



The **2016** No-Till Innovator Awards

21
YEARS
of
NO-TILL
INNOVATION

During the 25th National No-Tillage Conference, Syngenta and No-Till Farmer magazine are proud to honor the 2016 No-Till Innovators.

The No-Till Innovator Award honors farmers, researchers, organizations and others who have identified ways to no-till more effectively, more economically and with better impact on the environment. Each has made important contributions to the conservation movement and was chosen based on dedication to the advancement of no-till farming, regardless of the type of crop grown and equipment, seed, seed treatment or crop protection products used.



Steve Berger

Crop Production

Steve Berger is the owner of his family's grain and livestock farm in Iowa and has been no-tilling continuously for over 38 years, while using cover crops on 100 percent of his 2,220 acres. His family has been heavily involved in soil conservation since the 1960s, and he started to use no-till to help prevent erosion on his highly erodible land. Berger has been featured in a variety of publications for his use of conservation farming, no-tillage, and cover crops, and has spoken at many conferences over the last 23 years, with nearly 40 speaking engagements in 2016 alone.

Betsy Bower, Ceres Solutions, LLP

Business and Service

Betsy Bower, an agronomist at Ceres Solutions in Indiana, serves as the technical arm to crop specialists and branch managers. She is responsible for crop production, nutrient and crop protection management with several Ceres customers, as well as understanding no-till systems and cover crops. Bower also specializes in conservation and irrigation systems and has worked with no-till practices for over twenty years. In addition, she assists Indiana's Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative with cover crops research. She received her Bachelor of Science in agronomy from Purdue University and her Master of Science in agronomy from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.





Dr. David Franzen

Research and Education

Dr. David Franzen is an extension soil specialist and professor at North Dakota State University. His extension focus is encouraging others to try more no-till or strip-till variations. Dr. Franzen provides education programs on soil and soil fertility topics to extension agents and specialists, industry professionals, farm producers and the public. After receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois, Urbana, he completed his doctorate in 1993 with his thesis addressing field variability of potassium and soil pH in Illinois fields. Dr. Franzen worked 18-years as an agronomist and manager in the retail fertilizer business in East Central Illinois.

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition

Organization

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition is a non-profit farmer organization that started in 2013. The Coalition aims to provide a unified voice proactively addressing concerns about water quality in Lake Champlain, Vermont. They believe farming can be sustainable and viable, while protecting the environment. They exemplify this in the work they do on their own farms and in their communities. In doing so, education is a top priority, as the Coalition is a resource for Vermont farmers, the legislature and the public. The organization also provides members with assistance in implementing innovative farming practices, such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, crop rotation and grazing management. They are "farmers working together for a clean Lake Champlain and thriving agriculture in Vermont."



To learn how to nominate a No-Till Innovator for 2017, visit www.syngenta.com/NoTill.

Follow the conversation:    @SyngentaUS #NoTillInnovator.

The following committee selected the 2016 No-Till Innovators:

Darrell Bruggink	Editor	<i>No-Till Farmer</i> magazine
Derrick LeBeau	Agronomic Service Representative	Syngenta
Rodney Rulon	Rulon Enterprises	Arcadia, Indiana
Terry Taylor	Terry N. Taylor Farm	Geff, Illinois

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