Farm Economics and Soil Health Winter Workshop

Monday, February 24, 2020 at 9:00 AM

Heron Lake Community Center

312 10th Street, Heron Lake, MN

8:30 AM - Registration, Coffee, and Rolls

9:00 AM - Speaker, Rick Clark, Farmer

9:45 AM -Speaker, Matt Alford, Farmer

10:45 AM - Break and Vender Booths

11:15 AM – Speaker, Rick Clark, Farmer

12:00 PM - Lunch (Provided)

12:30- Raffle Drawing

Lunch Provided

Free Raffle Drawing

Please RSVP by February 17th. RSVP at ***https://covercrop2020.eventbrite.com*** or call Jackson SWCD at 507-662-6682 Ext 3.

Soil and Water Management CEU Credits Available.

For more information visit www.hlwdonline.org or call Catherine Wegehaupt at 507-376-9150 Ext. 111.

NOBLES SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JACKSON COUNTY Land Management

WATER Watershed Assistance Through Education & Resources

Heron Lake Watershed District

Speaker Bios

Rick Clark

Rick Clark is a Williamsport, Indiana farmer. He is a 5th generation farmer. To quote the National No-Till Farmer, "To Rick Clark, 'Farming Green' is a systematic approach to regenerative soil health and that's what he brings to the 7,000 acres he manages at both Clark Land & Cattle and for his family. He strives to be the best steward of the land. A main component of his no-till system is maximizing cover crop performance and planting his cash crops into living covers to build biomass, suppress weeds, recycle nutrients and feed soil microbes." Rick has been farming for 35 years and has included no-till and cover crops in his system for the last 10 years. He is a Purdue University graduate with an Ag Economics degree.

Matt Alford

Matt Alford grew up on his family farm in South Dakota where they raised corn, soybeans, and alfalfa and other crops primarily used for feed in their cow/calf operation. He moved to Minnesota in 2015, joining his father-in-law Jim Erdahl's operation. Matt and Jim farm east of Blue Earth, Minnesota. They currently have a corn and soybean operation and are looking to incorporate small grains in the future.

Before Matt joined the operation, Jim made the decision to convert from a conventional tillage system to strip and no-till. Jim also had started to experiment with cover crops to increase soil health. Together they now have expanded their cover crop acres and have tested seeding dates, incorporation methods and mixes. The pair evaluated interseeding cover crops in corn at different growth stages in hope of eliminating a herbicide pass with the covers. As their knowledge of covers grows so have their cover crop acres. They believe the future of their farm is a combination of current precision farming technology and older farming practices, such as diverse rotations and use of cover crops.

Matt and Jim are passionate about all things soil health and they continue to soak up as much knowledge as possible. Reducing inputs by creating a healthier biological system is what drives their decision to make changes. " While many people talk about how cover crop benefits are long term, we have seen things like weed control and soil structure improving immediately," Matt said. "Experimenting with new practices and trials are what makes every season fun and exciting."