

PA No-Till Alliance Winter Meeting

hosted at the

Southwest PA Soil Health Conference 2026

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location:

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

Registration Fee:

\$40 per person (\$50 after January 16th)

Agenda:

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration & Vendor Show - Welcome & Introductions

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Adam Daughtery - Building Soil Structure

10:00 - 10:20 a.m. Break & Vendor Show

10:20 - 11:20 a.m. Morning Breakout Session

Upper) Heidi Reed & Jim Hershey - Supercharging No-till with Cover Crops

Lower 1A) Dylan Heagy - Silvopasture and Pasa Soil Health Studies

Lower 1B) Jennifer Weld & Sarah Tzikowski - PA One Stop Agricultural Planning Tool

11:25 a.m. - 12:25 p.m. Lunch & Vendor Show

12:25 - 1:10 p.m. Adam Daughtery - Understanding Your Cropping System

1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Afternoon Breakout Session #1

Upper) Patrick Gilkey - PDA Plants Core Talk

Lower 1A) Dylan Heagy - Silvopasture & Pasa Soil Health Studies

Lower 1B) Justin Brackenrich - Nitrogen Trial & Small Research Projects

2:15 - 2:30 p.m. Break & Vendor Show

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Afternoon Breakout Session #2

Upper) Dr. John Tooker - Slug Management

Lower 1A) ACAP Success

Lower 1B) Sjoerd Duiker - Soil Compaction

3:30 p.m. Wrap Up & Door Prizes



Available Credits:

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

For further information, contact:

Tom Ulrich, Washington County Conservation District 724-705-7098 Ext. 206

or

Chelsea Gross, Westmoreland Conservation District 724-837-5271, Ext. 103

Conference presented by:

- PA No-Till Alliance
- PSU Extension
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Conservation Districts located in the Southwest Region of Pennsylvania
- PDA - State Conservation Commission

PA No-Till Alliance Winter Meeting hosted at the Southwest PA Soil Health Conference Registration

Tuesday January 27, 2026

Register by January 16th to get the reduced rate! Registration Fee: \$40 per person (\$50 after January 16th)
No refunds. Walk-ins limited for a guaranteed lunch.

Register & pay online at westmorelandconservation.org



or register by mail

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State / Zip: _____

County: _____

E-mail: _____

Number Attending: _____ Total Enclosed: _____

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

Speakers 2026

Adam Daugherty - Operations Manager and Crop Consultant, Nutrien Ag Solutions

Building Soil Structure

Morning Session - Management decisions have a big influence on building soil organic matter, soil structure, and nutrient cycling. Adam will share which practices have the biggest influence on the soil and how to start building a system that takes advantage of natural cycles and is less reliant on additional inputs.

Understanding Your Cropping System

Afternoon Session - What motivates changes on the farm? In this session, Adam will dive into why he is passionate about learning and helping others understand how their cropping systems and soils function. Because once you know the why behind how things work, it can shift your perspective and future decisions.

Heidi Reed & Jim Hershey

Supercharging No-till with Cover Crops

Heidi Reed, Penn State Extension Agronomy Educator will discuss why cover crops are the key to making no-till work, along with benefits of various cover crop species. Jim Hershey, farmer and President of the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance will add to the discussion with reflections from his decades of no-till and cover cropping experience.

Dylan Heagy

Silvopasture and Pasa Soil Health Studies

Dylan Heagy, Agroforestry Training Program Coordinator of Pasa Sustainable Agriculture, will discuss implementing silvopasture into your grazing system. Silvopasture is the integration of managed trees and grazers on the same land. Pasa sustainable agriculture implements soil health benchmarking studies for various conservation practices, and Dylan will dive into upcoming research that Pasa is planning to fill the gaps on the benefits of silvopasture.

Jennifer Weld & Sarah Tzilkowski

PA One Stop Agricultural Planning Tool

The PAOneStop Online Farm Planning System (PAOneStop.psu.edu) is a free and easy-to-use online tool for developing maps, Manure Management Plans and Ag E&S Plans for PA agricultural operations. In this session, we will showcase the Mapping Module, demonstrating how to create accurate and useful agricultural maps. We will also introduce the new Manure Management Plan Module and walk through the process of generating Manure Management Plans within PAOneStop. PAOneStop is funded and supported by the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Patrick Gilkey

PDA Plants Core Talk

Patrick Gilkey is a Plant Industry Inspection Technician with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA). He 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.

Justin Brackenrich

Nitrogen Trial and Local Research Update

Justin Brackenrich, Penn State Agronomy Educator, will discuss local projects and their environmental and economic impacts on producers. Justin will review findings and discuss ways to implement these results in your operation. Studies include nitrogen source and rate on grass hay, optimizing nitrogen in corn, and a comparison study of different lime and calcium products.

Dr. John Tooker

Slug Management

Dr. John Tooker, Department of Entomology at Penn State, will discuss how slug pests can occasionally challenge crops in no-till systems. Because they are not insects, preventative insecticide-based management programs are ineffective against slugs; therefore, a different approach is needed. We will discuss the life cycle of slugs, why they can be such a challenge, and management practices that can be effective against slugs. 2 Category credits will be offered.

Southwest Conservation Districts

ACAP Success

Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) is administered by the State Conservation Commission and delegated to county conservation districts. Learn about conservation practices that have been implemented within our region through ACAP. Following project highlights, there will be an opportunity to ask questions with program staff from Westmoreland, Washington, Greene, Fayette, and Indiana Counties.

Sjoerd Duiker

Soil Compaction

Sjoerd Duiker is Soil Management Specialist in the Agronomy Extension Team at Penn State University. Sjoerd will present soil penetration resistance and bulk density data he took in 2025 on farms in southeastern and western PA with his new recording penetrometer. He will discuss the threat of soil compaction on our farms, which problems can ensue, ways to avoid compaction, and finally, how to remediate compaction.