



2016 FIELD DAY/WORKSHOP AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION IN EVALUATION

CROP REPORTING DISTRICT ¹	FIELD DAY	ATTENDEES	COMMENT CARDS ²	RETURNED FOLLOW-UP ³	RETURNED JANUARY ⁴
CENTRAL	June 21, Cover Crop/Grazing Field Day, Vining	67	28	15	12
	July 14, Cover Crop Field Day, Tama	31	25	7	6
	July 19, Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day, Colfax	40	32	8	7
	July 28, Cover Crop/Strip-Till Field Day, Badger	44	30	10	3
	September 6, Cover Crop/STRIPS Field Day, Dike	34	21	13	10
	November 15, Cover Crop/Grazing Field Day, Dayton	41	26	N/A	4
EAST CENTRAL	March 1, Cover Crop Workshop, Iowa City	80	67	24	16
	June 16, Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day, Solon	62	40	10	10
	September 8, Biorenewables and STRIPS Field Day, Cedar Rapids	70	43	16	4
NORTH CENTRAL	February 23, Cover Crop Workshop, Ventura	47	35	15	9
	April 13, Cover Crop Field Day, Kanawha	60	41	17	12
	June 8, Cover Crop/Strip-Till Field Day, Gilmore City	53	38	18	14
	August 25, Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day, Eagle Grove	50	37	9	1
NORTHEAST	February 25, Cover Crop Workshop, Waterloo	65	53	24	16
	November 8, Cover Crop Field Day, Independence	19	11	N/A	5
	November 16, Cover Crop Field Day, Nashua	33	23	N/A	9
	November 17, Cover Crop Field Day, Cedar Falls	32	25	N/A	9
NORTHWEST	February 24, Cover Crop Workshop, Sutherland	57	50	23	17
	April 12, Cover Crop Field Day, Larrabee	35	18	8	3
	July 13, Cover Crop and Drainage Field Day, Sutherland	74	73	18	12
	August 10, Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day, Lake Park	75	49	20	12
	August 24, Cover Crop Field Day, Newell	32	19	7	6
SOUTHEAST	March 2, Cover Crop Workshop, Oskaloosa	43	35	19	8
	April 14, Cover Crop/Grazing Field Day, Mount Pleasant	50	35	7	8
	September 7, Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day, Keota	65	53	11	13
SOUTHWEST	March 3, Cover Crop Workshop, Lewis	58	44	20	24
	June 15, Cover Crop Field Day, New Market	20	8	3	2
WEST CENTRAL	July 12, Cover Crop Field Day, Correctionville	107	63	25	17
	September 15, Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day, Lake View	32	16	6	5
	November 10, Cover Crop/Grazing Field Day, Lytton	34	25	N/A	7

¹ South Central Crop Reporting District had no evaluated field days in 2016.

² Comment cards were filled out by all participants at ILF-sponsored field days and workshops in order to gain a better understanding of who they are and why they are there.

³ Follow-up evaluations were mailed to participants at ILF-sponsored field days and workshops that happened before November 8. The questions focused on the clarity and accessibility of the information received and inquired whether participants planned to make any changes in their land management as a result of the event.

⁴ January evaluations were mailed to only farmers/operators and landowners at all ILF-sponsored field days and workshops. These questionnaires were sent in January 2017 to see if the participants had made the changes they said they were going to make in earlier evaluations.



IOWA LEARNING FARMS FIELD DAY EVALUATION REPORT

CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT

COUNTIES: Webster, Hamilton, Hardin, Grundy, Boone, Story, Marshall, Tama, Dallas, Polk, Jasper, Poweshiek

FIELD DAYS/WORKSHOPS = 6

FIELD DAY TOPICS

- Cover Crops = 6
- Grazing = 2
- Soil Health = 1
- No-till/Strip-till = 2
- STRIPS = 1

FIELD DAY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES:

FARMER/OPERATOR	LANDOWNER	GOVERNMENT	TOTAL*
97	53	17	257

*Total number of field day attendees at 2016 field days in district according to internal event evaluations. Attendees who filled out comment cards could select multiple categories to describe themselves.

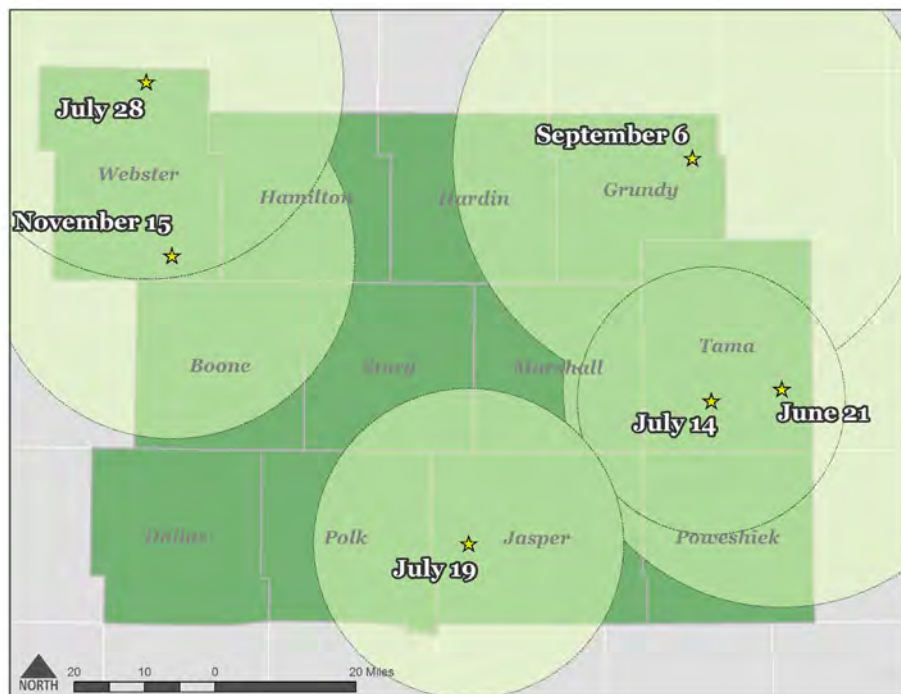
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE = 43

MALE ATTENDANCE = 196

AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE = 27 miles

FEMALE ATTENDANCE = 61

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO 2016 FIELD DAYS IN CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT



JUNE 21, NEWTON - 31 MILES

JULY 14, TAMA - 19 MILES

JULY 19, COLFAX - 22 MILES

JULY 28, BADGER - 28 MILES

SEPTEMBER 6, DIKE - 34 MILES

NOVEMBER 15, DAYTON - 26 MILES

CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: June 21, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Grazing Field Day in partnership with Tama County NRCS
LOCATION: Vining, IA - Eric Werner Farm

ATTENDANCE: 67

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Rotational Grazing, and Soil Health

SPEAKERS: Eric Werner (farmer), Larry Jones (expert), Denise Schwab (expert), Meaghan Anderson (expert), Hank Wehrman (farmer)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

20

12

2

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 56 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 31 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 46 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 21

*collected from 28 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

DENISE

What about carbon sequestration?
Is there money involved with carbon sequestration?
What about fescue grass?

HANK

Did you do cover crops ahead of corn and soybeans?
Did you do any spring grazing?
Any weed suppression?
What are the economics of grazing?

MEAGHAN

Have you seen an issue with allelopathy with rye before corn?
What are the benefits/results of poor ground versus good ground with cover crop?

ERIC

Did you lime your pastures or use any fertilizer?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

28 Evaluations Mailed

15 Evaluations Returned

11 farmers farmed an average of **328** acres

11 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 330 acres

Total new acres: 305 acres

5 will discuss cost share with district officials.

10 will seek more information.

11 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

2 do not plan to make any changes.

4.1/5 Overall quality of field day

4.3/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

4.0/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

JANUARY EVALUATION

28 Evaluations Mailed

12 Evaluations Returned

11 farmers farmed an average of **250** acres.

4 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **125** new cover crop acres.

5 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

3 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

2 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

3 did not make any changes.

CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: July 14, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Field Day
LOCATION: Tama, IA - Tama Civic Center

ATTENDANCE: 31

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Mark Licht (expert), Meaghan Anderson (expert), John Weber (farmer)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

17

7

2

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 58 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 19 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 26 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 5

*collected from 25 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

MARK

Any success when seeding by airplane?
What about winter wheat as a cover crop?
How late can you seed rye and expect it to grow well?

JOHN

Are they (Maryland farmers) required to use cover crops?
What are they (Maryland farmers) limited to for N?
Studies on cover crops on soybean ground (ahead of corn)?
How would you address adding cover crops to your commercial corn ground (fall after soybeans)?

LIZ

Are you doing OM testing & has it changed?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

22 Evaluations Mailed

7 Evaluations Returned

6 farmers farmed an average of **3,373** acres
(one respondent reported farming 8,000 acres)

6 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 1,678 acres

Total new acres: 598 acres

3 will discuss cost share with district officials.

5 will seek more information.

5 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

1 does not plan to make any changes.

4.4/5 Overall quality of field day

4.4/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

4.4/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

JANUARY EVALUATION

20 Evaluations Mailed

6 Evaluations Returned

6 farmers farmed an average of **1,325** acres.

3 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **538** new cover crop acres.

4 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

3 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

1 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

1 influenced two or more farmers.

2 did not make any changes.

CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: July 19, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day in partnership with Jasper County NRCS, Jasper County SWCD and Iowa Corn Growers Association

LOCATION: Colfax, IA - Jasper County Fair

ATTENDANCE: 40

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Soil Health, No-till/Strip-till

SPEAKERS: Alan Wedemeyer (expert), Curt Donohue (expert), Holly Giombi (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

17

9

4

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 46 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 22 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 32 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 8

*collected from 32 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- How specific are fungicides at targeting good/bad fungi?
- What would I hurt now with a fungicide?
- Is that worldwide land available for agricultural production (referring to 1/32 of an apple analogy)?
- Will the waterway work better if I work up the waterway and reseed rather than just letting it be?
- What was the seeding rate for cereal rye?
- What does the soil sample test tell us?
- Can you further explain the relationships with fungi?
- What practices help build relationships with fungi?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

26 Evaluations Mailed

4.3/5 Overall quality of field day

8 Evaluations Returned

4.4/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

6 farmers farmed an average of **803** acres

6 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 362 acres

Total new acres: 13 acres

6 will discuss cost share with district officials.

7 will seek more information.

7 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

2 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

17 Evaluations Mailed

7 Evaluations Returned

7 farmer farmed an average of **746** acres.

6 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **20** new cover crop acres.

4 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

6 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

3 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

2 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.

CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: July 28, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Strip-till Field Day
LOCATION: Badger, IA - Mark Thompson Farm

ATTENDANCE: 44

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Strip-till

SPEAKERS: Mark Thompson (farmer), Matt Helmers (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

18

8

5

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 52 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 28 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 39 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 5

*collected from 30 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- What nitrate levels are you seeing in the tile drainage?
- Is your rye and other cover crop seed compatible in size?
- How much growth did you get from the brassica?
- How much root growth?
- How long did it take to kill your cover crop?
- What are your economics with strip-till?
- How'd you settle with rapeseed as a secondary crop?
- Do you use a chopper?
- What have you done to adjust as you were transitioning so it wasn't a disaster?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

27 Evaluations Mailed

4.5/5 Overall quality of field day

10 Evaluations Returned

4.7/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

8 farmers farmed an average of **944** acres

4.8/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

6 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 1,030 acres

Total new acres: 685 acres

7 will discuss cost share with district officials.

7 will seek more information.

7 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

0 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

13 Evaluations Mailed

3 Evaluations Returned

3 farmers farmed an average of **493** acres.

3 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **69** new cover crop acres.

3 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

1 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

0 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

1 did not make any changes.

CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: September 6, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crops/STRIPS Field Day in partnership with the STRIPS Project
LOCATION: Dike, IA - Roadman Memorial Park

ATTENDANCE: 34

TOPICS: Cover Crops, STRIPS, Saturated Buffers

SPEAKERS: Morgan Troendle (expert), Tim Youngquist (expert), Tom Isenhart (expert), Justin Meissen (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

10

10

1

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 60 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 34 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 28 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 6

*collected from 21 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- Will this be part of CRP?
- Is there cost share available?
- What kind of maintenance must be done in the first year?
- How many times do you have to mow?
- How often do you have to mow in first year versus third year?
- Do you burn it?
- What herbicide do you use? Would Stinger work?
- Does one spray do the job?
- How much is seed? Is it local?
- How deep is the installation for the control unit?
- Who designed it?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

- 21** Evaluations Mailed **4.0**/5 Overall quality of field day
- 13** Evaluations Returned **4.2**/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)
- 12** farmers farmed an average of **381** acres **4.1**/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)
- 8** are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.
- Total current acres: 540 acres
- Total new acres: 190 acres
- 9** will discuss cost share with district officials.
- 11** will seek more information.
- 13** discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.
- 0** do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

- 16** Evaluations Mailed
- 10** Evaluations Returned
- 10** farmers farmed an average of **488** acres.
- 5** fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **130** new cover crop acres.
- 7** discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.
- 8** networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.
- 7** influenced no farmers.
- 1** influenced one other farmer.
- 2** influenced two or more farmers.
- 1** did not make any changes.

CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: November 15, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crops/Grazing Field Day in partnership with PFI
LOCATION: Dayton, IA - Kellie and AJ Blair Farm

ATTENDANCE: 41

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Grazing

SPEAKERS: Kellie and AJ Blair (farmers), Russ Euken (expert), Angie Rieck-Hinz (expert), Sarah Carlson (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

15

7

3

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 53 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 26 miles

*collected from 26 comment cards at field days

MALE ATTENDANCE: 25 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 16

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

KELLIE & AJ

- How many years have you done cover crops?
- Have you observed any benefits from using cover crops?
- What was the seeding rate?
- How many years of cover crops in this field?
- Was this the full rate of nitrogen with the hog manure or will you sidedress?
- Cost comparison between seeding methods?
- When was the corn chopped? What day corn was it?
- Won't the oats winter kill?
- How long did it take to fence this field?
- Do you use electric on your permanent pasture, too?
- Have you grazed in the spring before?
- How does the fall grazed rye recover in the spring?
- What method do you use for termination?
- When do you calve?

ANGIE

- If grazing the cover crop to a short length, how should you plan to terminate?

SARAH

- How does roller crimping work?
- How much of the 470K acres of cover crops are terminated with rollers?
- Do you think in spring 2016 that the radishes overwintered or spring germinated?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION*

*Because the field day occurred in November 2016, event participants were not mailed a two-week follow up evaluation. This evaluation method measures changes that a producer intended to make during the 2016 growing season. Field day attendees were still asked to participate in the January evaluation (data below).

JANUARY EVALUATION

18 Evaluations Mailed

4 Evaluations Returned

3 farmers farmed an average of **920** acres.

1 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **14** new cover crop acres.

1 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

1 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

1 influenced no farmers.

0 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.



IOWA LEARNING FARMS FIELD DAY EVALUATION REPORT

EAST CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT

COUNTIES: Benton, Linn, Jones, Jackson, Iowa, Johnson, Cedar, Clinton, Muscatine, Scott

FIELD DAYS/WORKSHOPS = 3

FIELD DAY TOPICS

- Cover Crops = 2
- Soil Health = 1
- Biorenewables/STRIPS = 1

FIELD DAY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES:

FARMER/OPERATOR	LANDOWNER	GOVERNMENT	TOTAL*
80	45	25	212

*Total number of field day attendees at 2016 field days in district according to internal event evaluations. Attendees who filled out comment cards could select multiple categories to describe themselves.

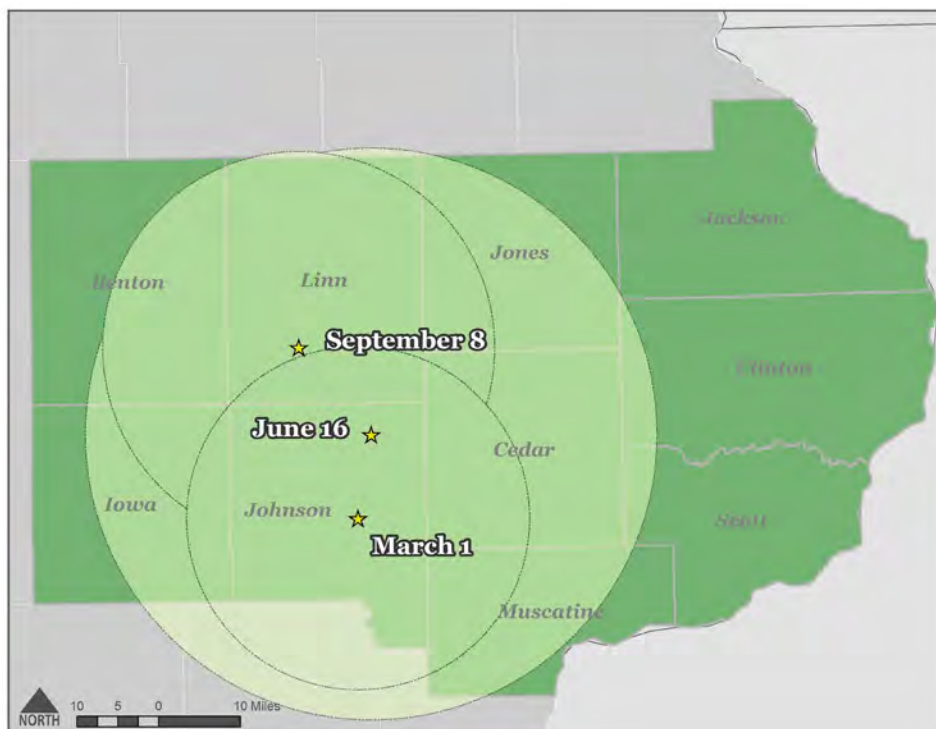
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE = 71

MALE ATTENDANCE = 158

AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE = 28 miles

FEMALE ATTENDANCE = 54

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO 2016 FIELD DAYS IN EAST CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT



MARCH 1, IOWA CITY - 21 MILES

JUNE 16, SOLON - 35 MILES

SEPTEMBER 8, CEDAR RAPIDS - 29 MILES

EAST CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: March 1, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Workshop in partnership with PFI, Iowa Cover Crop Working Group and Rapid Creek Watershed Project

LOCATION: Iowa City, IA - The Celebration Farm

ATTENDANCE: 80

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Mark Hanna (expert), Sarah Carlson (expert), Tom Kaspar (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

35

LANDOWNER

27

GOVERNMENT

11

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 53 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 21 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 55 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 25

*collected from 67 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

SARAH

- Do most cooperators combine cover crops and no-till?
- Is there a difference in the nitrate benefit on oats vs. rye?
- Could we nurse-crop hairy vetch with a cover crop?
- Is the soil temp different between a thick rye cover crop and black tilled soil?
- How can you justify the cost of aerial seeding?

MARK

The closing wheel system for the seed furrow is getting chewed up when planting cover crops (comment).

