Managing your inputs for healthy soils...

The Bureau and LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation Districts welcome you to Mendota!

January 28, 2014
Mendota Civic Center
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### AGENDA

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30—8:50 AM</td>
<td>Registration, Refreshments &amp; Exhibitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50—9:00 AM</td>
<td>Welcome to Mendota</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00—9:20 AM</td>
<td>Why cover crops make sense for the world and Illinois—Howard Buffett, via webcast</td>
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<td>9:20—10:00 AM</td>
<td>Soil Health: Roger Windhorn</td>
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<td>10:00—10:15 AM</td>
<td>Networking Break</td>
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| 10:15—12:15 PM | Cover Crop sessions:  
Cade Bushnell, Steve Berger, Dave Robison                          |
| 12:15—1:00 PM | Lunch (provided)                                                      |
| 1:00—2:00 PM | Balanced crop nutrition for high yields: Ron Olson                   |
| 2:00—3:00 PM | Managing nitrogen loss with cover crops: Ken Ferrie                 |
| 3:00—3:30 PM | Unlock the secrets of the soil: Ivan Dozier                         |
| 3:30—5:00 PM | Speaker meet & greet, refreshments provided                           |

American Farmland Trust is the only national conservation organization dedicated to protecting farmland, promoting sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land.

[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)
FEATURED SPEAKERS

Ivan Dozier

NRCS State Conservationist, Ivan Dozier was raised on his family’s grain and cattle farm just outside the small town of Mill Shoals, in White County, Illinois. Ivan’s educational background includes a B. S. in Agriculture from University of Illinois (1983) and an M.A. in Environmental Studies from U of I Springfield (’92). He first started work with NRCS (then the Soil Conservation Service) in 1983 as a Soil Conservation Aide in the Wayne County field office and later worked as a county soil scientist on the Wayne County Soil Survey. Ivan’s body of work with NRCS includes experience as a Soil Conservationist in Brown County, a Soil Conservationist in Pike and Sangamon Counties, and as a District Conservationist in Gallatin and Macoupin Counties. In 2000, Ivan accepted the position as the American Indian Liaison for Illinois NRCS and in 2003, took on the position of Assistant State Conservationist for Programs.

Howard Buffett

Howard G. Buffett is the Chairman and CEO of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, a private family foundation working to improve the standard of living and quality of life for the world’s most impoverished and marginalized populations. A farmer, businessman, philanthropist, photographer, and former elected official, Howard has dedicated his life to addressing global food insecurity and conservation. He has traveled to 130 countries documenting the challenges of preserving our biodiversity while providing adequate resources to meet the needs of a growing global population. Howard is a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador Against Hunger, and serves on the corporate boards of Berkshire Hathaway, The Coca-Cola Company, and Lindsay Corporation. He operates a 1,500-acre family farm in central Illinois and oversees three foundation-operated research farms, including over 1,400 acres in Arizona, 4,200 acres in Illinois, and 9,200 acres in South Africa. Howard has written extensively on conservation, wildlife, and the human condition. 40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World documents the people, places, and experiences that have shaped his evolving views of the role of philanthropy in addressing the world’s most difficult challenges.
Special thanks to the Mendota planning committee:
Joe Bybee and Marty McManus, Illinois Department of Agriculture
Emily Gann, Bureau County Soil and Water Conservation District
Vickie Heath, LaSalle County Soil and Water Conservation District
Alan Madison, Bureau County Farmer
Erika Turner, Natural Resources Conservation Service
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Steve Berger
Steve Berger farms with his family on a 2,200 grain and livestock operation in southeast Iowa. The farm has been continuously no-tilled for over 30 years and has used rye cover crops on most acres continuously for over 10 years.

Cade Bushnell
Cade Bushnell has been farming near Stillman Valley, IL since 1982. His family began no-tilling in 1985 and have been “never – tilling” since 1991. Cade began experimenting with cover crops in 2006 and has adopted them wide spread into his operation since 2011. The Bushnell Family was awarded the Illinois Conservation Farm Family of the Year in 2004. Cade graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Horticulture.

Ken Ferrie
Ken is the owner of Crop Tech Consulting in Heyworth Illinois and has worked as a Field Agronomist for over 20 years. He is an agronomic consultant for forty-five farmers in Central Illinois and conducts workshops across the Midwest. Ken is involved in an intensive test plot program where he works with his clients on side by side replicated tests on such things as tillage, herbicides, fertility and planters. Ken Ferrie also oversees the test plots in the Farm Journal Test Plot Program and leads the curriculum for Farm Journal’s Corn College. All of this information is pulled together to help him develop a systems approach for his clients. Ken was born and raised on a farm in Northeast Iowa. He received an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Agribusiness from Ellsworth Community College, and his Bachelor of Science Degree from Illinois State University.

Ron Olson
Ron Olson is the North America Senior Agronomist for The Mosaic Company. In his previous role as Research and Development Manager for Cargill Crop Nutrition, LLC and Mosaic, Ron led the development of the MicroEssentials® portfolio of products. Prior to joining Cargill Crop Nutrition, Ron was an educator and owner of an agronomic consulting business. It was one of the first companies to assist farmers with GPS-based soil sampling, VRT seeding and fertilizer applications, and yield mapping. He holds a B.S. degree in both Agronomy and Education from the University of Illinois and an M.S. degree in Environmental Science from Governors State University in University Park, IL.
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dave Robison

Dave Robison is the Forage and Cover Crop Manager with Legacy Seeds, Inc. Dave grew up on a diversified family farm in central Indiana and is a graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Agronomy. He managed the family farm operation for 10 years and has been involved in the seed industry for 40 years – working with improved forages for 32 years and cover crops for 15 years. He is the co-founder and also the national co-chairman of the Cool Season Grass Initiative, a founding member of the Midwest Cover Crop Council, and a founding member of the Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative committee. Dave is the author and owner of plantcovercrops.com, a blog written from an agronomist’s viewpoint to increase awareness of the value of cover crops to improve soil health. Dave, his wife Sally, and family reside in Winona Lake, Indiana.

Roger Windhorn

Roger Windhorn is the NRCS State Geologist working as a member of the State Office team dealing with Watershed Erosion and Sedimentation, Soil Survey Investigations and Characterization, Technical Soil Services, and Geotechnical Investigations. Other activities include Precision Agriculture, Geophysical Characterizations, and Soil HEALTH issues. Roger has worked since the early 1970’s in the Cooperative Soil Survey Program, primarily in northern and central Illinois. During this time served as Soil Survey Leader for Knox, DeWitt and McLean counties. He received a B.S. Degree from the University of Illinois in Agronomy and M.S. Degree also from the University of Illinois in Soil Science and Geomorphology.

Statewide Planning Committee

Mike Baise, Jen Filipiak—American Farmland Trust
Kent Bohnhoff, Paige Buck, Eric McTaggart—Natural Resources Conservation Service
Joe Bybee, Alan Gulso, Elliot Lagacy—Illinois Department of Agriculture
Jonathon Manual—Champaign County Soil & Water Conservation District
Dan Towery—Ag Conservation Solutions
Woody Woodruff—Illinois Stewardship Alliance