Preface

We recognize the importance of tillage in modern agriculture especially in respect to ameliorating biological, chemical, and physical soil impediments to crop growth. Modern tillage practices have contributed to the unmatched productivity of U.S. agriculture. Technology is providing an ever increasing array of tillage and cropping system alternatives to incorporate into our present farming systems. Because of current economic constraints on agricultural production, we must critically evaluate the usefulness of existing crop production practices and find ways to return profitability to our nation's farmers. The conference theme, "Conservation Tillage: Today and Tomorrow", was chosen to stimulate vigorous discussion on the present and future technical components of conservation tillage farming systems. Speakers recognized for their knowledge and experience were asked to discuss critical issues on individual components of conservation farming systems as they relate to our present and future practices. Invitations were also extended for voluntary contributions by persons having research experience on other topics pertinent to the conference theme. The proceedings of the conference contains the papers of the invited speakers and abstracts of those making voluntary contributions. In an effort to keep Texas farmers on the cutting edge of science and technology, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, and the Texas A&M University System are proud to have played a key role in developing and transferring the conservation tillage technology to our farmers. We appreciate the opportunity to host this annual conference especially during the year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Hatch Act and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

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