

SES Fall Seminar Series

Dr. Bill Deen

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'Role of Cropping System Diversity: Past, Present and Future'

Crop rotation complexity has dramatically declined in most temperate production regions. Before 1950, complex crop rotations provided such benefits as weed, pest and insect management, nutrient supply and labor distribution. More recently however, technological advancements in nitrogen fertilizers, pesticides, plant genetics and equipment have reduced the apparent need for crop rotation complexity. Intensively managed, simple rotations consisting of corn and soybean are now perceived as being most profitable and currently dominate the landscape. Long-term rotation trials conducted at Elora and Ridgetown, however, demonstrate that such simple rotations are associated with reduced yields and system resiliency, as well as negative environmental impacts such as reduced soil organic matter, reduced nutrient use efficiency and increased nutrient loss to air and water. Current/future impacts of changing climate, emerging biomass industries, and intensification of production systems increase the overall costs associated with simple rotations and compromise profitability. Various options exist for re-introduction of more rotation diversity.

Friday
November 20,
2015
3:30 - 4:30 pm
Alexander Hall
Room 218

All are welcome to attend!



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