



# Georgia Chapter Newsletter

March 2008

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### Newsletter Contact

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Find out what's happening between newsletter editions at our website:  
[www.gaswcs.org/](http://www.gaswcs.org/).

## Annual Meeting of the Georgia SWCS

The annual meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society is being planned jointly with the Georgia Section of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE). The meeting will be in Athens from 4-6 June 2008 under the theme "Meeting Together to Provide Solutions".

The meeting will comprise lecture sessions with optional poster sessions if there is an overflow of lecture submissions.

### Lecture Sessions

Presenters will be provided with a pointer, Power Point or video equipment (as requested). Oral presentations are generally limited to 25 minutes, depending upon the number of presentations in the session and the time slot in which the session is scheduled.

### Poster Sessions

Poster presentations afford maximum opportunity for direct interaction between the presenter and the audience as well as overall professional exposure for the author.

### Registration of Submissions

All presenters are required to register for the meeting to present their papers and posters.

### Program Organizers

Gary Hawkins  
University of Georgia  
Biological and Agricultural Engineering  
Tel: 229-386-3914  
Fax: 229-386-3958  
Email: [ghawkins@uga.edu](mailto:ghawkins@uga.edu)

Jim Kastner  
University of Georgia  
Biological and Agricultural Engineering  
Tel: 706-583-0155  
Fax: 706-542-8806  
Email: [jkastner@engr.uga.edu](mailto:jkastner@engr.uga.edu)

### Important Deadlines

4 April 2008 – Presentation proposal forms due to program organizers via email, fax, or regular mail

7 April 2008 – Notification of acceptance of proposals

4 June 2008 – Potential continuing education or workshops – to be determined

5-6 June 2008 – ASABE / SWCS Joint Meeting

### **Agenda**

Potential continuing education course

Concurrent technical lecture sessions

Poster sessions as applicable

Georgia Section ASABE awards banquet and business meeting

Georgia Chapter SWCS awards banquet and business meeting

Social reception

Student activities

Networking opportunities

### **Presentation Topic Areas**

Please select a topic for your presentation from the list below. If your presentation is not represented by any of these topics, please go ahead and submit a topic and presentation or call the program organizers.

- ✓ Stormwater and Erosion Control
  - Stormwater best management practices, such as constructed wetland
  - Bioretention, porous pavement, LID
  - Innovative erosion and sediment control technologies
  - Practices in both urban and agricultural areas
- ✓ Carbon Sequestration
  - Char or bioenergy co-products
  - Terrestrial sequestration
  - Cover crops
- ✓ Environmental Implications of Bioenergy
  - Research or issues related to water and land use in feedstock production
  - Water use in product production

- Pollution control related to bioenergy production
- ✓ Water Conservation
  - Issues related to industrial, residential, and agricultural water conservation
- ✓ Alternative Energy Sources and Conservation
  - Research and issues related to energy conservation
  - Production of alternative sources such as ethanol, bio-diesel, solar, wind, or anaerobic digestion
- ✓ On-Site Wastewater and Waste Management Systems
  - Research and issues related to on-site wastewater treatment, grey water reuse, composting, animal waste management, etc.
- ✓ Other Issues
  - Of interest to members of either society

The planning committee is also taking suggestions for pre- or post-conference workshops or tours that you would be willing to organize or would like to attend. Contact Mark Risse at [mrisse@engr.uga.edu](mailto:mrisse@engr.uga.edu) with suggestions.

### **How to Submit Your Proposal**

All presentation proposals are to be submitted to either of the program organizers. For mailed or faxed submissions, please use the following form. For electronic submissions, please provide all the information on the form and send electronically to one of the program organizers.

Note: It is your responsibility to make sure one of the program organizers receives your proposal. Therefore, we recommend that if you have not received an electronic acknowledgment within 24 hours of sending your proposal via e-mail that you follow-up with the program organizer to make sure it was received.

