

COVER CROP SEEDING RATES



January Meeting to discuss cover crops

Invited seed vendors and a few others from
around the state

Millborn Seeds, Saddle Butte Ag,
Agassiz Seed, Centra Sota Coop, Soil
Health Coalition, NRCS

January

2024

Cover Crop

Research

Discussion

Looking for input based on professional experiences

What works or doesn't work in your areas or with the growers you work with

Are there gaps or constraints within NRCS's practice standards

what managements and systems are having success

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Items We Agreed Are Important :

- We discussed of plot vs. on-farm studies. They have different purposes, and both are important
- We still want plot research on seeding rates and impacts to erosion and nitrates
- We want to start to move forward on developing on-farm research or demonstration sites across the state using surveys and other tools to understand successful management
- We all agree that in a no-till cropping system we can lower the cover crop seeding rates
- We need to look at rates, plot work, on-farm, economics and how to tie this all together
- We are interested in developing a matrix to guide farmer how to get to this point

MOSH
Research
Outcome

MOSH will develop research proposal to evaluate cover crop seeding rates on nitrate leaching and erosion

Will look at more than just cereal rye
Optimize cover crop mix for the crop to be planted
Look at planting and termination timings
Would like to measure additional metrics

In No-Till systems:

Agreed to lower the total seeding rate to 75% of the full seeding rate

Currently working to update seeding calculator and develop guidance

NRCS Cover Crop Seeding Rates

NRCS Cover Crop Seeding Rates

Single Species Cereal Rye Mix:

Lowered Seeding Rates depending upon
when it is seeded

Minimum PLS seeding rate of single species winter cereal rye cover crop.				
Planting Date	Conventional or Reduced Till		No-Till or Strip-Till	
	Incorporated	Non-incorporated	Incorporated	Non-incorporated
July 15 th - October 1 st	40 lbs. / acre	40 lbs. / acre	40 lbs. / acre	40 lbs. / acre
After October 1 st	50 lbs. / acre	75 lbs. / acre	40 lbs. / acre	60 lbs. / acre

THANK YOU



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