

A message from Alliance President Jim Hershey

On behalf of the board of directors of the Alliance it gives me great pleasure to invite you to attend one of our two Winter Soil Health meetings on January 27th at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, PA and January 29th at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland, PA. As the Alliance enters its third decade of "farmers helping farmers improve soil health" the planning committees have worked hard present a program that will reinforce and expand upon old concepts as well as explore the potential value of some new, emerging tools.

We are excited to have Adam Daugherty (profiled to the right) as our Keynote Speaker on both days and I'm certain you will appreciate hearing his experience in addressing the topic issues we all face as we expand our soil health knowledge.

We are pleased to announce that in Latrobe we are partnering with the Southwest PA Soil Health Conference which is the host and co-sponsor of our western PA winter meeting. Therefore, the program will include not only presentations to the full group but numerous breakout sessions to address specific topics and, in some cases, receive pesticide and nutrient management credits.

Both programs will also have sections of the agenda discussing biological additives and the experiences of farmers who have experience using them.

I invite both experienced no-till farmers and those newer to this and other soil health practices to join at one of these meetings – I believe you will find it a good investment of your valuable time!

Best Regards,



Jim Hershey



Adam Daugherty to Offer Keynote Address at Winter Meetings

Adam Daugherty spent over 23 years working for US-DA-NRCS, primarily as a District Conservationist and State Soil Health Specialist in Tennessee. During this time he devoted his professional career to working with producers on the transition from conventional and long-term no-till production systems into the adoption, management, and advancement of higher functioning agro-ecological farming systems.



A key element of this transition has been working closely with a large number of producers in implementing the use of high biomass cover crop mixes across thousands of acres of corn and soybean rotations.

Adam has an overarching view that the characteristics of the soil we farm are similar to a factory workforce, and as managers we have the ability to degrade, conserve, or enhance the population and diversity of that workforce. He believes no matter what we are trying to grow or where we are trying to grow it, a highly populated and diverse workforce will lead to more efficiency and better resilience in any cropping system.

He has been a popular speaker at several national no-till events and appeared in numerous popular videos and podcasts. Since October 2025 he has served as Operations Manager and Crop Consultant for the Manchester, TN Nutrien Ag Solutions location.

**Details about
Winter Soil Health
Meetings Inside!**

Join or Renew PA No-Till Alliance Membership Now!

Note: If you joined or renewed at the Field Days, your 2026 Membership is current!

Membership Benefits For 2026

- * Free Subscription to *No-Till Farmer Magazine* – Includes 12 monthly issues, quarterly updates and full access to their digital resource library. (\$49.95 Value)
- * Two Free Registrations at Alliance Summer Field Days and Winter Soil Health Meetings (Potential \$80.00+ Value)
- * Quarterly Alliance Newsletters and monthly Email Updates

Join Now for Only \$50.00!

Or Consider Becoming an **Annual Farm Sponsor for \$250** and receive all the benefits above, **PLUS** 2 subscriptions to No-Till Farmer and up to 4 free registrations at our events

PA No-Till Alliance 2024 Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

____ Individual Membership -- \$50.00

(Includes FREE subscription to No-Till Farmer magazine - \$49.99 Value and FREE registration at all events)

____ Farm Sponsor of the No-Till Alliance - \$250.00

(Includes 2 subscriptions to No-Till Farmer and 4 FREE registration at all Events)

**Make check payable to "PA No-Till Alliance and Mail to:
PA No-Till Alliance
2215 Forest Hills Dr., Ste 39
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

Alliance Members Play Prominent Roles at Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum

On November 12-15 the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation hosted the Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum in Hershey, PA, focused on agricultural conservation efforts across the watershed. During the event a recurring theme was the benefits of farmer-led conservation groups and the farmer-to-farmer transfer of knowledge as embodied in the Alliance mission.

Andy Flinchbaugh, a No-Till Alliance board member and York County farmer, served on a panel discussing his experience with the Alliance and

agreed with other panelists that trust is key when it comes to selling anything, including conservation practices. That's why panelists agreed on the need for farmers to teach farmers, based upon their personal experience.

Lydia Taylor of the Virginia No-Till Alliance, a farmer group patterned after the PA Alliance also served on the panel and observed that farmers who share their knowledge are motivated by a sense of purpose --that they really feel like what they're doing makes a difference.

Alliance president Jim Hershey

was also part of the program as he and PA Extension Specialist Heidi Reed presented a segment on the benefits of including cover crops in any farm management plan.

