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## Agenda

**Registration and Vendor Show 9:00 - 9:30**

**Welcome & Introductions 9:30 - 9:40**

**General Session #1 9:40 - 10:40**

Kevin Frye - Managing Drought in PA Corn Production

**Break & Vendor Show 10:40 - 10:55**

**General Session #2 10:55 - 11:55**

Farmer Panel

**Lunch and Vendor Show 11:55 - 1:00**

### Breakout Sessions

**Round #1 1:00 - 2:00**

A) Michael Doucette - Managing Invasive Species in woodlots

B) Dr. Robert Meinen - 10 Things Every Producer Should Know about Nutrient Cycling

C) Dr. G - Soil Health Under Pastures

**Round #2 2:00 - 3:00**

A) Nicole Wood - PDA Plant Industry  
(2 Core Credits Pending)

B) Dalton Wilson - Use Of Precision Farming Technologies

C) Alex Masser - Rotational Grazing

**Wrap Up and Door Prizes 3:15**

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## Conference presented by:

- PSU Extension
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Conservation Districts located in the Southwest Region of Pennsylvania
- PDA — Bureau of Plant Industry



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## Available Credits:

-2 Core + 2 Category (with PDA approval)  
Pesticide Credits

-Nutrient Management Credits

-Conservation Planning Credits

-CCA credits

For further information, contact:

**Tom Ulrich, Wash. Co. Conservation District at 724.705.7098 Ext. 206**

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## Directions:

### From Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and West

Follow Route 30 East 5 Miles past Westmoreland Mall. At the stop light at Saint Vincent Drive, turn left onto Fraser Purchase Road (unmarked), go 1/2 mile, and turn left onto campus. Stop at the entrance booth for parking information and further direction.

### From Latrobe, Ligonier, and East

Follow Route 30 West. After the light at Arnold Palmer International Airport, St. Vincent is on your right.

### From Delmont, Murrysville, and North

Follow Toll 66 to the Route 30 Exit. Make a left on Route 301. Follow Route 30 East (directions above).

# 2024 Southwest PA Soil Health Conference



**Wednesday  
January 31, 2024  
9am - 3:30pm**

**Fred Rogers Center  
Saint Vincent College  
300 Fraser Purchase Rd  
Latrobe, PA 15650**

**Registration Fee: \$40 per person  
(\$45 after January 19th)**

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# SPEAKERS

## Are you wondering how to manage drought in your corn production?

Kevin Frye, the field agronomist for Pioneer in Pennsylvania and NE Ohio, will provide insight from the field. Kevin grew up on a dairy farm in north central PA where his father and brother continue to row crop.

## Soil Health Under Pastures

Dr. Guojie Wang, Penn State Forage Crop Systems Extension Specialist, is eager to meet forage lovers and promote the role of forages in soil health improvement. Guojie (G) will summarize research data on grazing timing and intensity effects on pasture soil health, promote pasture species diversity to improve pasture productivity and soil health further and compare long-term pastures with hayland and short-term pastures' effects on soil health. Integration of animals into our existing agricultural landscape will be Guojie's take-home message.

## Farmer Panel.

Three local farmers in the southwestern area will discuss soil health best management practices utilized on their farms. The farmer panel will be a time for open discussion with these farmers to learn the "dos" and "don'ts" that they have experienced firsthand when it comes to improving soil health. Come prepared with your questions.

## PDA Plants Core Talks

Nicole Wood is a PDA Plant Industry Agronomic Products Inspector. She will be speaking on several current topics: Updates on rules and regulations, plus Worker Protection Standards, and relevant laws. 2 Core credits will be offered for her session, pending PDA approval.

## 10 Things Every Producer Should Know about Nutrient Cycling.

Dr. Robb Meinen is an Assistant Research Professor in Penn State's Department of Plant Science. Nitrogen and phosphorus cycling are critical components of crop management for those using fertilizers and manures. Understanding the cycles allow field-based decisions that benefit agronomic, economic, and environmental aspects of the farm. Nutrient cycling does have ties with soil health.

## Managing invasives in the woodlot.

The back woodlot has been historically used as a source of intermittent income. However, invasive species now present one of the greatest risks to the continued use of this resource. Invasive species additionally degrade the water quality, wildlife, and hunting value of the property. Michael Doucette will discuss how control these invasives.

## Are you interested in improving your farm efficiency?

Dalton Wilson, from West Central Equipment, will discuss the uses of Precision farming technologies both on and off equipment and how it can make any farming operation more efficient while assisting making better decisions from year to year.

## Want to learn more about rotational grazing systems?

Alex Masser runs a 25 cow / calf beef operation, focused on rotational grazing, located in Cambria County. Alex will discuss his operation, tips for how he improved his operation, and the benefits of rotational grazing.

2024 Southwest PA

Soil Health Conference

Wednesday Jan. 31, 2024

Register before January 19th to get the reduced rate!

Register & pay online at  
[westmorelandconservation.org](http://westmorelandconservation.org)

Or register by mail:

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee: \$40 per person**

**(\$45 after January 19th)**

Please make checks payable to:

**Westmoreland Conservation District**

Please mail registration form and payment to:

Westmoreland Conservation District

Attention Jen Novak

218 Donohoe Road

Greensburg, PA 15601

For any question related to registration contact Jen Novak at 724-837-5271