Welcome to the...

15th Annual Black River Watershed Conference



Cover Crops in Lewis County



SOIL & WATER Conservation District

Nichelle Swisher, District Manager





Benefits of Cover Crops

Just to name a few:

- Reduce Erosion and Runoff
- Improved Nutrient Management
- Improved Soil Health
- Weed Suppression
- Increase Organic Matter
- Sequester Carbon Dioxide in Soil

Common Varieties Planted















Triticale

Other not so traditional varieties

Tillage Radish

Used to prevent compaction and increase soil organic matter





Clovers and Legumes

Used to improve Nitrogen







Methods of Planting

No Till-Drill

- Most preferred method
- Best seed to soil contact
 - Easy to track seeding rates and depth



Interseeding



High Boy – With Drop Tubes



Broadcast Spreader







No Till Drill in Standing Crop

Challenges With Interseeding:

- Herbicide residue
- Runover standing crop
- Specialized equipment needed

Benefits of Interseeding:

- Timing
- More species available
- Cover crop already established after harvest



Agricultural Drone Broadcasting Cover Crop into Standing Corn

John Deere 1590 No-till Grain Drill

- Offered as a rental unit \$15/acre with a \$50 delivery fee, this includes the tractor
- District staff can be hired to operate at \$20 per acre









Challenges with Planting Cover Crops

- Time Constraints
- Costly
- Knowledge and Management
- Termination Challenges
- Climate and Weather



AG BMP Catalog Soil Health System



The New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee lists cover crops in their Best Management Practice (BMP) catalog as part of Soil Health System.



This document provides a long list of environmental and water quality benefits for all agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), including cover crops.



All BMPs that we cost share must be listed under a system in this catalog. This in turn provides justification for funding.

Sources for Cost Sharing of Cover Crops through SWCD

- Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement & Control Grant Program (AGNPS)
- Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)
- Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Base Funding (Cost Share Track)

\$67- \$83 per acre payments 2 to 3-year programs



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Standards must be followed:

Calculator program used for seeding rates

Project Name:]								
County: USDA Plant Hardiness Zone:			1	Exp	ort to PDF	1					
ld Office: Design Date:		•]								
Contract No:											
Designer:											
]								
Comments:											
commence.											
			_								
01	- 54-sh-d	-	1								
Base monoculture rate is for seeds with good soil con	g Method	Clear	-								
Method	tact where seed is arilled or incorpore		-								
Wethod		% Change	4								
			_								
	Note when two or mo	are coreal grains only	aro dociano	dasa miy us	a tha Mivi Till	1					
	without Cultipacking										
Mix Purposes: Soil Health General	▼ Without cultipacking	option with a 30% rat	e ilicicase i	whether cumpa	cking of not.						
						ı				Reset T	able
				Monoculture	Competition	Adjusted	Similar Cover	Mix	Mix	% of Mix	% of Mix
Course Trans	C!	I Seeds/lb	l S/lb					_		_	
Cover Type	Species	Seeds/lb (A)	\$/lb (B)	lbs/ac	Factor	lbs/ac	Type Factor	lbs/ac	Seeds/ft ²	lbs/ac	Seeds/ft ²
Cover Type	Species					lbs/ac (E)	Type Factor (F)	lbs/ac (G)	Seeds/ft ² (H)	lbs/ac (I)	Seeds/ft ² (J)
Cover Type	Species			lbs/ac	Factor						
Cover Type	Species			lbs/ac	Factor						
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Cover Type	Species			lbs/ac	Factor						
Cover Type	Species			lbs/ac	Factor		(F)	(G)	(H)	(1)	(4)
		(A)		lbs/ac	Factor						
Based on Table 1, enter the latest allowed date for				lbs/ac	Factor		(F)	(G)	(H)	(1)	(4)
Based on Table 1, enter the latest allowed date for seeding and the seeding depth for the above designed		(A)		lbs/ac	Factor		(F)	(G)	(H)	(1)	(4)
Based on Table 1, enter the latest allowed date for seeding and the seeding depth for the above designed monoculture or mix. Note that the mix component with		(A)		lbs/ac	Factor		(F)	(G)	(H)	(1)	(4)
Based on Table 1, enter the latest allowed date for seeding and the seeding depth for the above designed monoculture or mix. Note that the mix component with the earliest seeding date requirement applies to the		(A)		lbs/ac	Factor		(F)	(G)	(H)	(1)	(4)
Based on Table 1, enter the latest allowed date for seeding and the seeding depth for the above designed monoculture or mix. Note that the mix component with		(A)		lbs/ac	Factor		(F)	(G)	(H)	(1)	(4)

