

Cover Crop Study

Please mark the answer(s) that best reflect your situation. All information will be kept strictly confidential and will not be shared. Thank you for your participation and your time!

1. Are you willing to complete this survey to provide us with valuable information that will guide Research and Extension activities?

- Yes – Please proceed to complete the survey
- No – Please return the survey in the prepaid envelope so we can remove you from the mailing list.

Farm Demographics

2. Do you:

- Own and/or operate land that produces agricultural commodities? If you select this option, please complete the survey from an agricultural producer perspective.
- Own land but lease it for agricultural production? If you select this option, please complete the survey from a non-operator, landowner perspective.

3. Approximately how many years have you been in agricultural production?

- 0-10 years
- 11-25 years
- 26-40 years
- 41-60 years
- 61+ years
- None- I lease my property for ag production

4. For each type of crop that makes up your farming operation in the last five years, please enter:

1. The crop type farmed,
2. The average number of acres for each crop type, and
3. The acres irrigated acreage for that crop type.

Type of Crop(s) you Farm	Acres Farmed for that Crop Type	Acres Irrigated for that Crop Type
<i>[Example] Cotton</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>250</i>

5. Approximately how many acres of your farm is leased from/to someone else? Please indicate the number of acres below.

_____ **Acres**

6. In the last five years, have you participated in any incentive programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)?

Yes – **Why?**

No – **Why not?**

7. In the last five years, have cover crops been planted on your farm?

Yes – **Why?**

No – **Why not?**

8. Would you accept \$10.00 per acre to implement a cover crop in your operation?

Yes – Please answer Question 8a.

No – Please answer Question 8b.

8a. If you answered “**yes**” to the previous question 8 above, would you accept \$5.00 per acre *instead* to implement a cover crop?

Yes

No

8b. If you answered “**no**” to the previous question 8 above, would you accept \$15.00 per acre *instead* to implement a cover crop?

Yes

No

Adoption Potential

9. Approximately what percentage of farming operations in your area do you believe are currently using cover crops, and what percentage of producers in the region are likely to adopt cover crops?

	Percent of farming operations in your area
Have already adopted cover crops	_____ %
Are likely to adopt cover crops	_____ %

10. If you plant cover crops, how do you terminate your cover crops?

Chemical, I am a no-till producer.

Chemical and tillage, I practice conservation tillage and use preplant herbicides.

Tillage

Grazing

Grazing and Chemical

Other: _____

I do not plant cover crops

Barriers to Adoption of Cover Crops

11. Please indicate your level of agreement regarding what you believe are Economic, Education/Information, and Personal barriers to adopting cover crops.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Economic						
Cost of new equipment	○	○	○	○	○	○
Lack of water availability	○	○	○	○	○	○
High input costs (seed, fuel, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○	○
Potential for reduction in cash crop yield	○	○	○	○	○	○
Market isn't higher for commodities produced with cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Lack of economic return from cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Landowner of rented land uninterested in sharing cost of cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other: Please describe.						
Education/Information						
Amount of available information about cover crop management	○	○	○	○	○	○
Information about the long-term benefits	○	○	○	○	○	○
Economic information available	○	○	○	○	○	○
Information about cover crops cannot be easily located	○	○	○	○	○	○
Availability of local field demonstrations	○	○	○	○	○	○
Availability of industry/private sector information	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other: Please describe.						
Personal Beliefs						
Cover crops decrease soil moisture for cash crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Cover crops increase weed pressure	○	○	○	○	○	○
Cover crops increase insect pressure	○	○	○	○	○	○
Takes too long to realize benefits of cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
My current farming practices are profitable so why would I change	○	○	○	○	○	○
Unwilling to try something new	○	○	○	○	○	○
Learning about cover crops takes too long	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other: Please describe.						

