

No (NEVER)-Till + Cover Crops + Precision Nutrient Management + Buffers and Smarter Drainage Systems

Indiana has invested significant time and energy to farmers, partners, and employees to promote Soil Health through Conservation Cropping Systems (CCS), but the on-the-ground results show that the investments = SUCCESS!

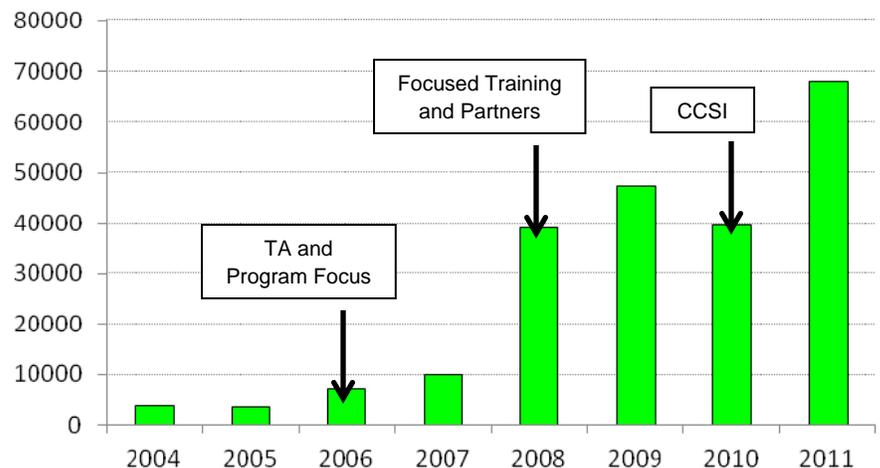
The most difficult piece of Conservation Cropping Systems for Indiana farmers to adopt has been cover crops...



Indiana's Road to SUCCESS:

- **2002 – 2005** = Indiana Conservation Tillage Initiative – focused on no-till corn
- **2006 – present** = Emphasis on systems in planning, education/outreach, and programs in NRCS
- **2008 – present** = Commitment to systems through training of all partners
- **2010 – present** = Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) and On-Farm Network (OFN)
- **Present – Future** = Actively engage **Private Sector Providers** and **Monitoring**

INDIANA APPLIED COVER CROP ACRES



Why Conservation Cropping Systems in Indiana?

- Conservation Cropping Systems (No-Till + Cover Crops + Nutrient Management + Buffers)
 - 60 acres treated = **15 staff hours** according to ABC 2010 data
 - Benefits: Water Quality (Nutrients + Sedimentation) + Erosion + Air Quality + Energy + Wildlife

Verses:

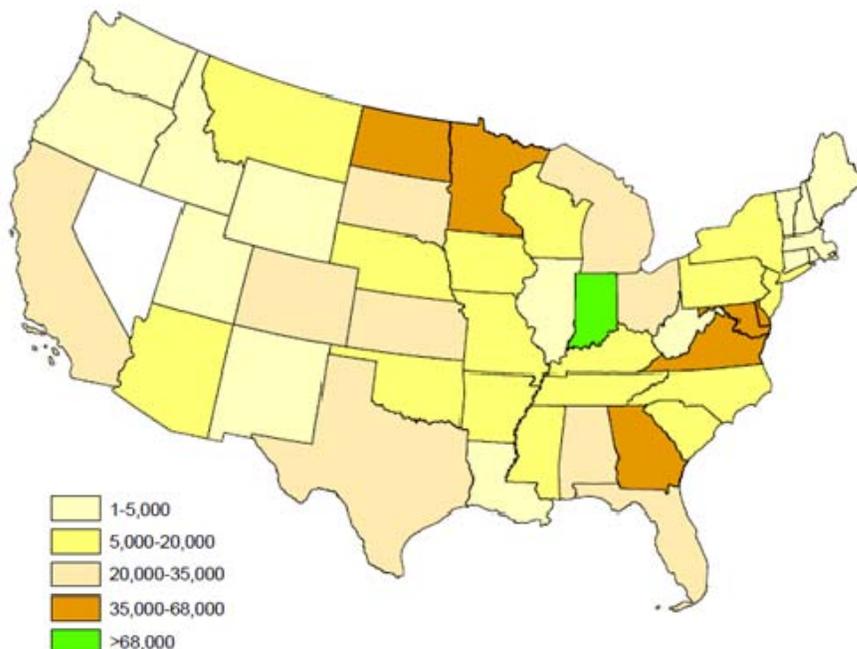
- Gully Treatment (Grasses Waterway + Mulch + Sub-Surface Drain + Grade Stabilization Structure)
 - 1 acre treated = **40+ staff hours** according to ABC 2010 data
 - Benefits: Water Quality (Nutrients + Sedimentation) + Erosion + Air Quality + Energy + Wildlife

Key Points to Indiana's Success:

- Soil Health sells conservation to farmers once they understand it
 - Farmers need educated and High-Quality technical assistance to successfully overcome the risks
- Conservation Cropping Systems are time-efficient systems that provide significant results
- A consistent commitment from all partners and engaging the private sector is essential



Indiana led the nation in cover crop acres applied (PRS data) in FY11 with 68,141 acres!



Through Indiana's Tillage Transect, 180,000+ acres of cover crops were planted in 2011!