Jack Davis
Jack Davis has worked with SDSU Extension for 23 years. He currently serves as the Crops Business Management Field Specialist from the Mitchell Regional office. His responsibilities include developing & delivering educational programs on business matters facing producers. Jack works with team members on publications and programming including land market survey, farm financial trends of South Dakota farms, crop planning cost of production budgets, SDSU Extension Ag Profit Team, SDSU Extension Agricultural Leader’s Conference, South Dakota Farm Economic Summit, and Sustaining the Legacy estate planning. Jack also serves as the academic Vice President for American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

Peter Sexton
Peter Sexton works as the supervisor of the SDSU Southeast Research Farm in Beresford, and is an associate professor in Sustainable Cropping Systems with the Agronomy, Hort., & Plant Science Department at SDSU. His interest is in applied crop research that benefits rural communities. Research efforts include work with cover crops, integration of grazing with crop production, multi-hybrid planters as well as agronomic work with corn, soybeans, and oats. He obtained his master’s and doctorate at the University of Florida in Agronomy, and B.S. in Agronomy from SDSU. Past experience includes work as a volunteer agronomist for 5 years with the Menomonee Central Committee in Bangladesh, 3 years work as an Assistant Professor in Agronomy at the Central Oregon Ag, Research and Extension Center, OSU, and 8 years as a Crop Specialist in the Potato Program with University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

Doug Landblom
Doug Landblom was born in Great Falls, MT and grew up working on family ranches northwest of Billings, MT. He received BS and MS degrees in Animal Science from Montana State University. His career has focused on applied nutrition, reproduction, and disease management research with beef cattle, swine, and a limited exposure to equine nutrition. The last 15 years his focus has been on methods to reduce confinement and capitalize on the merits of extensive grazing and the integration of beef production into a diverse cropping system. Areas of emphasis within the integrated systems research are soil health, crop and beef production, and systems economics. His talk today summarizes some of the research findings and is titled, "Beef Grazing Synergy Between Crops, Cattle and Soil Health".

Deon Ruesch
Deon Ruesch is the District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties. He has been with agency for 24 years and has worked in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. Deon was raised on a diverse family farm in SW Minnesota where they raised corn, soybeans, small grain, and alfalfa along with raising hogs, cattle, and chickens. His dad continues to raise corn and soybeans.

Jose Guzman
Jose Guzman is a Soil Management Scientist at the Dakota Lakes Research Farm, and is an assistant Professor in the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture, and Plant Science at SDSU. His research and teaching stresses the importance of adopting sustainable agriculture practices, which increase crop yields and soil health. For instance, agricultural systems that emphasize the need to mix complementary crops and animals in rotational times and places, keeping the soil covered with growing crops and mulches, and using detailed knowledge of ecological relationships to reduce the use of purchased inputs, such as pesticides and fertilizers. He obtained his master’s and doctorate at Iowa State University, and B.S. in Agronomy at Kansas State University.

Paul J. Jasla
Paul Jasla, Extension Engineer with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, develops and conducts educational programs related to crop production that improve profitability, build soil health, and reduce risks to the environment. He received both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Nebraska and has been working with planting equipment and tillage system evaluation at the University since 1978. Across the years, he’s worked with soil and water conservation, residue management, crop rotations, and, more recently, cover crops and soil health. Paul has become one of the best sources of information in the Midwest on no-till planting equipment and system management to protect and build the soil. Paul admits, if there is a mistake to be made with no-till, he’s either made it himself or has seen it done. More importantly, he has learned from those mistakes and shares that information in presentations that stress the systems approach and the long-term benefits of continuous no-till.

Ian Cunningham
Ian Cunningham produces corn, soybeans, and beef cattle on his farm (established 1885) in southwest Minnesota with his son Richard. He is now in his sixth term as supervisor of Pipestone County Soil and Water Conservation District, and also serves on the executive board of the National Association of Conservation Districts. Ian’s farm, established in 1885, has gone through a series of positive management changes in the past 130 years. “We farmed on the contour for many years, quit moldboard plowing in 1967, ridge tilled in the 1980s and early 1990s, and have practiced no-till and strip till since then,” Ian says. Today, the Cunninghams use grid soil sampling, precision tools for nutrient applications, and integrated pest management. They also use cover crops to protect their soils before and after they plant their primary crops. In early winter, the family’s herd has a multi-species cover crop to graze. “For over 130 years we have strived to do what’s best for the land and livestock.”

Liz and Steve Sigdested
Lizabeth and Steve Sigdested began farming in 2010. Liz grew up on a dairy farm near Howard, SD and Steve was raised on a grain farm near Pierpont, SD. They now farm corn, soybeans, and wheat in the prairie pothole area in northeast South Dakota. They found an interest in no-till when acquiring equipment and considering the economics behind their purchases as well as observing yield increases in their no-till fields when compared to their tilled fields. They have successfully continuously no-tilled for the past 6 years and integrate cover crops and livestock when possible. They are involved in the SD Voices for Soil Health, serve on the Day County Crop Improvement Board, Independence Township Board, Steve serves on the Day County Conservation District Board, and the couple recently introduced their daughter Theo to the family in August. They believe “if you take care of the soil, it will take care of you.”