# Presentation Proposal Form

2008 ASABE and SWCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
June 4-6, 2008 – Athens, GA

- 1 PRESENTATION TOPIC AREA FOR WHICH PROPOSAL IS BEING SUBMITTED: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1a. IS THIS PAPER BEING SUBMITTED TO MORE THAN ONE SESSION? (No, Yes) \_\_\_\_\_
- 1b. IF YES, give the topic area for the other session(s) to which you are submitting this paper: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 PRESENTATION TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 PRESENTER (SPEAKER) \_\_\_\_\_
- ASABE MEMBER NUMBER (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Registered P.E. (Yes, No) – \_\_\_\_\_ (for the program listing)
- LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_
- ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_
- ADDRESS 1: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_
- PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 CONTACT PERSON (if different than presenter)
- ASABE MEMBER NUMBER (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
- LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_
- ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_
- ADDRESS 1: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_
- PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 AUTHOR(S): \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 PRESENTATION PREFERENCE (Poster, Lecture, No Preference): \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 PAPER AVAILABILITY (Yes, No): Not Required
- 8 AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 PROPOSAL: (300 words max)

Respond to: **Jim Kastner**, University of Georgia, Agricultural and Biological Engineering Dept., Driftmier Engineering Center, Athens, GA 30602  
Phone: (706) 583-0155, Facsimile: (706) 542-8806, Email: [jkastner@engr.uga.edu](mailto:jkastner@engr.uga.edu)

Or

**Gary L. Hawkins**, University of Georgia, Agricultural and Biological Engineering Dept., P.O. Box 748, Tifton, GA 31793-0748  
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**SUGGESTED DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

## Conservation Viewpoint

Greetings fellow conservationists,

I recently was sent some information from cohorts in Wisconsin that are currently looking at significant modifications to their agricultural regulatory programs. While I have not always agreed with everything Pete Novak shares, I think the attached article does simulate some thoughts about conservation in the US and could encourage us all to think outside the box a little more often. Some of what Pete discusses, the parts about targeting conservation to the spots where it is most needed, is gaining some traction in Washington as evidenced by the most recent USDA CSREES Integrated Water Program request for proposals (<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/waterqualityicgp.cfm>). Whether you agree with Pete or not, I think some of the ideas may be useful as Georgia progresses down the path of managing our natural resources. Let me know what you think next time our paths cross.

—Mark Risse, Athens GA

### ***The Conservation Two-Step Needs a New Tune***

By Pete Nowak, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Are you ready for a little fun in discussing everyone's favorite topic - agricultural non-point pollution?

Yes, this is the topic where everyone can have a position, and even though there is significant divergence in these opinions, everyone can still be right!

Agricultural non-point pollution is a process that can be so complex that even the best science and models are unable to predict it.

Yet farmers are expected to control it. It can also be so simple that common sense remedies are readily available, but cannot be used. They cannot be used because agricultural non-point pollution has also

become so political – that proverbial political “third rail” – that common sense is not part of the discussion.

Instead we get farm organizations defending all of agriculture while ignoring the actions of a few producers that give all farmers a bad reputation.

This politically popular strategy then forces agencies to design remedial programs that require all farmers to jump through bureaucratic hoops in order to get at the actions of these few.

Environmental groups then jump into the fray to castigate agriculture in general while claiming there are not enough hoops or the hoops are the wrong size or color. Farm organizations then invoke motherhood and apple pie images while lobbying to defend all farmers.

Our elected leaders join the dance by allocating millions of taxpayer dollars to support government sanctioned bribery programs. I say this because the process of paying someone to accept or engage in a practice they would not normally engage in fits most dictionary definitions of bribery.

Finally agencies are forced to respond by creating complex and convoluted, yet politically acceptable, programs based on the lowest common denominator which only serve to provide long-term job security for agency staff.

At the end of this process our waters are still polluted, agriculture remains the major source of this pollution, and the conservation two-step continues unabated.

Are we having fun yet?

I could go on but I think you are beginning to see why agricultural non-point pollution is a favorite topic for so many Wisconsinites. Countless hours of debate, discussion, and other forms of communication annually occur around this topic.

This will be especially the case as the revision of our non-point rules, including NR 151, goes out for public hearings. I really hate to be a spoilsport, but I would like to suggest a novel idea that would curtail this favorite dance of so many.

My suggestion is stop the conservation two-step and create a new dance where common sense, local control, and the best available science are used to solve problems.

