

Extension Notes

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

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Gaining Ground: No-Till Drill Clinic Offers Hands-On Learning Experience

With spring planting season just around the corner, local farmers gathered at the Boyd County Extension Expo Center last Tuesday night for a No-Till Drill Clinic aimed at optimizing their planting practices and soil health. Organized by the Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Greenup & Lawrence County Extension Offices, the event offered participants a unique opportunity to learn from experts, share experiences, and get hands-on with no-till drills.

The clinic kicked off with a welcome by Boyd County Extension Agent Lyndall Harned and a short introduction of seeding tips and tricks by Dr. Jimmy Henning, a forage specialist with the University of Kentucky. Local Conservation District Secretaries and Department of Fish and Wildlife representatives were on hand to describe the checkout procedures for their respective drills.

Attendees moved around the expo building as Dr. Henning described distinguishing features and calibration techniques of each of the six drills on display. Farmers shared their own experiences and insights, creating a collaborative learning environment where everyone benefited from each other's knowledge. The evening concluded with a calibration demonstration of the Great Plains drill by Rebecca Konopka, Carter County Extension Agent. A Great Plains drill is available for checkout to local farmers from both the Carter and Elliott County Soil Conservation Districts.

Evaluations showed that the event was incredibly valuable and that producers feel more confident going into the planting season. One participant said, "As a newbie to farming (and a young woman), I feel like each piece of equipment was explained in terms that I could understand."

Farmers received a handbook of relevant UK forage publications to guide them in the future. The success of this No-Till Drill Clinic lies not just in the immediate knowledge gained though, but in the seeds of change sown within each participant. As these seeds take root and flourish, our local farms will grow and prosper too.

For more information on forage production practices, contact your Carter County Extension office.

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Upcoming Events:

- **Regional Farmer's Market Meeting** – Thursday, February 8th at Morehead State University Farm – Call 474-6686 to register and for more details.
- **Ag Lender's Update** – Friday, February 9th @ Fleming County Extension Office
- **Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training** – Monday, February 12th @ 6:00 PM – Call 474-6686 to register.



Dr. Jimmy Henning, University of Kentucky Forage Specialist, explains the features of a Woods CSS60 Seeder. The equipment was on loan from Barker's Equipment and Shawnee State University.



Rebecca Konopka, Carter County Extension Agent, explains the calibration process for a Great Plains 706NT drill. The drill was on loan from the Carter County Soil Conservation District.