

*Welcome to the...*

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Black River  
Watershed  
Conference**



# Cover Crops in Lewis County



LEWIS COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Nichelle Swisher, District Manager





# Cover Crops

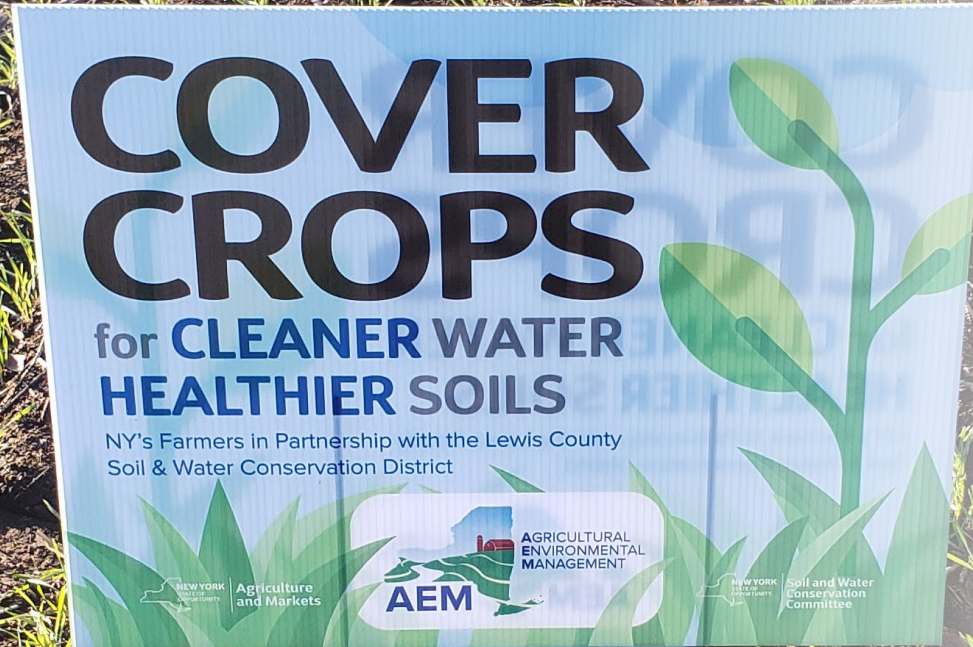
- Plants grown primarily to benefit the soil
- Grown to cover the soil when the cash crop is not growing (unless interseeded)



# 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

Winter Rye



Winter Wheat



Triticale





# Other not so traditional varieties

## Tillage Radish

- Used to prevent compaction and increase soil organic matter



## Clovers and Legumes

- Used to improve Nitrogen







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## Methods of Planting

### **No Till-Drill**

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





# Broadcast

When Broadcasting seed, it must be incorporated into the soil afterwards.



# Interseeding



**High Boy – With Drop Tubes**



**No Till Drill in Standing Crop**



**Broadcast Spreader**

## 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

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- 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:	
Field Office:		Design Date:	
Contract No:			
Designer:			
Comments:			

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Seeding Method	Clear
<i>Base monoculture rate is for seeds with good soil contact where seed is drilled or incorporated after planting.</i>	
Method	% Change

Note when two or more cereal grains only are designed as a mix, use the Mix: Till without Cultipacking option with a 30% rate increase whether culipacking or not.

Mix Purposes:	Soil Health General
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Reset Table

Cover Type	Species	Seeds/lb (A)	S/lb (B)	Monoculture lbs/ac (C)	Competition Factor (D)	Adjusted lbs/ac (E )	Similar Cover Type Factor (F)	Mix lbs/ac (G)	Mix Seeds/ft² (H)	% of Mix lbs/ac (I)	% of Mi Seeds/f (J)
							Total:	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0%

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 entire mix. Seeding depth for multiple species will need to be a compromise between varying seeding depths.	Latest Seeding Date:	Seeding Depth (inches):



# NRCS Planting Date Chart

[illegible]



# 2024 Lewis County SWCD Cover Crop Summary



<b>Funding Source</b>  AGNPS– Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement & Control Grant Program AEM– Agricultural Environmental Management	<b>Total Acres Planted</b>	<b>Amount Paid to Lewis County Farms</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,916.9 acres</b>	<b>\$421,718.62</b>



# 2025 Funded Acres

7,019.3 acres

**Total Potential Payout -  
\$500,702.00**





Questions?

