No-Till on the Plains is hosting its 13th annual winter conference on January 27 and 28 at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan., and 30 Nebraska farmers could get the $150 registration free, according to Paul Jasa, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension engineer specializing in no till cropping systems.

No-Till on the Plains is a non-profit educational organization providing information to farmers on no till farming methods. The first 30 Nebraska farmers registering must request a refund at the same time. The refund will be made after attendance at the conference.

An informal partnership of Extension and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff formed a “no-till cadre” recently and has been holding farmer workshops around the state. Now this informal group is offering the free registrations, by providing a refund, to encourage Nebraska farmers to learn more about no till of crops.

No till is a farming method where the current year’s crops are planted without any tillage of the previous year’s crop residue, year after year.

The 2009 conference has scheduled about a dozen “farmer speakers” to share their no till experiences with different crops and conditions. About another dozen no till experts from around the country and around the world will also speak.

Farmers will be able to ask questions, share no till lessons and interact with other attendees, presenters and trade show exhibitors. About 1,200 people have attended the conferences in recent years.

Money for the registration refund is being provided through a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

More information on the conference or farmers can register by calling the No-Till on the Plains office at 888-330-5142 or registering on-line at http://www.notill.org/past_conf/WC09/wc09.htm.

Producers must be in the first 30 from Nebraska and must ask for the refund when registering, or contact Denise Trine at the PrairieLand RC&D Office in Madison NE at 402-454-2026 for the refund.