



KENTUCKY



# PROFILES IN soil health

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**Mark Turner**  
Livermore, Kentucky  
533 acres

Crops: corn, soybeans, wheat, tobacco, pumpkins and a few thousand chickens

Planting: 100% no-till row crops, 100% strip-till tobacco & pumpkins

Cover crops: cereal rye, winter peas, crimson clover, vetch and radishes

## Healthy Soil - better crops, less time in field a plus for this farm family

Mark Turner started farming full time in the spring of 1982 after he graduated high school. He grew up on the family farm in Ohio County and always loved being outside working alongside his father and uncle.

Mark became interested in cover crops during the mid-80s when he used them on his tobacco ground. As he began to research and see the benefits that cover crops provided, he started implementing them in his row crop operation as well. Mark shares that he has seen less soil loss, saved fuel, spent less man-hours in the field and has produced better crops.

Mark says "Soil health is important to me. We only have one earth and one life. We must leave it as good or better than when it was left in our hands to care for."



Cover crops such as the clover and rye that Mark uses, provide excellent winter cover and help give next year's crop a jump with the nutrients plus organic matter that they put down.



### Benefits of No-Till and Cover Crops

- Reduces soil compaction
- Increased crop quality and quantity
- Legume cover crops produce more nitrogen
- Improves rainfall infiltration and available water content



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