Notice that I did not say to design programs, to manage programs, or even to assess programs; I said solve problems.

We do not need more non-point programs, we need non-point solutions. We do not need more program managers; we need more managers challenging the status quo. The process for finding those solutions has always been available, but largely ignored.

#### *What farmers do best*

Believe it or not the process of solving problems is the defining characteristic of farming. Farming is an occupation built around the sequential process of solving problems. Think about it! These can be problems associated with equipment, weather, pests, markets, labor or cash flow to name a few. Any farmer worth his or her salt spends a large part of the day solving problems and implementing solutions.

I want to take this same capability or philosophy that serves so many of our farmers so well and apply it to agricultural non-point pollution. Simply put, if farmers are professional problem solvers, then why not use this strength to also address agricultural non-point pollution?

Please recognize that this suggestion to use farmers' problem solving capacities is a radical notion. Even labeling it as radical is probably an understatement. It flies in the face of everything we have done or tried in this arena.

The conservation two-step has removed, isolated, and alienated the farmer from solving non-point pollution problems. We don't offer

farmers solutions to problems; we offer Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are documented in a field office technical guide, maintained by technical staff far removed from the farm, and imposed on the farm as part of a complex plan.

We don't offer farmers solutions to problems; we now offer plans, originally paper and now electronic which are created without ever leaving the office, talking to the farmer, or walking a field.

We don't offer farmers solutions to problems; instead we have trained our farmers to stick their hands out in expectation of a cost share payment (bribe) each time the word conservation is mentioned.

We don't offer farmers solutions to problems; we now spend hundreds of millions annually to reward the "good actors" even though all these dollars do nothing to solve the many water quality problems caused by agriculture.

Rather than using and building on the creative problem solving capacity of the farmer, we have done all we could to suppress this capacity by shunting them into a never-ending cascade of paperwork involving bribes, BMPs and bureaucracies; none of which have anything to do with solving non-point problems.

We have created a conservation two-step dance where we claim that non-point pollution can only be addressed through large bureaucracies, complex science, and massive amounts of public funds.

#### *Look to Discovery Farms*

Shame on us for perpetrating this myth!

Can farmers solve agricultural non-point problems? Anyone who doubts this capacity only has to explore Wisconsin's Discovery Farms. Here farmers and UW researchers are working side by side to document and solve non-point problems with significant success.

Now imagine what would happen if we could release all Wisconsin farmers from the current conservation two-step and turn them loose

solving local non-point problems using the same approach that is used on Discovery Farms.

Imagine what would happen if we actually rewarded farmers to work with their neighbors to solve local problems.

Imagine what would happen if we actually began to encourage and allow farmers to act as the first environmentalists rather than only using this slogan in divisive propaganda.

How can we begin to tap into this potential? While I do not have the answer, I do know it will involve common sense, local control, and the use of the best available science.

### *Common sense*

Let's start with common sense. It is common sense that the vulnerability to the disturbances associated with common agricultural practices varies between some areas of Wisconsin, between farms, and even between portions of the same field. Farmers understand this because it is common sense.

This means that our non-point problems are not equally distributed around the state, within watersheds or on farms and it is sheer nonsense to distribute limited public funds as if they were. Some of our soils are very fragile while others are very resilient. The same can also be said of the state's waters.

It is also common sense that typical agricultural practices can be more appropriate in some settings or times than in others. For example, plowing a field may be perfectly appropriate while that same practice of plowing is inappropriate if it happens right up to the edge or bank of a trout stream.

It is common sense that the same practice used in a different location can change the outcome. Or spreading manure in a field in July after taking off hay can be appropriate while that same behavior may be inappropriate in March just prior to a spring snow melt. Same practice but a different time changes the outcome.

It should be common sense that what constitutes an appropriate behavior on one part of the landscape or time may be inappropriate in other places or times. I know the vast majority of our farmers know and recognize this fact.

We do have a few, however, who fail to use common sense and are able to hide within the conservation two-step described above.

There are also mistakes, yes, it happens.

It is common sense that mistakes have happened and will continue to happen. No program, no matter how comprehensive or well-funded will ever be able to take human nature out of agriculture.