TOM

- Are we seeing an increase in insects like army worms?
- Is allelopathy a problem? Does it exist?
- Is weed control an issue following cover crops?
- Has there been enough research on oats vs. rye? Benefits beyond nitrate reduction?
- Who should pay for cover crops – the landlord or the tenant?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

62 Evaluations Mailed

4.6/5 Overall quality of field day

24 Evaluations Returned

4.6/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

16 farmers farmed an average of **602** acres

15 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 2,068 acres

Total new acres: 808 acres

14 will discuss cost share with district officials.

18 will seek more information.

18 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

2 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

43 Evaluations Mailed

16 Evaluations Returned

16 farmers farmed an average of **636** acres.

15 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **468** new cover crop acres.

10 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

11 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

6 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

4 influenced two or more farmers.

3 did not make any changes.

EAST CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: June 16, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day in partnership with Rapid Creek Watershed Project and Iowa Soybean Association
LOCATION: Solon, IA - Timber Frame Lodge

ATTENDANCE: 62

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Soil Health

SPEAKERS: Matt Liebman (expert), Steve Berger (farmer), Jason Steele (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

28

7

1

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 48 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 35 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 53 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 9

*collected from 40 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- Have your herbicide costs gone down?
- When you plant corn into rye, do you use a trash whipper?
- What are doing about the insects?
- Could earlier termination before corn planting help yield?
- Do cover crops add diversity?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

33 Evaluations Mailed

4.6/5 Overall quality of field day

10 Evaluations Returned

4.4/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

9 farmers farmed an average of **1,383** acres

4.7/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

8 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 2,785 acres

Total new acres: 435 acres

7 will discuss cost share with district officials.

10 will seek more information.

9 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

0 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

26 Evaluations Mailed

10 Evaluations Returned

9 farmers farmed an average of **1,502** acres.

8 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **1,597** new cover crop acres.

7 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

8 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

3 influenced no farmers.

3 influenced one other farmer.

2 influenced two or more farmers.

1 did not make any changes.

EAST CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: September 8, 2016

FIELD DAY: Biorenewables and STRIPS Field Day in partnership with the STRIPS project and the Eastern Iowa Airport

LOCATION: Cedar Rapids, IA - Eastern Iowa Airport

ATTENDANCE: 70

TOPICS: STRIPS, Biorenewables

SPEAKERS: Mayor Ron Corbett, Emily Heaton (expert), Lisa Schulte Moore (expert), Ingrid Gronstal-Anderson (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

17

LANDOWNER

11

GOVERNMENT

13

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 55 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 30 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 50 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 20

*collected from 43 comment cards at field days

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

MISCANTHUS

- What are the water quality benefits (nutrient reductions) with Miscanthus?
- What is the water use of Miscanthus?
- Does it reduce runoff?
- What is the invasive potential of Miscanthus?
- What are the habitat/wildlife benefits of growing Miscanthus?
- Is it related to sorghum or Sudan grass?
- Does the Miscanthus lodge?
- How long does Miscanthus remain viable?
- Do you need to harvest it annually?
- How does Miscanthus tolerate extremes – flood and drought?
- What are the production costs of Miscanthus – seed, fertility program, etc.?
- What does it do for the character of the soil?
- Do you use herbicides like you would with beans and corn?
- What are the preferred soil types for growing Miscanthus?
- When is the best planting window for Miscanthus?
- How does Miscanthus compare in terms of energy content to other fuel sources?

- How much is it worth when you harvest it?
- Can Miscanthus be used as a perennial forage crop?
- Could Miscanthus be grown in strips like prairie strips?
- Could you plant Miscanthus and prairie together?
- Can you burn Miscanthus in the field like prairie?
- Where do I get seed?

PRAIRIE STRIPS

- What are the water quality benefits (nutrient reductions) with prairie strips?
- Do the prairie mixtures you're using including milkweed to help repopulate the butterflies?
- What is the process of establishing the prairie?
- How do you get rid of wild parsnips in the prairie?
- What is the maintenance program for an established stand of prairie?
- What is the cost per acre of your preferred seed mix?
- Is any research being done on applications of prairie strips in urban environments?

U OF I POWER PLANT

- What is the full production cost of using Miscanthus as compared to other fuel sources?
- What moisture level is ideal for your operation?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

36 Evaluations Mailed

4.3/5 Overall quality of field day

16 Evaluations Returned

4.2/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

11 farmers farmed an average of **1,071** acres

4 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 360 acres

Total new acres: 112 acres

6 will discuss cost share with district officials.

14 will seek more information.

12 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

0 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

22 Evaluations Mailed

4 Evaluations Returned

4 farmers farmed an average of **1,375** acres.

0 fall seeded cover crops in 2016

4 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

4 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

4 influenced no farmers.

0 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.



IOWA LEARNING FARMS FIELD DAY EVALUATION REPORT

NORTH CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT

COUNTIES: Kossuth, Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Hancock, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Humboldt, Wright, Franklin, Butler

FIELD DAYS/WORKSHOPS = 4

FIELD DAY TOPICS

- Cover Crops = 4
- Strip-till = 1
- Soil Health = 1

FIELD DAY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES:

FARMER/OPERATOR	LANDOWNER	GOVERNMENT	TOTAL*
78	43	23	210

*Total number of field day attendees at 2016 field days in district according to internal event evaluations. Attendees who filled out comment cards could select multiple categories to describe themselves.

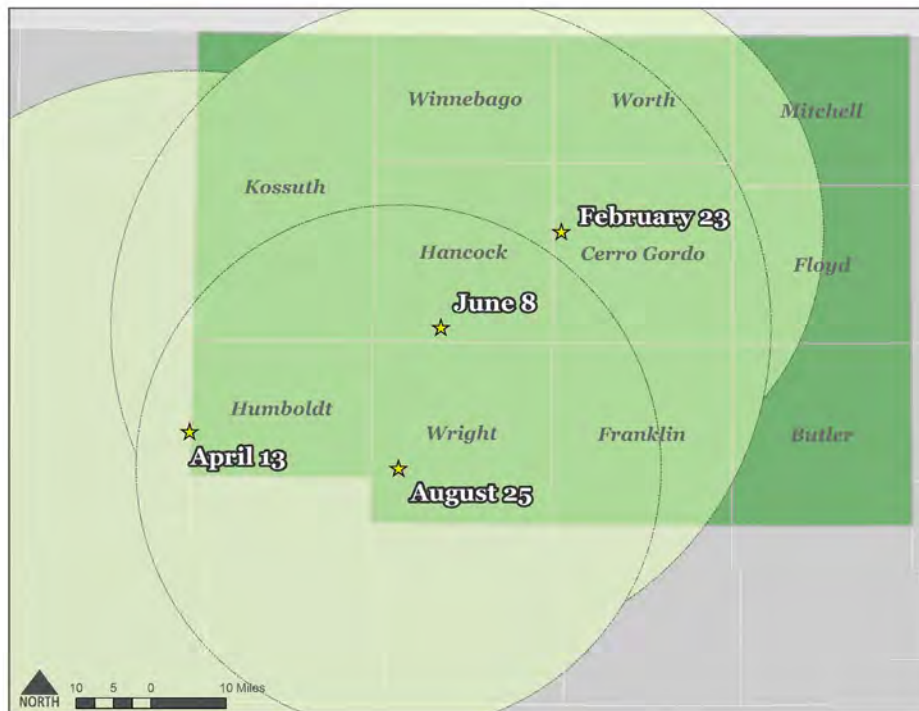
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE = 53

MALE ATTENDANCE = 162

AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE = 41 miles

FEMALE ATTENDANCE = 48

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO 2016 FIELD DAYS IN NORTH CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT



FEBRUARY 23, VENTURA - 35 MILES
APRIL 13, KANAWHA - 44 MILES
JUNE 8, GILMORE CITY - 48 MILES
AUGUST 25, EAGLE GROVE - 35 MILES

NORTH CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: February 23, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Workshop in partnership with PFI and Iowa Cover Crop Working Group
LOCATION: Ventura, IA - Ventura Community Center

ATTENDANCE: 47

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Carl Pederson (expert), Meghan Filbert (expert), Angie Rieck-Hinz (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

20

10

9

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 45 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 35 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 39 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 8

*collected from 35 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- What kind of herbicide is used?
- When should biomass be harvested?
- What is the seeding rate?
- Is there a yield impact?
- How many lbs. of N are lost between April and June?
- How much N are you applying to plots?
- Do you take soil samples to know what is accumulating?
- Are they planting into soybean stubble?
- Did the rowcrafter get his neighbor to pay anything for the cover crop?
- What would you seed if you wanted something to winter kill?
- Is there any concern over the animals eating too much right after being turned out?
- Does anybody no-till with radishes?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

32 Evaluations Mailed

4.1/5 Overall quality of field day

15 Evaluations Returned

4.2/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

11 farmers farmed an average of **643** acres

12 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 1,370 acres

Total new acres: 327 acres

10 will discuss cost share with district officials.

10 will seek more information.

13 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

1 does not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

23 Evaluations Mailed

9 Evaluations Returned

9 farmers farmed an average of **463** acres.

7 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **520** new cover crop acres.

5 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

6 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

3 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

2 influenced two or more farmers.

1 did not make any changes.

NORTH CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: April 13, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Field Day in partnership with PFI, Hagie Manufacturing, and ISU Extension and Outreach
LOCATION: Kanawha, IA - ISU Northern Research and Demonstration Farm

ATTENDANCE: 60

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Tim Smith (farmer), Stefan Gailans (expert), Rachel Halbach (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

16

LANDOWNER

12

GOVERNMENT

4

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 56 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 44 miles

*collected from 41 comment cards at field day

MALE ATTENDANCE: 47 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 13

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

FOR STEFAN

- To what do you attribute the difference in the amount of growth of cover crops in the 3 different locations?
- Do you have a level of biomass that you're aiming for?
- What's the cost of drilling vs. using a highboy?
- How much has your research investigated soil microbes?
- For your biomass samples, do you ever measure the amount of nutrients in it?
- Have you ever assessed root growth?

