

*Perkins County farmer Steve Tucker one of several presenters at Holyoke Fairgrounds.*

Anyone who has read any farming news articles has surely seen terms such as cover crops, no-till, and soil health. What is all this fuss about anyway?

Mark the calendar and plan to attend “The Farming Evolution: Where Do You Fit?” on Thursday, Feb. 13. This workshop will be held in the big room at the Phillips County Event Center on the Fairgrounds in Holyoke, Colo.

Registration will open at 7:30 a.m. The program will run from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. There is no registration fee; however, be sure to register to insure a lunch.

“We know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil underfoot,” said Leonardo DaVinci. America has made great advancements in tractors and technology since the 1500s. However, understanding of soils is not nearly as advanced.

Recent scientific research on how the soil works has led to new insights about this complex system.

These research findings, coupled with results from farmers ‘breaking the rules,’ are increasing understanding about how soils work.

Michal Casper and Joel Moffett with the Colorado NRCS soil health team will share some of these exciting discoveries.

Dallas Johannsen and Kathy Buttle will bring the Nebraska rainfall simulator. Seeing the rainfall simulator in action is quite interesting. Trays of soils from fields with different tillage histories are ‘rained on.’ The runoff is then captured in clear glass jars. The volume and dirt levels in the captured water are quite telling of how tillage affects soil function.

Attendees will learn about weed control strategies to help address herbicide resistant weeds.

For those wondering how cover crops perform in the northeast Colorado area, Tim Becker will show how they did in one Phillips County field this past summer. Becker is a soil conservation technician with NRCS in Holyoke.

All this new stuff is fine, but why adopt it if it doesn’t improve the bottom line? Aaron Waller, NRCS economist, will explore the economics of cover crops and residue management techniques.

Higher input costs, lower valued crops, and ever-changing weather patterns are standard. Coupled with challenging hi-tech advances, and quick adaptation becomes critical to today’s ag producer.

Nebraska farmer, Steve Tucker, will share how growers need to start thinking differently about farming to provide for future viability.

The best way to learn is from those who have been there, made the mistakes and enjoyed the triumphs. The producer panel will feature three innovative farmers from around the area. Scott Ravenkamp, Dietrich Kastens, and Steve Tucker will share how they have adapted their farming operations over the years. There will be plenty of time for discussion and questions.

This workshop is sure to stir up some interesting ideas on whether farming is being done the way grandpa farmed or the way a modern day farmer wants their children to farm.

Register for lunch by Thursday, Feb. 6. Call 970-854-2812 ext. 3, or 970-332-3173 ext. 3, or 308-882-5173 anytime to reserve a plate or visit [www.ycconservation.com](http://www.ycconservation.com) or email name and

number of people attending to [julie.elliott@co.usda.gov](mailto:julie.elliott@co.usda.gov) or [claudia.stevenson@ne.usda.gov](mailto:claudia.stevenson@ne.usda.gov).