Like the fruitless search for the perfect mouse trap, it is common sense that we should only attempt to manage the manageable.

Yet instead of creating another Rube Goldberg type of program to manage these inappropriate behaviors in vulnerable locations or times, why not explore novel ways to give this responsibility to farmers?

### *Remove obstacles*

In short, why not encourage the farmer to act on the land ethic that many already hold rather than creating obstacles to stewardship behaviors. Remember, the Leopold land ethic refers to an ongoing and dynamic relation between a person and the land.

Let's find ways of encouraging and building on that land ethic by allowing farm neighborhoods or small watersheds to take responsibility for their local resources.

I recognize that the phase local control has a lot of popularity associated with it. How can you go wrong when invoking local control?

Let me remind you that mediocrity, incompetence, and ignorance is as alive and well at the local level as it is in our state or federal capitals. There is nothing magical about local control.

We are really talking about local control of a responsibility to the natural resources of the state. These are the same natural resources upon which agriculture depends, and which are valued by the majority of the citizens of Wisconsin.

And as our parents taught us, with responsibility also comes the possibility of both rewards and punishments. I would suggest that we use some imagination to explore different ways of rewarding small groups of farmers to solve problems.

### *Reward group efforts*

For example, why do we only offer rewards to individual farmers? Are not these farmers also part of local kin networks, neighborhoods, and communities?

Most farmers can identify grandparents who joined with other neighbors to solve the problems of the last century through cooperatives. If it worked for them, and has the potential of working now, then why not offer group rewards?

Imagine a non-point program where the greater the proportion of farmers in a local area who work together in solving a local problem, the greater the reward that each receives. If fewer farmers participate, then the reward that each receives is less. This idea is so far removed from current approaches that it possibly unimaginable for many.

Yet imagine how many other creative ideas could emerge if we actually had the audacity to ask the question of how to use local groups of farmers and other land owners to solve non-point problems based not on Big Brother, but on responsibility and common sense.

Contrary to simplifying labels we all like to use, there are no “good” or “bad” actors when it comes to non-point pollution. These value-laden labels are divisive and serve no purpose other than to perpetuate the current “us versus them” tension in agricultural non-point pollution discussions.

Instead of good or bad actors we have agronomic behaviors that can vary in their appropriateness in space and time. Yes, the jargon in that last phrase signals that now we need to move to the role for the best available science.

What constitutes an appropriate agricultural behavior at any particular point or time?

This is not a simple question! Again, discuss this with any of the farmers or researchers involved with the Discovery Farms and you will quickly get an “it depends” response. This is because science does not provide answers that are fixed across time. Instead science is a process that allows you to develop better questions. And anyone who solves problems on a regular basis knows that developing the right question is critical to developing a viable solution.

### *Farmers know best*

The important point is that developing the right question to address a non-point problem requires the farmer’s knowledge of local conditions, experience with the agronomic techniques involved, and recognition of the farm’s capacity to assume new responsibilities.

This means that farmers, local conservation professionals, and scientists have to work together as equals. Not a top-down approach as is employed in the current conservation two-step, but as equals working together to use common sense to solve non-point problems.

I have just skimmed the surface of how common sense, local control, and use of the best available science should be brought to bear in agricultural non-point pollution. Even this cursory treatment, however, should draw that proverbial “line in the sand” for the forthcoming public hearings on the revision of key regulations in Wisconsin’s non-point program.

On one side of the line we are going to have program managers, opportunists, and bureaucrats debating the fine points on how we can continue to nullify the creativity of Wisconsin farmers while saddling the taxpayer

with the costs of what a former chief of a federal conservation agency called “random acts of conservation”.

This group will make demands for freedom, but fail to mention obligation and responsibility; they will request additional public funds, but fail to link them to performance; and they will talk about revision, modification and adaptation all the while solidifying the institutional failures of the past. In short, they will want to continue the conservation two-step.

On the other side of the line will be those who want to solve non-point problems. On the other side of the line will be many local conservation professionals who have grown frustrated with top-down demands for program management and who want to get back to developing working conservation partnerships with local land owners. On the other side of the line will be many creative and innovative farmers who have already figured out how to solve local water quality problems, but have been prevented from doing so by rigid program requirements and regulations.