FOR TIM

- You mentioned your herbicide plan – how does that affect cover crops?
- What kind of drill do you have for your strip-till operation?
- How do you kill your rye? Is temperature important?
- What's the biggest reason we don't plant more acres of rye?
- Have you had enough net profit with cover crops?
- Have you had problems with army worms?
- Have you planted into a no-tilled field?

FOR RACHEL

- Are your machines for large farmers? Co-ops? Retail? Who is your audience?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

33 Evaluations Mailed

17 Evaluations Returned

10 farmers farmed an average of **488** acres

8 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 335 acres

Total new acres: 1,295 acres

8 will discuss cost share with district officials.

10 will seek more information.

13 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

0 do not plan to make any changes.

4.3/5 Overall quality of field day

4.4/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

4.5/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

JANUARY EVALUATION

21 Evaluations Mailed

12 Evaluations Returned

10 farmers farmed an average of **631** acres.

4 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **145** new cover crop acres.

9 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

5 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

4 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

5 did not make any changes.

NORTH CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: June 8, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Strip-till Field Day in partnership with Humboldt County SWCD and CDI
LOCATION: Gilmore City, IA - Bob Lynch Farm

ATTENDANCE: 53

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Strip-till

SPEAKERS: Bob Lynch (farmer), Angie Rieck-Hinz (expert), Mark Hanna (expert), Clare Lindahl (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

26

LANDOWNER

16

GOVERNMENT

3

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 55 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 48 miles

*collected from 38 comment cards at field day

MALE ATTENDANCE: 41

FEMALE ATTENDANCE: 12

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

FOR MATT

How long will bioreactors last?
Do bioreactors work with various woods?

FOR ANGIE

What kind of cover crops are sensitive to herbicides?
What kind of schedule should you keep and when should you monitor?
Can you mow a cover crop – winter wheat?
What do we do for temperatures with cover crops related to planting?
Can you plant into cover crops with both corn and soybeans?
Can you put anhydrous on in the fall? Will it kill gophers?
What's the depth that you're planting on corn?
What's your organic matter in your field?

FOR BOB

What's a good amount to plant?
When do you kill the cover crop and how long do you wait to plant?
Did you like oats?
Do you cut the corn stalks down or keep them up?
Do you use a roller?
How much nitrogen do you put on your fields?
How was the yield change from no-till to conservation tillage?
Was there a difference in your cover crop growth with a change of 120 to 140 pound application of nitrogen?
What's the advantage of strip-till if you're tilling?
Do you change your populations with your planter?
Why don't you have a coulter on it?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

35 Evaluations Mailed

4.4/5 Overall quality of field day

18 Evaluations Returned

4.2/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

17 farmers farmed an average of **690** acres

4.6/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

15 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 2,805 acres

Total new acres: 885 acres

13 will discuss cost share with district officials.

17 will seek more information.

14 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

1 does not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

29 Evaluations Mailed

14 Evaluations Returned

13 farmers farmed an average of **696** acres.

9 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **15** new cover crop acres.

11 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

9 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

1 influenced no farmers.

4 influenced one other farmer.

4 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.

NORTH CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: August 25, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day

LOCATION: Eagle Grove, IA - Tim Smith Farm

ATTENDANCE: 50

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Soil Health

SPEAKERS: Tim Smith (farmer), Elyssa McFarland (expert), Bruce Voights (expert), Liz Juchems (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

17

LANDOWNER

5

GOVERNMENT

7

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 49 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 35 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 35 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 15

*collected from 37 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- Does tile impact soil health?
- What types of projects/demos are you doing?
- Advice for those getting started?
- What are you sidedressing for N?
- Did you incorporate your dry N?
- What was your total N usage?
- What changes have you made when aerially seeding?
- Is there different weed pressure in the bare strips versus with cover crops?
- Thoughts on roller crimpers for termination?
- On bean ground going to corn, have you seen any issues with corn stand or seedling diseases?
- How deep do cover crop roots go? Can they get into tile drains?
- Timeline estimate for soil health improvements?
- Chopping corn head on the combine?
- Strip-tilling in the spring or fall?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

34 Evaluations Mailed

9 Evaluations Returned

4 farmers farmed an average of **713** acres

3 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 870 acres

Total new acres: 955 acres

5 will discuss cost share with district officials.

4 will seek more information.

8 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

0 do not plan to make any changes.

4.4/5 Overall quality of field day

4.2/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

4.6/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

JANUARY EVALUATION

13 Evaluations Mailed

1 Evaluations Returned

1 farmer farmed **580** acres.

1 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 with **0** new cover crop acres.

1 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

0 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

0 influenced no farmers.

0 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.



IOWA LEARNING FARMS FIELD DAY EVALUATION REPORT

NORTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT

COUNTIES: Allamakee, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Howard, Winnieshiek

FIELD DAYS/WORKSHOPS = 4

FIELD DAY TOPICS

- Cover Crop = 4

FIELD DAY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES:

FARMER/OPERATOR	LANDOWNER	GOVERNMENT	TOTAL*
68	40	9	149

*Total number of field day attendees at 2016 field days in district according to internal event evaluations. Attendees who filled out comment cards could select multiple categories to describe themselves.

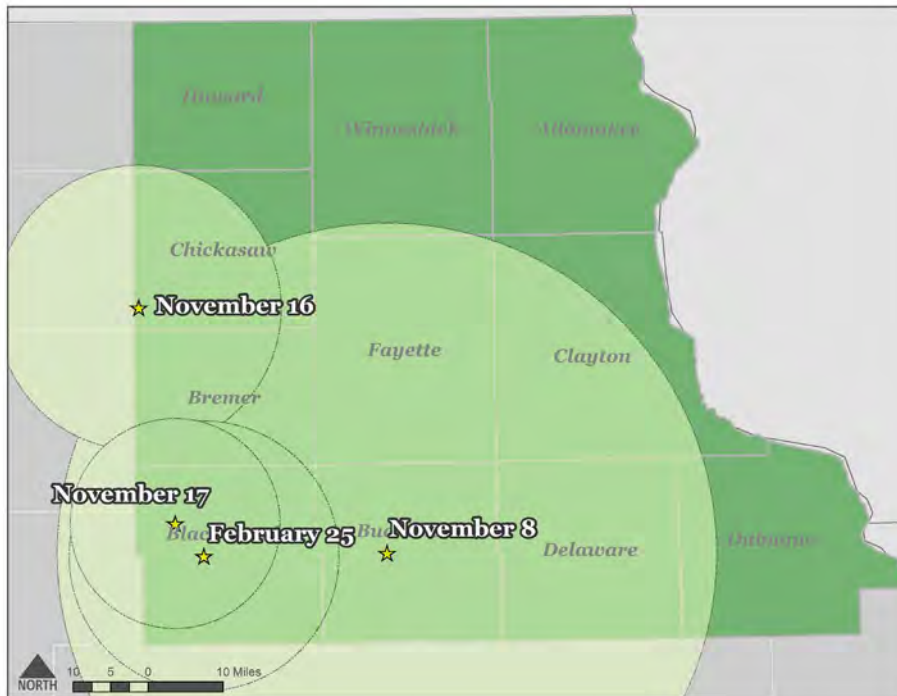
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE = 37

MALE ATTENDANCE = 115

AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE = 24 miles

FEMALE ATTENDANCE = 34

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO 2016 FIELD DAYS IN NORTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT



FEBRUARY 25, WATERLOO - 18 MILES
NOVEMBER 8, INDEPENDENCE - 44 MILES
NOVEMBER 16, NASHUA - 19 MILES
NOVEMBER 17, CEDAR FALLS - 14 MILES

NORTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: February 25, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Workshop in partnership with PFI and Iowa Cover Crop Working Group
LOCATION: Waterloo, IA - Hawkeye Community College

ATTENDANCE: 65

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Carl Pederson (expert), Mark Hanna (expert), Sarah Carlson (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR
35

LANDOWNER
20

GOVERNMENT
4

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 55 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 18 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 54 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 11

*collected from 53 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- Are you taking the yield from your plots?
- Were you able to observe yield impacts where you had termination issues?
- Covers alone are not reaching the NRS goals – what else can we do?
- Why do you terminate your rye so early?
- What was your yield loss where insects were an issue?
- Do you know what the insect was?
- Equipment considerations for covers other than rye?
- Have you seen any benefit with the coulters?
- Is there risk of herbicide carry over in the livestock meat?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

50 Evaluations Mailed

4.3/5 Overall quality of field day

24 Evaluations Returned

4.3/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

23 farmers farmed an average of **844** acres

21 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 4,594 acres

Total new acres: 1,652 acres

18 will discuss cost share with district officials.

23 will seek more information.

19 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

1 does not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

34 Evaluations Mailed

16 Evaluations Returned

16 farmers farmed an average of **994** acres.

13 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **1,726** new cover crop acres.

14 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

12 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

4 influenced no farmers.

4 influenced one other farmer.

4 influenced two or more farmers.

1 did not make any changes.

NORTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: November 8, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Field Day in partnership with PFI, Buchanan County Conservation Board and ISU Extension and Outreach

LOCATION: Independence, IA - Heartland Acres Event Center

ATTENDANCE: 19

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Jack Smith (farmer), Liz Juchems (expert), Sarah Carlson (expert), Jim Smith (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

6

3

0

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 64 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 44 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 11 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 8

*collected from 19 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

JACK SMITH, FARMER

- Why do you use oats rather than rye?
- How much have cover crops cut down on your use of round bales?
- Would you no-till corn or beans into the corn residue?
- What do you use for nitrogen?
- Do you put your anhydrous on in the fall?
- How do you decide when to turn out the cattle?
- How much extra water do you store in the soil profile with cover crops?
- What are your organic matter levels like with cover crops?
- Do you rotate the alfalfa fields in your operation?
- What's your feeding plan if you get an early frost that freezes the oats?
- How do you do your fencing when you graze your neighbors' fields?
- How do you haul water?
- How does the mineral intake for the cattle change?
- How did you convince your neighbor to let you graze his corn ground?
- How do you share the cost of cover crop seed?
- Do you keep your cows out in the field all winter long?

