



Healthy Soil

More Production, Lower Cost



Enhancing Farm
Profitability
thru the use of
cover crops.

Keys to Success

The reason why one farmer can make cover crops work and his neighbors can't is complex. Attention to details and timing!

Management!

CCS 2013 Research- Grazing



Dawn Equipment- Cover Crop Roller



Rolling Stalk Chopper



Early “in crop” establishment









Certified Organic Tillage Radish®



10 Tips to Tackle Seed Selection

Performance over Price

Buy on value just like you purchase seed corn, soybeans, and other cash crop seed. Buy cover crop seeds on value with seed genetics that produce the traits and benefits you desire. Utilize knowledgeable seed dealers who provide resources and experience that help you choose cover crops that pay.



#2

Spread Risk

Follow the fundamentals of cash crop establishment and plant as soon as possible after harvest or prior to harvest. Plant for diversity, or with multi-specie blends, to lessen weather risks, break pest cycles and prevent erosion that monoculture species are vulnerable to.

#3

Use Test Plots

A cover crop test plot on your farm is the best way to really know how cover crops work for you. Have a check strip adjacent to your test plots to show a comparison to help determine benefits.

#4

Plan Ahead

It's simple: improved cover crops equal improved cash crops. Be prepared. Know your planting window. Have your seed available, equipment calibrated, and your workers prepared to plant.

#5

On Farm Testing/Research

Collaborate with others to replicate field scale research testing to give credible data for the real world. Follow up with a field day to show your neighbors and encourage what could work best for your area.



#6

Follow a Plan

Be strategic in determining which species to plant in front of the next cash crop. Generally legumes before corn and grasses before beans. Tillage Radish[®] can be planted before both, but blends are becoming more popular. Consider adding wheat on a few acres or short season corn or soybeans to expand planting window opportunities.

#7

Record Keeping

As with cash crops, keep a record of cover crop planting dates, seeding rates, and other important details. Incorporate this information into your crop management programs: crop consulting, conservation plans, fertility, soil testing, yield testing, moisture and nutrient availability data.



#8

Spread out harvest

Make more of your fields available for cover cropping. Consider planting short season hybrids and varieties, planting wheat, or including grazing in your rotation.

#9

Fertility Management

Legumes can add nitrogen while Tillage RootMax™ Deep Root Annual Ryegrass™ and Tillage Radish can keep nitrogen from leaching into tile lines and groundwater. These cover crops can be a tool for nutrient management planning and for increasing soil biological activity.

#10

Utilize your best resources

Seek knowledgeable seed dealers, university extension teams, NRCS personnel and websites that provide creditable cover crop information. Challenge yourself, your hired hands and the next generation in finding ways to incorporate cover cropping into your operation!