I know where I stand relative to that line in the sand, and now I am asking others to join me.

It remains to be seen if the leaders of our agricultural, environmental, agency and university organizations will also step across the line.

The same can be said of our elected leaders. But I am not writing this for those leaders.

I am writing this to the farmers of Wisconsin due to the simple fact that I recognize that future of our waters lies within their control. No program, no matter how carefully it is crafted, no public dollars, no matter how plentiful, will ever match the efficacy of local farmers working together to discover how to achieve a state of harmony with their local land and waters.

We can no longer afford to design non-point programs for the farmer; we need to recognize that the farmer is the foundation of any non-point program. After hundreds of millions of dollars being spent across the last tens of years I think it is time to have a little fun.

Let's shut off the music to the conservation two-step and begin to play a different tune.

*Pete Nowak received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota's College of Agriculture in 1977, and was an assistant and associate professor at Iowa State University before joining the faculty at UW-Madison in 1985. Here he holds a dual appointment as a professor of environmental studies in the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, and as a soil and water conservation specialist in the College of Agricultural and Life Science's Environmental Resources Center. Pete's career has focused on understanding why farmers adopt or reject conservation practices. In the recent past he has worked with the National Academy of Science's Board on Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and a National Blue Ribbon Panel examining the effectiveness of USDA's conservation programs.*

## **In Memory of Norm Berg**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Many of you have probably heard that Norm Berg passed away last week of an apparent heart attack. If you have not heard about Norm's passing, I am sorry to bring you such sad news.

I wanted to let you know that Norm's family is planning a memorial service for Norm this coming Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. The service will be held at the Severna Park

United Methodist Church located at 731 Benfield Road, Severna Park, Maryland 21146. The telephone number is 410-987-4700 and you can find directions to the church at <http://www.severnaparkumc.org/Visitor/directions.htm>.

In lieu of flowers, the Berg Family is asking that memorial contributions be directed to the: American Farmland Trust, 1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036, or Norman and Ruth Berg Fellowship Program,

c/o Soil and Water Conservation Society, 945 SW Ankeny Rd, Ankeny, IA 50023.

Over the years I came to see Norm as the epitome of the professionalism SWCS stands for. He was a dedicated, smart, tireless, and passionate conservationist. His life, his career, and his spirit point the way for the rest of us in the conservation profession. His example reminds me every day that conservation is truly more than a job; it is, as Wendell Berry says, the “never-ending life work of our species.”

Norm was a Charter Member of and a leader in SWCS. He was also my friend. I will miss his counsel, advice, criticism, and unflagging devotion to conservation. Norm influenced and inspired many of us in SWCS and the conservation community. Here are a few thoughts from members of the SWCS Board of Directors:

Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge. Norm had great ability to use a lifetime of knowledge, sowing it back into the Society and its members. Norm Berg's name is synonymous with Husband, Father, Veteran, Chief, Mentor, Advisor, and Conservationist. His legacy for the Soil and Water Conservation Society will live on for centuries to come.

—Peggie James

Norm Berg was a mentor to many and an inspiration to everyone who knew him. His leadership and life long devotion to conservation are an enduring legacy. He profoundly influenced our thinking and our commitment to conserving, using, and cherishing our natural resources. I will remember his soft spoken but firm nature and passion for conservation. Norm led by example and quietly achieved a lifetime of conservation. I easily compare him to H. H. Bennett or Aldo Leopold. God speed Norm!

—Don Wysocki

I think of Norm in as high of a regard as Hugh Hammond Bennett.

—Mary Miller

One special privilege of serving on the SWCS Board was the opportunity to get to know Norm Berg, a pioneer of our Society and of the conservation movement. Norm was always gracious and insightful in his observations. We will miss him very much, but appreciate so much the legacy he leaves behind – particularly in the Berg Fellows, a cadre of leaders touched by Norm's vision.

—Jean L. Steiner

Norm Berg will be remembered for making his vocation a lifelong mission because he never stopped working for natural resource conservation and stewardship.