- After spring grazing, how do you prepare for planting your corn? (Do you spray to terminate? When?)
- How do you handle cover crop termination and crop insurance?
- What herbicide are you using to terminate the cover crop?
- Are you using Roundup-ready alfalfa?
- What made you get into cover crops with feeding cattle?

LIZ

- Are saturated buffers included in the NRS?
- In hiring someone to plant cover crops, what questions should I be asking to ensure quality?
- If you plant your own rye for seed, do you seed it as a cover crop that fall, or wait a season?
- Can I get a bunch more of these handouts (CC Economics) to hand out at our Nature Center?

JIM SMITH, B&B FARM STORE

- What's the most common way your customers are seeding their cover crops?
- Do you see a lot of increase in aerial seeding?

QUESTIONS ASKED (CONT.)

If you plant your own rye for seed, do you seed it as a cover crop that fall, or wait a season?
How does the seeding accuracy compare with different methods – aerial application vs. Hagie?
What percentage of cover crops are being used for livestock grazing vs. for soil protection?
If someone buys cover crop seed from you, do you help connect them with aerial applicators?

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

Where are you from?
Where are your headquarters?
Do you have any field days where people can come out and see roller crimpers?
Where is everyone at? There should be 50 farmers here...

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION*

*Because the field day occurred in November 2016, event participants were not mailed a two-week follow up evaluation. This evaluation method measures changes that a producer intended to make during the 2016 growing season. Field day attendees were still asked to participate in the January evaluation (data below).

JANUARY EVALUATION

7 Evaluations Mailed

5 Evaluations Returned

4 farmers farmed an average of **173** acres.

3 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **65** new cover crop acres.

3 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

4 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

2 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

1 influenced two or more farmers.

1 did not make any changes.

NORTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: November 16, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Field Day
LOCATION: Nashua, IA

ATTENDANCE: 33

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Jacob Groth (expert), Sarah Carlson (expert), Jamie Benning (expert), Rick Juchems (farmer), Terry Basol (expert), Brian Berst (expert), Dan Dietz (farmer), Neil Sass (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

14

LANDOWNER

6

GOVERNMENT

2

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 57 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 19 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 25 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 8

*collected from 23 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

FOR NEIL (QUESTIONS ABOUT RAINFALL SIMULATOR)

- Would the saturation rate be higher on some of the trays?
- Was the tray soybeans that were planted into cover crops?
- How did he harvest the rye?
- Will the rye overwinter?
- What would be a good cover crop to plant that doesn't overwinter? Annual/perennial/cereal rye?
- Will oats/radish die? Would that be desirable?
- I side dress ammonia and where I drive gets compacted.
- Will cover crops help that?
- Will the cover crops get too tall if I fly it on? Will I have problems with harvest?
- Do radishes work better farther south?

FOR JAMIE

- What's the difference in cost between aerially seeded versus drilled?
- What's the difference between root mass of oats and rye in fall?

FOR SARAH

- Are you still pushing rapeseed?
- Have people seen any advantages between what kind of N they put on with cover crops?
- Is there any data to show that herbicides and chemical fertilizers are hurting soil structure?
- If you're no-tilling, can you aerially seed?

Do the chemicals hurt earthworms or mycorrhizal fungi?

FOR FARMER PANEL

- How wide of a seeding pattern can you get with aerial seeding?
- What's the biggest barrier to cover crop adoption?
- If you're going to do cover crops, does it need to be every year? What are the pros and cons?
- What were the two varieties in your rye trial?
- Has anyone crimped your rye and then no-tilled beans?
- Do you use a roller?
- Is there research on multiple species of rye?
- Is rye easily killed by Roundup?
- Can you use Authority First herbicide with cover crops? Any problems with carry over?
- If I plant cover crops, can I still use my regular program of herbicides?
- Has anyone done aerial seeding of rye or oats in August?
- If my cover crops get too high, will it be an issue with my equipment? Combine?
- Does when I plant my rye in the fall affect how quickly rye grows in the spring?
- Would I be able to crimp rye by May?
- Will cover crops help to hold my P and K in place after I apply it after harvest?

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY (CONT.):

- How would you suggest we kick the number of cover crop acres up without using the wild card of money?
- What's your N application rate and what's your organic matter?
- How long does it take to build up organic matter?
- What's the one thing that decreases organic matter?
- Why does tillage reduce organic matter?
- Why do you grow corn on corn?

FOR JAKE

- Do you see much difference between radish and turnips?
- Is there anyone who uses just oats?
- How does aerial seeding spread the seed?
- How much does the aircraft hold of seed?
- Why would you ever plant annual ryegrass if it's so risky?
- Hypothetically, say I put annual rye into corn, hope it winter kills and will do a regular application of first pass herbicide. Will it work?
- What about grazing in the fall?
- Is cereal rye still an option for aerial seeding in August?
- How many acres of aphid can you spray for with one load from the plane?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION*

*Because the field day occurred in November 2016, event participants were not mailed a two-week follow up evaluation. This evaluation method measures changes that a producer intended to make during the 2016 growing season. Field day attendees were still asked to participate in the January evaluation (data below).

JANUARY EVALUATION

14 Evaluations Mailed

9 Evaluations Returned

8 farmers farmed an average of **777** acres.

5 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **901** new cover crop acres.

3 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

5 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

1 influenced no farmers.

2 influenced one other farmer.

2 influenced two or more farmers.

1 did not make any changes.

NORTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: November 17, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Field Day in partnership with PFI and Dry Run Creek Watershed

LOCATION: Cedar Falls, IA - Barn Happy

ATTENDANCE: 32

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Ted Hamer (farmer), John Miller (landowner), Justin Meissen (expert), Josh Balk (expert), Stefan Gailans (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR
13

LANDOWNER
11

GOVERNMENT
3

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 56 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 14 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 25 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 7

*collected from 25 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

TED & JOHN

How do you decide who pays for the cover crops?
 What did it cost you to put the cover crops on?
 What are your objectives for using cover crops?
 What is the key to keep the aerially seeded covers within the field boundaries?
 Does the cover crop impact your nitrogen plan? Penalty for more growth? More front or back heavy with N?

Are the earthworms contributing to better infiltration?
 Herbicide restrictions for letting humans eat the turnips?
 What about planting corn with green rye?
 Nitrogen management considerations for hillsides where side dressing isn't an option?

JUSTIN

Will the prairie strips pose a threat to tile plugging?
 What about the pollinator mixes?

JOSH

Practices available for cost share?
 Can you help those outside the watershed, too?

STEFAN

Management considerations to avoid allelopathy?
 Changes in earthworms?
 Are the earthworms staying closer to the surface now?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION*

*Because the field day occurred in November 2016, event participants were not mailed a two-week follow up evaluation. This evaluation method measures changes that a producer intended to make during the 2016 growing season. Field day attendees were still asked to participate in the January evaluation (data below).

JANUARY EVALUATION

18 Evaluations Mailed

9 Evaluations Returned

8 farmers farmed an average of **777** acres.

5 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **901** new cover crop acres.

3 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

4 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

3 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.



IOWA LEARNING FARMS FIELD DAY EVALUATION REPORT

NORTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT

COUNTIES: Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson, Emmet, Sioux, O'Brien, Clay, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Pocahontas

FIELD DAYS/WORKSHOPS = 5

FIELD DAY TOPICS

- Cover Crops = 5
- Drainage = 1
- Soil Health= 1
- No-till/Strip-till = 1

FIELD DAY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES:

FARMER/OPERATOR	LANDOWNER	GOVERNMENT	TOTAL*
121	63	34	273

*Total number of field day attendees at 2016 field days in district according to internal event evaluations. Attendees who filled out comment cards could select multiple categories to describe themselves.