When the nearly 200 participants from at least four states split into groups for trips to different farms, Lisa Blazure from the Stroud Water Resources Center and an associate board member of the Alliance led an in-field discussion of what you can learn from close observation of soil samples from fields under different management programs on one of the farms.

Winter Soil Health Meeting Registration by Mail

Jan. 27, 2026 – Latrobe, PA# _____ Free to Members

Jan. 27, 2026 – Latrobe, PA# _____ Non-Member (\$40)

Jan. 29, 2026 – New Holland, PA# _____ Free to Members

Jan. 29, 2026 – New Holland, PA # _____ Non-Member (\$25)

**Return with check (if required) payable to:
PA No-Till Alliance
2215 Forest Hills Dr. Ste 39
Harrisburg, PA 17112**

2026 Winter Soil Health Meetings

Tuesday, January 27 & Thursday, January 29

Meeting Locations & Agendas

Jan. 27, 2026 – Latrobe, PA

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Hosted by the Southwest PA Soil Health Conference
- Fred Rogers Center, St. Vincent College
- 300 Fraser Purchase Rd, Latrobe, PA 15650

8:30 – 8:45 — Registration and visit vendors

8:45 – 9:00 — Welcome and Introductions

9:00 – 10:00 — Keynote – “Building Up Your Soils with Regen Practices”
— Adam Daugherty

10:00-10:20 — Break and Vendor Show

10:20 – 11:20 — Breakout Sessions

Upper – “Making the Most of Cover Crops” – Heidi Reed and Jim Hershey

Lower 1A – “Silvopasture Practices” – Dylan Heagy –

Lower 1B – Sarah Tzilkowski – PA OneStop

11:25 -12:25 — Lunch and Vendor Show

12:25 -1:15 — “Changing Mindsets: Knowing the ‘Why’ Behind Your Practices”
—Adam Dougherty

1:15 -2:15 — Breakout Sessions #1

Upper – Nicole Wood, PDA Plant Industry (Core Pesticide Credits)

Lower 1A – “Silvopasture Practices” – Dylan Heagy

Lower 1B – “On-farm Nitrogen Trials” – Justin Brackenrich
(Nutrient Mgt Credits)

2:15 – 2:30 — Break and Vendor Show

2:30 -3:30 — Breakout Sessions #2

Upper – “Cover Crop Pest Management” – Dr. John Tooker
(Pesticide Credits)

Lower 1A – “ACAP Success Stories”

Lower 1B – “Do Biological Applications Have a Place?”

3:30 — Wrap Up and Door Prizes

Jan. 29, 2026 – New Holland, PA

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Yoder’s Restaurant and Buffet
- 14 South Tower Rd, New Holland, PA 17557

8:00-8:45 — Registration and visit with sponsors/vendors

8:45-9:00 — Welcome and Announcements – Jim Hershey

9:00-10:00 — Keynote – “Building Up Your Soils with Regen Practices” – Adam Daugherty

10:00-11:00 — “Soil Biology: Hidden Helpers in Crop Nutrient Uptake” – Lisa Blazure

11:00-12:00 — “Maximizing Cover Crop & Cash Crop Profitability With Humus Protein” – Jonathan Keller, Penn Valley Farms

12:00-1:00 — Lunch and Visit with Exhibitors

1:00-1:15 — Sponsor Comments

1:15-1:30 — Special Guest Comments

1:30 - 2:00 — The Role of Riparian Buffers in Soil Health – Lamonte Garber

2:00 – 2:45 — “Changing Mindsets: “Knowing the ‘Why’ Behind Your Practices” – Adam Daugherty:

2:45-3:15 – Managing Stress From Market Concerns – Chi Catalone

3:15 -3:55 — Experience Using Biological Products – Farmer Panel

3:55 – 4:00 — Closing Comments

4:00 — Adjourn

**Free to Members
Registering Before Jan. 15.**

Registration Information

Scan the QR codes, visit the links, or contact Jay Howes at jhowes@pennag.com.

Jan. 27 – Latrobe, PA

<https://bit.ly/January27-Registration>



Jan. 29 – New Holland, PA

<https://bit.ly/January29-Registration>





Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance
2215 Forest Hills Dr., Suite 39
Harrisburg, PA 17112

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Inside This Issue:

Soil Health Meetings

- Jan. 27, 2026 – Latrobe, PA
- Jan. 29, 2026 – New Holland, PA

Membership Information

- Individual – \$50
- Farm Sponsor – \$250

Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance

Our Mission: *To promote the successful application of no till, cover crops and other soil health principles through shared ideas, experiences, education and new technology, resulting in improvements in soil health, water quality, productivity, and profitability for future generations.*