—Ira Linville

As one of a few Canadian Berg Fellows, I will always remember the honor Norm and Ruth Berg gave me through SWCS to go to Washington DC and to gain a better understanding of the American system of governance and leadership. A true pioneer, Norm epitomized this leadership in his dedication to farmland protection and natural resource conservation. His quiet and determined manner will always be remembered. Although truly a hard act to follow; he would certainly want us not only to try but would challenge us to go further. Norm certainly taught me that there are no borders when it comes to our belief in and best management practices for protecting and conserving our shared resources.

—Marsha Paley

If you would like to share your thoughts, impressions, and memories of Norm please join the conversation at:  
<http://conservationblogger.blogspot.com/2008/03/tributes-to-norm-berg.html#links>. You can help us mourn his loss and celebrate his life.

Sincerely,  
Craig Cox, Executive Director, Soil and Water Conservation Society, Ankeny IA

## Georgia SWCS Executive Committee

### Officers 2007-2008

President	Mark Risse	mrisse@engr.uga.edu
President-Elect	Gary Hawkins	ghawkins@uga.edu
Past President	Dory Franklin	dory.franklin@ars.usda.gov
Treasurer	Jimmy Bramblett	jab105@charter.net
Secretary	Miguel Cabrera	mcabrera@uga.edu
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Region II Vice-President	David Radcliffe	dradclif@uga.edu
Region III Vice-President	Dana Sullivan	dana.sullivan@ars.usda.gov
Region IV Vice-President	Emily Davenport	edavenport@sgrdc.com
Awards Chair	Jose Pagan	josepagan@charter.net
Membership – North	Dot Harris	harrisds@alltel.net
Membership – South	John Slupecki	jslupecki@curlex.com
Newsletter Editor	Alan Franzluebbbers	alan.franzluebbbers@ars.usda.gov

## Calendar of Events

4-6 June 2008. Joint meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the SWCS and the Georgia Section of the ASABE to be held in Athens GA. For more information contact, Gary Hawkins (ghawkins@uga.edu) or Jim Kastner (jkastner@engr.uga.edu).

8 June 2008. Natural Resources Conservation Workshop, Tifton GA. For more information, visit [www.abac.edu/psbo/ncrw](http://www.abac.edu/psbo/ncrw)

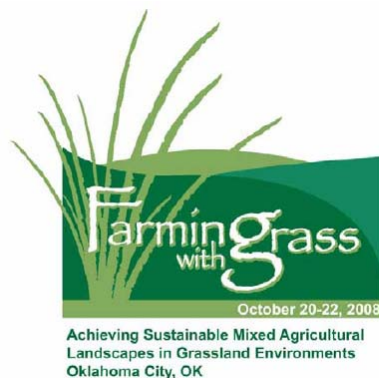
26-30 July 2008. Annual meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Tucson AZ. For more information, visit [www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008\\_annual\\_conference/](http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2008_annual_conference/)

29-31 July 2008. Annual meeting of the Southern Conservation Agricultural Systems, held in conjunction with the 2008 Conservation Tillage School in Tifton GA. For more information, contact Amanda Ziehl (aziehl@uga.edu) or

Dinku Endale (dinku.endale@ars.usda.gov). Abstract submission deadline is 30 April 2008.

5-9 October 2008. Joint meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America, Geological Society of America, Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies, and Gulf Coast Section of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists held in Houston TX. For more information, visit [www.acsmeetings.org](http://www.acsmeetings.org).

20-22 October 2008. Farming with Grass Conference, Oklahoma City, OK. For more information, visit [www.swcs.org/fwg](http://www.swcs.org/fwg) or contact the program chair, Alan Franzluebbbers (alan.franzluebbbers@ars.usda.gov).



### **Farming with Grass: Achieving Sustainable Mixed Agricultural Landscapes in Grasslands Environments**

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) will convene a conference to address the factors driving change in mixed agricultural systems. Specific objectives include:

- Engage participants across diverse disciplines and institutions in identifying research, technology, and policy needs to maintain competitive and environmentally sound agricultural systems under dynamic natural, social, economic, and policy drivers.
- Provide professional development and networking opportunities
- Identify key knowledge gaps and technology limitations that impede the ability of individuals and communities to evaluate options to meet multiple objectives
- Identify policy alternatives to promote sustainable agricultural systems