NRCS Planting Date Chart

Table 1-New Yor	k Cover C	rop Seeding	dates b	y Hardi	ness Zo	one ¹		
Cover Crop Species ²		Spring/ Summer Cover- All Zones	Fall/winter Cover- Zone 3b-5a	Fall/ Winter Cover-Zone Sb	Fall/winter Cover Zone 6a- 6b	Fall/Winter Cover-Zone 7a and above	Rec Seeding Depth (inches	
	١	Winter Hardy Small Grains	•	•	'	'	'	
14/2-1 Pro- /	Optimal	NA	15-Sep	20-Sep	25-Sep	30-Sep	75.20	
Winter Rye (certified Aroostook) ³	standard/later	NA	15-Oct	20-Oct	25-Oct	31-Oct	.75-2.0	
Winter Rye (common) /Winter Wheat/Winter Triticale	Optimal	NA	15-Sep	20-Sep	25-Sep	30-Sep	5.1.5	
winter kye (common) / winter wheat/ winter i riticale	standard/later	NA	10-Oct	15-Oct	20-Oct	25-Oct	.5-1.5	
		Spring Small Grains						
Oats/Barley/ Spring Small Grain	Optimal	15-Apr	1-Sep	5-Sep	10-Sep	15-Sep		
	standard/later	30-May	20-Sep	25-Sep	30-Sep	5-Oct	.5-1.5	
		Cool Season Grasses						
	Optimal	15-Apr	15-Aug	20-Aug	25-Aug	1-Sep		
Ryegrass annual or perennial	standard/later	15-May	15-Sep	20-Sep	25-Sep	30-Sep	.15	
Orchard Grass	Optimal	15-Apr	15-Aug	20-Aug	25-Aug	1-Sep	1.5	
Orchard Grass	standard/later	15-May	5-Sep	10-Sep	15-Sep	20-Sep	.15	
		Warm Season Grasses						
Sorghum-Sudan Grass Hybrids ⁴	Optimal	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	5.1.5	
	standard/later	1-Jul	10-Aug	15-Aug	20-Aug	25-Aug	.5-1.5	
ete4	Optimal	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	25-Aug	.5-1.5	
Sudan Grass ⁴	standard/later	1-Jul	10-Aug	15-Aug	20-Aug	25-Aug		
Japanese Millet ⁴	Optimal	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	.5-1.0	
	standard/later	1-Jul	10-Aug	15-Aug	20-Aug	25-Aug		
Pearl Millet ⁴	Optimal	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	.575	
eari miliet	standard/later	1-Jul	10-Aug	10-Aug	20-Aug	25-Aug	.575	
German Foxtail Millet ⁴	Optimal	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	.5-1.5	
	standard/later	1-Jul	10-Aug	15-Aug	20-Aug	25-Aug		
Dwarf BMR Millet ⁴	Optimal	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	1-Jun	.5-1.5	
DWall Dilk Hillet	standard/later	1-Jul	10-Aug	15-Aug	20-Aug	25-Aug	.5-1.5	
		Brassicas						

2024 Lewis County SWCD Cover Crop Summary





Funding Source AGNPS— Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement & Control Grant Program AEM— Agricultural Environmental Management	Total Acres Planted	Amount Paid to Lewis County Farms
AGNPS Round 27	1,895.2 acres	\$126,978.40
AGNPS Round 28	963.1 acres	\$67,417.00
AGNPS Round 29	2,041.2 acres	\$142,884.00
AEM Round 18	1,017.4 acres	\$84,439.22
Total	5,916.9 acres	\$421,718.62

2025 Funded Acres

7,019.3 acres

Total Potential Payout - \$500,702.00



