

CASA Conference Call - April 8, 2008

Conservation Agriculture Systems Alliance Conference Call Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 11 a.m. (eastern)

Participants:

Karen Scanlon
Peter Gamache
Randy Raper
Russ Evans
Sjoerd Duiker
Blair McClinton

Agenda:

Update on SARE proposal
Operations Committee Report
Message Committee Report
Next steps
News from CASA members
General Discussion

Update on SARE proposal

Jill Auburn said to call after April 1 about available funds. Randy contacted, but has not heard back from Jill. Perhaps a few thousand dollars available from national SARE can be provided in the short-term. We should plan on proposal for national association, instead of regional SARE organizations.

Operations Committee Report

Karen needs to finalize the letter from CTIC Board of Directors, in response to the CASA proposal. Will also set up a teleconference for the committee. Ready to send letter and questionnaire to other conservation ag groups. Will distribute this week and ask for responses by March 20.

Message Committee Report

Russ has circulated draft and is seeking comment from committee members to outline mission, vision, goals and objectives for CASA. Will set for week of April 14

Next steps

Operations Committee teleconference after Message Committee
Message Committee teleconference week of April 14.

News from CASA members

Reduced Tillage LINKAGES: FarmTech conference scheduled for Jan 28,29,30

PNDSA: seed conference on Jan 21,22

Ohio No-Till Council: OH No-till field day Aug 14th; Dec 9th is Ohio no-till conference in Columbus area; Feb 26 ,27 is the conservation tillage conference

Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association: Launching first online issue of Journal of Prairie soils and crops

PA No-till Alliance: Jeff McLellen will be moving on so PNTA no till will be looking for a new director

General discussion

Discussion about planning a meeting of CASA for 2008, or perhaps a small meeting this year and larger conference in 2009. Summer appears to be a good time that would not conflict with CASA members' conferences in winter. First, need to have business plan draft further along.

Are we ready to recruit new members? First have who we are and what we do –bylaws then invite them to join.