNC's Risk Protection Program which provides agronomic, economic and moral assistance to growers to transition to continuous no-till. Produced for the Indiana Nature Conservancy
- Better Soil / Better Yields: A Guidebook to Improving Soil Organic Matter and Infiltration with Continuous No-till – Practical handbook on how improving soil quality with continuous no-till can result in improved water quality and higher profits. <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/CTIC/Better%20Soil%20Better%20Yields.pdf>
- Conservation Tillage and Plant Biotechnology: How New Technology Can Improve the Environment by Reducing the Need to Plow - Details the environmental benefits of no-till and how biotechnology helps facilitate the adoption of no-till. <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/CTIC/BiotechPaper.pdf>
- Economic Benefits with Environmental Protection: No-till and Buffers in the Midwest. Examines the soil quality/water quality benefits with continuous no-till production systems and also recognizes the importance of conservation buffers. <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/ctic/FINAL.pdf>
- DVD Technical coordinator - Annual Ryegrass as a Cover Crop: Building Soil While Improving Yields in Corn & Soybean, 2008, 20 minutes long, 16,000 copies distributed.

Presentations

- Numerous field days, workshops and winter meeting in Indiana
- Conservation Tillage and Technology conference, Ada, Ohio presenter on 4 occasions, 600 in attendance
- National No-till Conference, Regular presenter at this conference with about 800 attending.
- No-till on the Plains 2004 –keynote speaker, 1400 in attendance
- Pennsylvania No-till Alliance annual conference 2006, keynote speaker 300 in attendance
- Illinois No-till seminars, four locations; February 1-4, 2005. 400 attended.
- Commodity Classic – National convention of National Corn Growers and Soybean Association.
- Moderated panel on the role of agriculture to reduce carbon dioxide emissions at United Nations climate change conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1998
- World Food Prize Summit, Des Moines, Iowa 2002.
- Purdue Top Farmer Conference, July 2005.

International experience

- Argentina (twice) involved numerous presentations to growers and government officials
- Argentina and Chile – numerous presentations to small and large groups of farmers and government officials
- Conference presentation at Diffuse Pollution Conference in Scotland, 1997.
- Provided international data on no-till adoption and biotechnology