12. Please indicate your level of agreement regarding what you believe are Farm Characteristic and Finance/Policy barriers to adopting cover crops.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Farm Characteristics						
Herbicide conflicts between cover crops and cash crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Lack of equipment to manage cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Difficulty finding labor to manage cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Difficulty finding time to manage cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Too much variability across my farm to manage easily	○	○	○	○	○	○
Short term leases make it difficult to incorporate cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Landowner will not allow use of cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Not enough days to grow cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
What the field looks like with cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Too much residue to manage	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other: Please describe.						
Finance/Policy						
Eligibility of incentive programs	○	○	○	○	○	○
Incentive programs are too restrictive	○	○	○	○	○	○
Incentive program funding levels are too low	○	○	○	○	○	○
Incentive program specifications do not align with my operation needs	○	○	○	○	○	○
Incentive program specifications are confusing	○	○	○	○	○	○
Insurance does not incentivize the use of cover crops	○	○	○	○	○	○
Other: Please describe.						

Reasons Producers Use Cover Crops

13. Please indicate your level of agreement regarding why you believe producers use cover crops.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Economic						
To increase cash crop yield	0	0	0	0	0	0
To reduce nutrient loss	0	0	0	0	0	0
To reduce irrigation inputs	0	0	0	0	0	0
To increase fertility for following cash crop	0	0	0	0	0	0
To reduce input costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adequate incentive program funding levels	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opportunity for premium market for commodities produced on cover crops	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other: Please describe.						
Education/Information						
Familiarity with timing of cover crop termination	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information available to support cover crop management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Familiarity with other erosion control practices	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neighbors willing to share experience with cover crops	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field demonstrations available to see cover crop results	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prior experience with conservation practices	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prior experience with cover crops	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other: Please describe.						
Personal Beliefs						
Decrease erosion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improve the environment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decrease soil compaction	0	0	0	0	0	0
Control weeds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improve soil organic matter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preserve soil for future generations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other: Please describe.						

14. What are other reasons that you believe producers use cover crops in your area?

Cover Crop Species and Varieties

15. Which cover crop species do you believe are most likely to be adopted in your area? Please check yes or no next to each.

Winter Cover Crop Species			Summer Cover Crop Species		
Species	Yes	No	Species	Yes	No
<u>Cool-season legumes</u>			<u>Warm-season legumes</u>		
Annual sweet clover	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Cowpea	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Austrian field pea	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Soybean	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whistler field pea	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Mung Beans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Red, white alsike clover	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Guar	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hairy vetch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Sunn hemp	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Common vetch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Lab Lab	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Woodypod vetch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<u>Warm-season annual grains</u>		
Lentil	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Sudangrass	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Brassicas</u>			Sorghum-sudangrass	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forage radish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Forage Sorghum	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forage turnip	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Millet species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mustard	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Buckwheat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rapeseed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Teff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Okra	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Canola	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Sunflowers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<u>Cool-season small grains</u>			Sesame	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Annual cereal rye	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Wheat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Oat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Barley	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Triticale	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>			
Others:			Others:		

Approaches to Overcoming Barriers

16. Please indicate your level of agreement regarding what should be addressed to increase adoption of cover crops.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Climate misconceptions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education programs on cover crop management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education programs for non-operating landowners on cover crops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education on sources of financial assistance for cover crops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduced crop insurance premiums for cover crop users	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Federal crop insurance policy to incentivize cover crops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More clear requirements of incentive programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased flexibility of incentive programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Field demonstrations of cover crops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Timing of terminating cover crops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research on cover crop selection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Methods of diversifying farm income	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research on long term impacts of cover crops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Research on incorporating livestock into cover crops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other: Please describe.						

17. What else should be addressed to increase cover crop usage in your area?

Personal Demographics

18. Which age range do you fall into?

- Under 18
- 18-30
- 31-50
- 51-70
- 71 and over

19. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

20. What is your ethnicity?

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino
- White

21. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Less than High School
- High school graduate
- Some college
- Associate's Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Graduate Degree

22. Approximately what percentage of your household income comes from agricultural production?

- 0%
- 1-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81-100%

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!