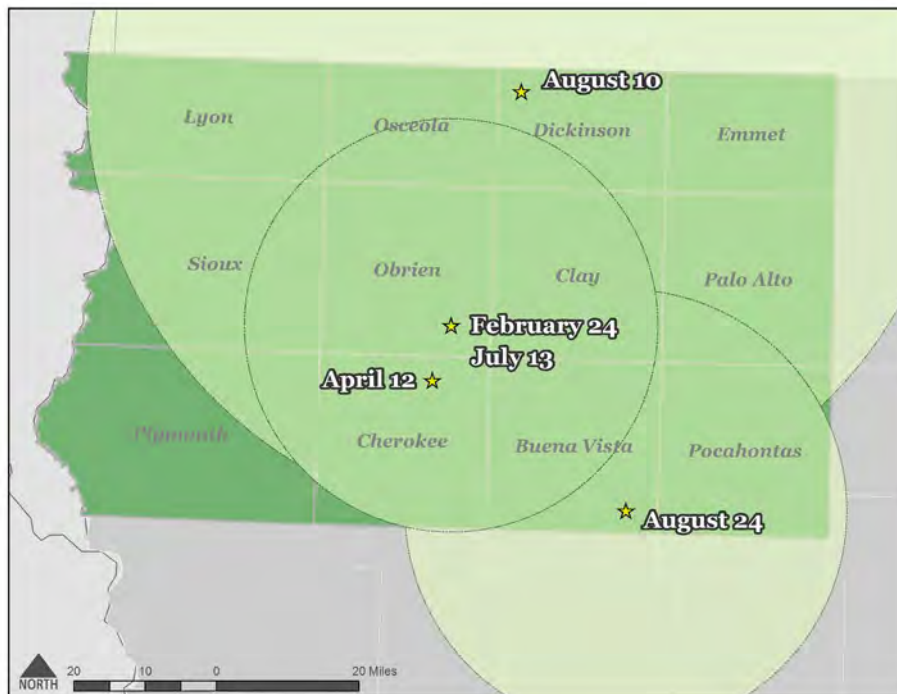
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE = 55

MALE ATTENDANCE = 46

AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE = 32 miles

FEMALE ATTENDANCE = 273

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO 2016 FIELD DAYS IN NORTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT



FEBRUARY 24, SUTHERLAND - 29 MILES
APRIL 12, LARRABEE - 15 MILES
JULY 13 - SUTHERLAND - 22 MILES
AUGUST 10, LAKE PARK - 61 MILES
AUGUST 24, NEWELL - 31 MILES

NORTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: February 24, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Workshop in partnership with PFI and Iowa Cover Crop Working Group
LOCATION: Sutherland, IA - ISU Northwest Research and Demonstration Farm

ATTENDANCE: 57

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Carl Pederson (expert), Meghan Filbert (expert), Joel DeJong (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR
32

LANDOWNER
11

GOVERNMENT
13

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 50 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 29 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 50 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 7

*collected from 50 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

CARL

- How do you estimate your rye?
- Are you no-tilling the cover crops?
- Are you using a particular variety of winter rye?
- What was the insect that you had problems with on your rye? (Answer: cutworm)
- What happens to the N in the biomass?
- Do you add more nitrogen on your field if you use cover crops?
- I had problems with interseeding - seed germination, moisture, residual herbicide, weeds.
- Has there been any research on growth regulators to offset the allelopathy effect?
- Are there better growth results with a diverse mix of cover crops vs. just rye?

MEGHAN

- How do you measure your soil health?
- How do you measure biomass for grazing purposes?
- What would you say to a person who has not had any cover crops about how to establish what you want out of cover crops/your goals?

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY (CONT.)

JOEL

Are plant breeders breeding for ideal cover crop characteristics like stand and quickly producing biomass or are these plants still being bred towards yield production?

How is someone supposed to pay for cover crops if there's no yield increase and no government help? Why should I do it?

If we don't become proactive, it's going to become much more expensive to manage the soil (comment).
Regulators are after us (comment).

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

48 Evaluations Mailed

4.5/5 Overall quality of field day

23 Evaluations Returned

4.5/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

18 farmers farmed an average of **666** acres

14 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 1,350 acres

Total new acres: 666 acres

9 will discuss cost share with district officials.

17 will seek more information.

18 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

2 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

37 Evaluations Mailed

17 Evaluations Returned

17 farmers farmed an average of **672** acres.

11 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **558** new cover crop acres.

9 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

10 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

3 influenced no farmers.

4 influenced one other farmer.

3 influenced two or more farmers.

2 did not make any changes.

NORTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: April 12, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Field Day in partnership with Gere Creek Watershed Project

LOCATION: Larrabee, IA - Ducommun Farm

ATTENDANCE: 35

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Daryl Ducommun (farmer), Ramona Nitz (farmer), Beth Doran (expert), Randy Sievert (expert), Joel DeJong (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

13

LANDOWNER

8

GOVERNMENT

2

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 56 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 15 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 25 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 10

*collected from 18 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- Have you used wheat?
- What is your cover crop mix?
- When do you normally fly it on?
- What is the time schedule for seeding?
- Do you use the same species in corn and soybeans?
- Is seed to soil contact important?
- What is the timing for termination?
- Is it too early to seed before the canopy opens? Will it stunt the cover crop growth?
- Is soil compaction with spring grazing a problem?
- Are there yield impacts of cover crop when grazing?
- What's your stocking rate when grazing covers?
- Are cutworms or armyworms an issue with cover crops?
- Would using mustards help with nematodes?
- Is anhydrous disruptive to earthworms?
- Did they seed radishes in this field?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

15 Evaluations Mailed

4.5/5 Overall quality of field day

8 Evaluations Returned

4.4/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

6 farmers farmed an average of **563** acres

4.3/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

6 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 260 acres

Total new acres: 300 acres

5 will discuss cost share with district officials.

6 will seek more information.

6 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

2 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

10 Evaluations Mailed

3 Evaluations Returned

3 farmers farmed an average of **523** acres.

2 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **220** new cover crop acres.

2 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

2 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

2 influenced no farmers.

0 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.

NORTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: July 13, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop and Drainage Field Day

LOCATION: Sutherland, IA - Northwest Research Farm

ATTENDANCE: 74

TOPICS: Drainage, Runoff, Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Paul Kassel (expert), Antonio Mallarino (expert), Alison Robertson (expert), Gary Wright (expert), Matt Helmers (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

42

LANDOWNER

26

GOVERNMENT

5

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 52 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 22 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 71 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 3

*collected from 73 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

Didn't we have nitrate problems even with a perennial system? Lewis and Clark wrote that the water was as thick as mud.

How easy is it to monitor subsurface tile drains?

Do you have any trials on full tillage vs no-tillage?

Is there greater flow/infiltration with the no-till?

Are cover crops actually reducing nitrate load or is it just a theory?

Was your cover crop data on nitrates with a no-till system or full tillage?

Does soil type make a difference on CC nitrate reduction? Planting date?

What's more important - concentration or load?

Do fracking wells in Louisiana have anything to do with the hypoxic zone?

How did the EPA come up with their nitrate water recommendation for Eco region value? (2-3 PPM N)

Do you do soil bulk density tests on your research fields?

How does concentration vary with flow?

If there was no phosphorus, would we be worried about nitrate?

What's your experience on cover crop establishment on ultra-narrow rows?

How long do your tile drains run after a rain event?

How big is your drainage outlet?

Are other industries besides agriculture mentioned in the NRS? (cities)

Does Des Moines monitor their street water?

If this doesn't work, then who steps in and starts setting rules?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

64 Evaluations Mailed

4.5/5 Overall quality of field day

18 Evaluations Returned

4.7/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

15 farmers farmed an average of **890** acres

10 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 545 acres

Total new acres: 350 acres

7 will discuss cost share with district officials.

12 will seek more information.

13 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

1 does not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

42 Evaluations Mailed

12 Evaluations Returned

11 farmers farmed an average of **941** acres.

3 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **185** new cover crop acres.

4 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

6 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

3 influenced no farmers.

2 influenced one other farmer.

1 influenced two or more farmers.

4 did not make any changes.

NORTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: August 10, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day in partnership with Clean Water Alliance and Dickinson County SWCD

LOCATION: Lake Park, IA - Jared and Mary Herbert Farm

ATTENDANCE: 75

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Soil Health, No-till/Strip-till

SPEAKERS: Spencer Herbert (expert), Doug Peterson (expert), John Boettcher (farmer)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

23

LANDOWNER

15

GOVERNMENT

12

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 52 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 61 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 53 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 22

*collected from 49 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- What depth are you planting your corn and soybeans with the strip-till?
- Where you harvested the rye, did you leave a check strip to plant it tall?
- What was your motivation to use strip-till and cover crops?
- Why hasn't strip-till caught on?
- How many years of no-till does it take to rebuild soil aggregate stability?
- Are there differences in timing/species being used further north (Minnesota) that could work here?
- Would an extended rotation with alfalfa do something similar to cover crops?
- How do you recommend using manure in a no-till/cover crop system?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

44 Evaluations Mailed

4.4/5 Overall quality of field day

20 Evaluations Returned

4.5/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

13 farmers farmed an average of **737** acres

5 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 1,036 acres

Total new acres: 600 acres

9 will discuss cost share with district officials.

16 will seek more information.

15 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

1 does not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

28 Evaluations Mailed

13 Evaluations Returned

13 farmers farmed an average of **712** acres.

3 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **65** new cover crop acres.

7 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

6 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

2 influenced no farmers.

2 influenced one other farmer.

2 influenced two or more farmers.

4 did not make any changes.

NORTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: August 24, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Field Day in partnership with ISU Extension and Outreach

LOCATION: Newell, IA - ISU Allee Demonstration Farm

ATTENDANCE: 32

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Rick Krull (expert), Larrette Kolbe (expert), Tyler Millard (expert), Kevin Jesse (farmer), Ray Sigwalt (farmer), Lyle Rossiter (expert), Paul Kassel (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

11

LANDOWNER

3

GOVERNMENT

2

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 52 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 31 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 28 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 4

*collected from 19 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- Have you had any success getting saturated buffers on existing buffer strips?
- Is there cost share on saturated buffers?
- If you plant covers post-harvest, do you need to have a drill?
- Can you use Liberty?
- Are there germination issues?
- Were those individual plots with the cover crops, or mixtures?
- Did you pull the corn today?
- Are you going to plant cover crops before harvest?
- What's the charge for broadcasting?
- How many acres can you get per load?
- What yield impact is there?
- Do you have to terminate radishes?
- Are there water quality education programs?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

14 Evaluations Mailed

4.7/5 Overall quality of field day

7 Evaluations Returned

4.7/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

7 farmers farmed an average of **682** acres

4.3/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

5 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 320 acres

Total new acres: 295 acres

6 will discuss cost share with district officials.

5 will seek more information.

6 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

0 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

11 Evaluations Mailed

6 Evaluations Returned

6 farmers farmed an average of **659** acres.

4 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **85** new cover crop acres.

2 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

2 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

1 influenced no farmers.

2 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

1 did not make any changes.



