

Soil Health Breakfast and Planter Set-up Workshop

**Bowman Farm
Columbia County**

Friday, January 24th, 2014

Jim and Tonya Bowman graciously hosted a Soil Health and Planter workshop at their home farm in Columbia County on January 24, 2014 where they live with their 2 children Brittany, 24 and Cody, 17. Tonya demonstrated her heart-felt hospitality, along with her superb cooking skills, by preparing breakfast for over 80 people who were in attendance. Tonya is the Soil Health coordinator for field team Northeast (NE)-4, where she works as the Program Assistant under an RC&D agreement and the leadership of Kris Ribble, the Supervisory District Conservationist.

Jim Bowman grew up on a 150 cow dairy farm in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania (PA) where he and his family grew close to 2,500 acres of grain while also operating a trucking business and local restaurant.

Jim established his own trucking and farming operation in 1989 in Bloomsburg, PA. Currently, he farms 1,000 acres of grains, including corn, soybeans and wheat. His operation is 100% no till and they will begin incorporating cover crops into his planting operation this year. They also have three tractor trailers which haul agricultural products throughout the country.

Upon graduation, their son, Cody will begin his career in agriculture by joining and expanding the family farming operation.

Jim's interest in conservation enabled him to finish an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract with NRCS in 2013, including the installation of waterways on two of his farms.

The newly constructed 60' x 100' garage was built in 2013 and easily accommodated the 80+ producers/attendees.

There was a group Discussion on Soil Health

- “*Learning from Our Failures & Our Successes, moving forward*” “ lead by Kris Ribble



- Using Cover Crops & Diversity to Improve Soil Health
- Transitioning to a Continuous No-till System presented by Joel Myers



- Planter & Drill Setup for dealing with No-till and Cover Crops, **Group Discussion** led by Dave Dum w/ Binkley & Hurst



The event was sponsored by:



Submitted by: NE-4 team