

Local forum on Cover Crops & Soil Health: *Harvesting the Potential*
(National Live Webinar to 200 U.S. NRCS/SWCD/Extension offices)

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County¹
248 Grant Avenue Auburn, NY 13021

Free – Preregister by 2/14, Shannon Bozeat (NRCS): shannon.bozeat@ny.usda.gov or 315-252-4171 x3

- 9:00** **Registration, coffee/refreshments, soil health demonstrations, and introductions** – Don Pettit, State Conservationist USDA-NRCS, Syracuse, NY and Keith Severson, Extension Educator Cayuga Co. CCE
- 10:00** **Live Webinar from National Cover Crop Conference in Omaha: The big picture: Conservation, cover crops and soil health** – Howard G. Buffett², and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack (invited).
- 10:45** **Experiences with cover crops, and impacts on soil health:**
Dan DeSutter, Indiana – Raises no-till cash crops, and livestock, on 4,300 acres. He seeds cereal rye, oilseed radish and crimson clover cover crops.
Dave Brandt, Ohio – Raises cash crops on 900 acres, most of it no-till with cover crops. He uses ryegrass and some hairy vetch.
Clay Mitchell, Iowa – Raises cash crops on 2,500 acres using precision agriculture, with a focus on soil conservation.
Gabe Brown, North Dakota – Raises cash crops and livestock on 5,400 acres. He uses no-till, highly diverse cash crop and cover crop rotations, and mob grazing.
- 11:45** **Discussion:** Local challenges and successes in cover cropping and reduced tillage, Input on field day for good soil management practices at Cuddeback Farm 2014. Discuss interest in forming farmer discussion group on soil health topics. *Keith Severson, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga Co. and Paul Salon, NRCS Big Flats and Jason Cuddeback, Cayuga Co. SWCD.*
- 12:45** **Info on assistance for good soil health management and Cornell Soil Health Test-** *Josh Hornesky, NRCS and Jason Cuddeback SWCD.*
- 1:00** **Adjourn, or open discussion**

¹Directions:

- For directions search online for Cayuga Co. CCE and look in the “about us” tab for driving directions or use 248 Grant Ave. Auburn, NY 13121.

²Howard G. Buffett is a farmer in IL, a conservationist, and philanthropist. For info on the Howard G. Buffett Foundation go to: <http://www.thehowardgbuffettfoundation.org/>

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