IOWA LEARNING FARMS FIELD DAY EVALUATION REPORT

SOUTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT

COUNTIES: Mahaska, Keokuk, Washington, Louisa, Wapello, Jefferson, Henry, Des Moines, Davis, Van Buren, Lee

FIELD DAYS/WORKSHOPS = 3

FIELD DAY TOPICS

- Cover Crops = 3
- Grazing = 1
- Soil Health = 1

FIELD DAY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES:

FARMER/OPERATOR	LANDOWNER	GOVERNMENT	TOTAL*
94	35	9	158

*Total number of field day attendees at 2016 field days in district according to internal event evaluations. Attendees who filled out comment cards could select multiple categories to describe themselves.

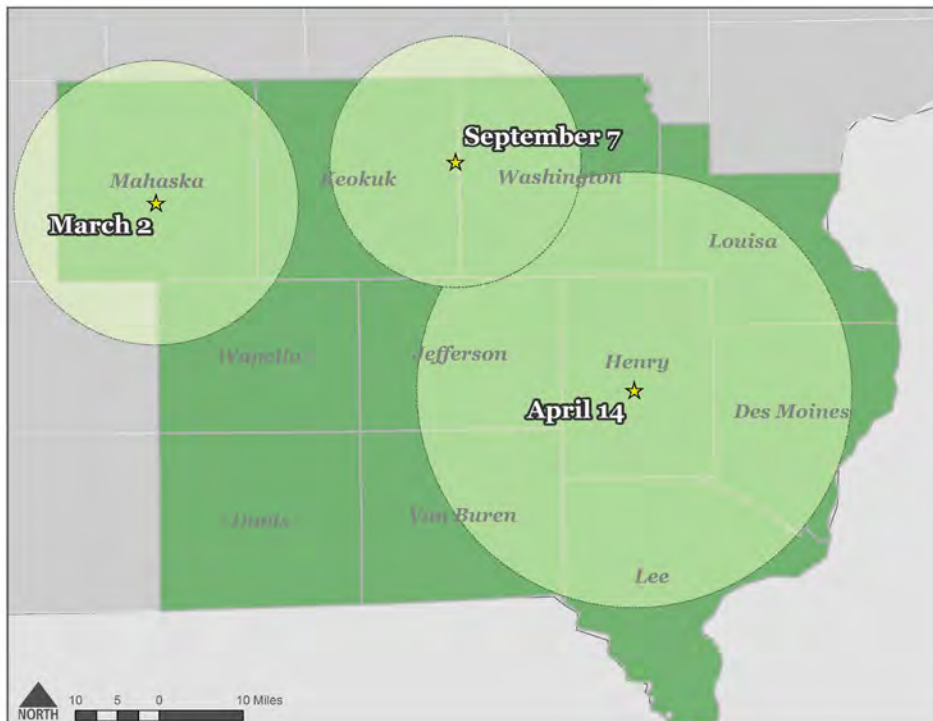
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE = 53

MALE ATTENDANCE = 128

AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE = 19 miles

FEMALE ATTENDANCE = 30

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO 2016 FIELD DAYS IN SOUTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT



MARCH 2, OSKALOOSA - 17 MILES
APRIL 14 - MOUNT PLEASANT - 26 MILES
SEPTEMBER 7, KEOTA - 15 MILES

SOUTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: March 2, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Workshop in partnership with PFI and Iowa Cover Crop Working Group

LOCATION: Oskaloosa, IA - Mahaska County Extension Office

ATTENDANCE: 43

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Mark Hanna (expert), Stefan Gailans (expert), Rebecca Vittetoe (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

26

LANDOWNER

9

GOVERNMENT

5

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 53 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 17 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 36 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 7

*collected from 35 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- Have you done any harvesting/baling of the prairie plants?
- When was the cover crop in the soybean photo seeded?
- What was the yield difference?
- Are grazing restrictions going to apply to grazing corn stalks after herbicide application?
- Does the University of Missouri herbicide research apply to Mahaska County?
- Is there any thought about rye becoming resistant to Roundup?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

34 Evaluations Mailed

4.5/5 Overall quality of field day

19 Evaluations Returned

4.5/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

15 farmers farmed an average of **563** acres

14 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 1,313 acres

Total new acres: 842 acres

7 will discuss cost share with district officials.

13 will seek more information.

17 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

0 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

27 Evaluations Mailed

8 Evaluations Returned

8 farmers farmed an average of **612** acres.

7 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **383** new cover crop acres.

6 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

5 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

2 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

2 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.

SOUTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: April 14, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Grazing Field Day in partnership with ISU Extension and Outreach
LOCATION: Mount Pleasant, IA - Henry County ISU Extension and Outreach

ATTENDANCE: 50

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Grazing

SPEAKERS: Patrick Wall (expert), Meghan Filbert (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR
32

LANDOWNER
11

GOVERNMENT
1

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 60 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 26 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 36 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 14

*collected from 35 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- What will you do for termination at Crawfordsville?
- Is baleage approved from crop insurance?
- Would pasture be considered cover crops? What credit does it get in the NRS?
- What is the plan for the grazing project at Chariton?
- Is there testing going on to get the herbicide labels cleared for grazing?
- Does grazing cover crops impact milk tests?
- Are you still all Jerseys?
- Any luck with species besides cereal rye?
- What time are you harvesting corn?
- How many here have movable waterers?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

29 Evaluations Mailed

4.5/5 Overall quality of field day

7 Evaluations Returned

4.0/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

7 farmers farmed an average of **418** acres

5 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 0 acres

Total new acres: 283 acres

6 will discuss cost share with district officials.

6 will seek more information.

5 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

0 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

29 Evaluations Mailed

8 Evaluations Returned

7 farmers farmed an average of **421** acres.

6 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **495** new cover crop acres.

5 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

1 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

0 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.

SOUTHEAST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS (CONT.)

DATE: September 7, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day in partnership with West Fork Crooked Creek Watershed Project and Washington County SWCD
LOCATION: Keota, IA - Vision Ag

ATTENDANCE: 65

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Soil Health

SPEAKERS: STRIPS Meaghan Anderson (expert), Tim Sieren (expert), Brian Hora (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

32

11

1

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 60 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 15 miles

*collected from 53 comment cards at field day

MALE ATTENDANCE: 56

FEMALE ATTENDANCE: 9

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

TIM

What's the price difference on the planter – what do new systems cost?

How deep do rye roots go?

Do you spray insecticide every year?

Do you plant row crops into mixtures?

MEAGHAN ANDERSON

If a label says 40%, how many pounds is there of the active ingredient?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

44 Evaluations Mailed

11 Evaluations Returned

9 farmers farmed an average of **646** acres

4.0/5 Overall quality of field day

4.1/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

3.7/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

6 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 367 acres

Total new acres: 455 acres

5 will discuss cost share with district officials.

6 will seek more information.

9 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

2 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

40 Evaluations Mailed

13 Evaluations Returned

12 farmers farmed an average of **650** acres.

8 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **905** new cover crop acres.

8 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

8 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

3 influenced no farmers.

2 influenced one other farmer.

3 influenced two or more farmers.

2 did not make any changes.



IOWA LEARNING FARMS FIELD DAY EVALUATION REPORT

SOUTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT

COUNTIES: Pottawattamie, Cass, Adair, Mills, Montgomery, Adams, Fremont, Page, Taylor

FIELD DAYS/WORKSHOPS = 2

FIELD DAY TOPICS

- Cover Crops = 2

FIELD DAY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES:

FARMER/OPERATOR	LANDOWNER	GOVERNMENT	TOTAL*
34	17	8	78

*Total number of field day attendees at 2016 field days in district according to internal event evaluations. Attendees who filled out comment cards could select multiple categories to describe themselves.

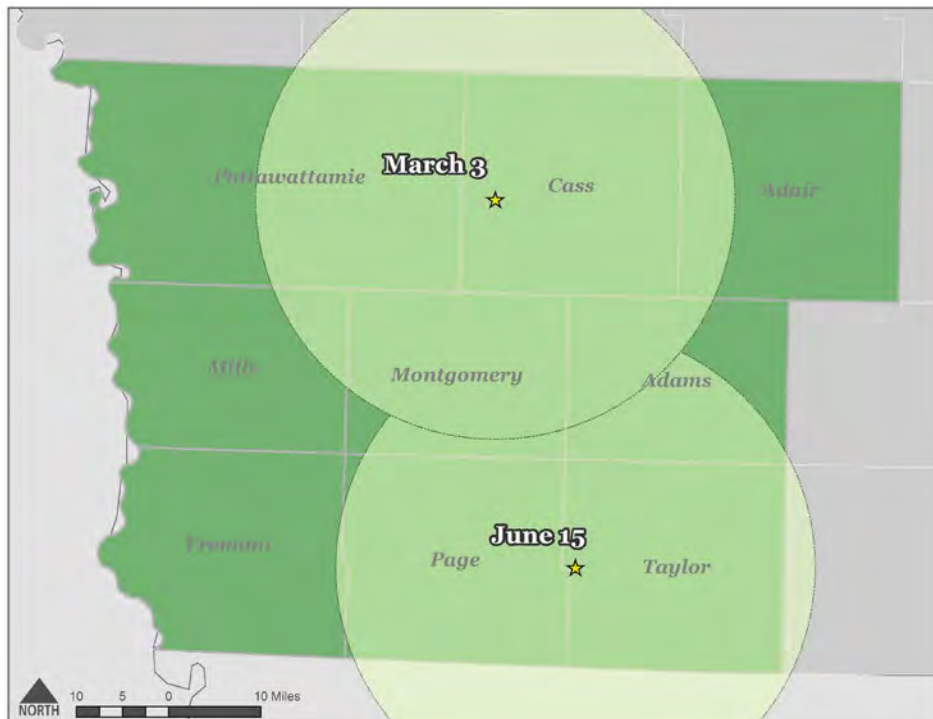
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE = 39

MALE ATTENDANCE = 60

AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE = 26 miles

FEMALE ATTENDANCE = 18

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO 2016 FIELD DAYS IN SOUTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT



MARCH 3, LEWIS - 26 MILES

JUNE 15, NEW MARKET - 26 MILES

SOUTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: March 3, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Workshop in partnership with PFI and Iowa Cover Crop Working Group

LOCATION: Lewis, IA - Armstrong Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm

ATTENDANCE: 58

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Carl Pederson (expert), Stefan Gailans (expert), Tom Kaspar (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

28

LANDOWNER

15

GOVERNMENT

7

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 57 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 26 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 47 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 11

*collected from 44 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

CARL

Do you alternate corn and soybeans ? Cover crops on both?
How many pesticides travel through the soil profile into drainage system?
What nitrate levels did you find with and without cover crops?
How does nitrate level vary over the course of the year?
How does herbicide perform with so much biomass/residue on the ground?
Have you done any work with N-Serve?
What's the nitrate reduction with cover crops versus with N-Serve?

TOM

How is the cereal rye affecting the nitrogen availability for the corn crop?
When the cover crop is terminated, is the nitrogen mostly above or below ground?

TOM (CONT.)

How much is available to the next crop?
Do you think the 10 ppm drinking water standard is an accurate number or is that unfairly high?
Is there benefit to seeding cover crop earlier in the fall to get more growth, more uptake, and/or improved release of the nitrogen?
I want to supplement my rye with a legume to supply N to my next crop – are you saying that's a dead end road?
I have a powdery layer of soil with long term no-till. Can cover crops help with that?
How much carbon can you sequester with a rye cover crop?
Earthworm study – how was rye seeded? Aerial or drilled?

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY (CONT.):

STEFAN

What's the cost of different cover crop varieties?

What's the price of camelina? Where to buy?

Is camelina easy to terminate?

Where have you been sourcing your cover crop seed?

Have you been working with specific varieties of cover crops?

Are there any bioreactors close by here? Where would the closest one be?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

44 Evaluations Mailed

4.4/5 Overall quality of field day

20 Evaluations Returned

4.6/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

20 farmers farmed an average of **809** acres

17 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 2,942 acres

Total new acres: 655 acres

5 will discuss cost share with district officials.

17 will seek more information.

18 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

1 does not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

40 Evaluations Mailed

24 Evaluations Returned

22 farmers farmed an average of **684** acres.

15 fall seeded cover crops in 2015 on **1,256** new cover crop acres.

17 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

16 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

4 influenced no farmers.

8 influenced one other farmer.

4 influenced two or more farmers.

1 did not make any changes.

SOUTHWEST CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: June 15, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Field Day

LOCATION: New Market, IA - Kelly and Irene Tobin Farm

ATTENDANCE: 20

TOPICS: Cover Crops

SPEAKERS: Kelly Tobin (farmer), Sarah Carlson (expert), Liz Juchems (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

6

LANDOWNER

2

GOVERNMENT

1

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 48 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 26 miles

*collected from 8 comment cards at field day

MALE ATTENDANCE: 13 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 7

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

Can you really drill in fall following corn?

How deep do you seed rye?

What about annual rye grass and the various differences in rye grasses? Hybrids?

Will anhydrous kill the earthworms?

Who should pay for cover crops - landlord or tenant?

Recommendations on termination timing for cover crops of corn vs. beans?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

8 Evaluations Mailed

4.4/5 Overall quality of field day

3 Evaluations Returned

4.6/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

3 farmers farmed an average of **562** acres

4.6/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

2 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 0 acres

Total new acres: 180 acres

2 will discuss cost share with district officials.

2 will seek more information.

2 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

0 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

6 Evaluations Mailed

2 Evaluations Returned

2 farmers farmed an average of **663** acres.

1 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **100** new cover crop acres.

0 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

1 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

0 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.



IOWA LEARNING FARMS FIELD DAY EVALUATION REPORT

WEST CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT

COUNTIES: Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Green, Guthrie, Harrison, Ida, Monona, Sac, Shelby, Woodbury

FIELD DAYS/WORKSHOPS = 3

FIELD DAY TOPICS

- Cover Crops = 3
- Soil Health = 1
- Grazing = 1

FIELD DAY WORKSHOP ATTENDEES:

FARMER/OPERATOR	LANDOWNER	GOVERNMENT	TOTAL*
73	28	7	173

*Total number of field day attendees at 2016 field days in district according to internal event evaluations. Attendees who filled out comment cards could select multiple categories to describe themselves.

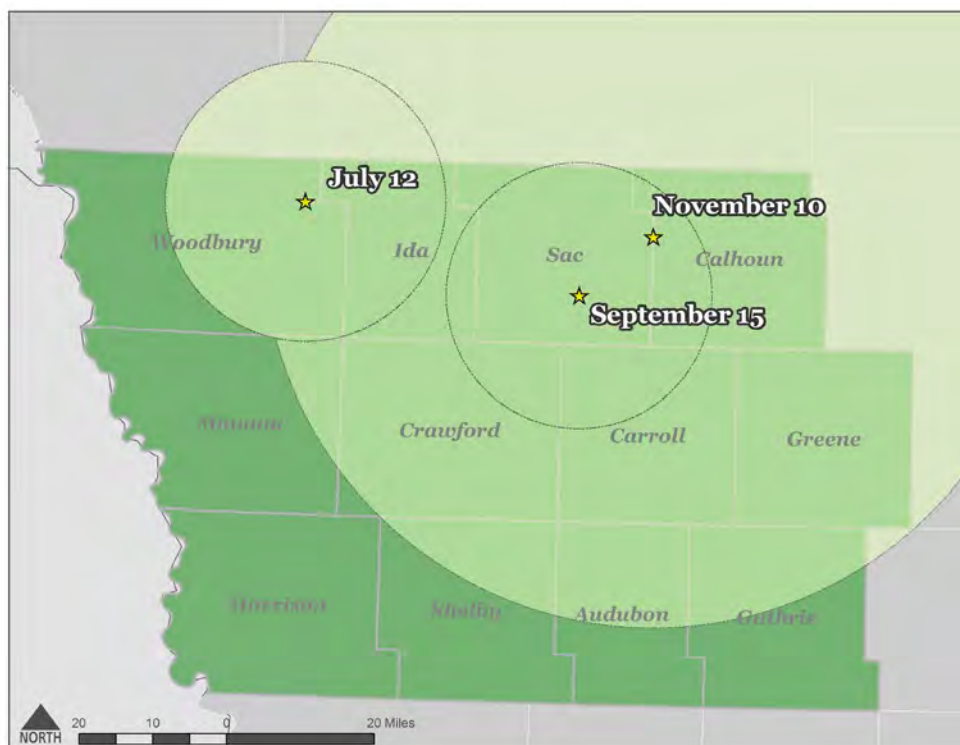
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE = 58

MALE ATTENDANCE = 140

AVERAGE DRIVING DISTANCE = 30 miles

FEMALE ATTENDANCE = 33

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO 2016 FIELD DAYS IN WEST CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT



JULY 12, CORRECTIONVILLE - 19 MILES
SEPTEMBER 15, LAKE VIEW - 18 MILES
NOVEMBER 10, LYTTON - 53 MILES

WEST CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: July 12, 2016
FIELD DAY: Cover Crop Field Day in partnership with Woodbury County Cattlemen
LOCATION: Correctionville, IA - John Wilcox Farm

ATTENDANCE: 107

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Soil Health

SPEAKERS: Mike Henderson (expert), Roger and John Wilcox (farmer), Shane Susie (farmer), Nathan Anderson (farmer)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

LANDOWNER

GOVERNMENT

51

16

3

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 55 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 19 miles

*collected from 63 comment cards at field day

MALE ATTENDANCE: 92 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 15

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

- What rows do you plant?
- What's the earliest you plant corn?
- Do you use less herbicide?
- How well do the cows eat the rye?
- Studies that show manure management vs. compaction rate?
- When is the latest to plant cover crops?
- Explain winter kill.
- Do you have statistics on the effects of rollers on compacting soil?
- What percent is your farm in cover crops?
- Do you have soil test data from before and after?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

62 Evaluations Mailed

4.3/5 Overall quality of field day

25 Evaluations Returned

4.2/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

19 farmers farmed an average of **626** acres

4.5/5 Effectiveness of farmer presentation(s)

13 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 1,123 acres

Total new acres: 221 acres

8 will discuss cost share with district officials.

18 will seek more information.

16 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

3 do not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

50 Evaluations Mailed

18 Evaluations Returned

17 farmers farmed an average of **696** acres.

11 fall seeded cover crops in 2015 on **486** new cover crop acres.

9 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

11 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

5 influenced no farmers.

3 influenced one other farmer.

3 influenced two or more farmers.

3 did not make any changes.

WEST CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: September 15, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Soil Health Field Day in partnership with Sac County NRCS, Sac County SWCD and Black Hawk Lake Watershed Project

LOCATION: Lake View, IA - Black Hawk Lake

ATTENDANCE: 32

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Soil Health

SPEAKERS: Michelle Soupier (expert), Mike Henderson (expert), Diane Ersce (expert), Liz Juchems (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

8

LANDOWNER

6

GOVERNMENT

0

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 65 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 18 miles

*collected from 16 comment cards at field day

MALE ATTENDANCE: 21 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 11

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

MICHELLE

You are showing nitrates in surface runoff - isn't that unusual?

Are you doing any economic analysis?

Explain the difference between total P and dissolved reactive P?

How do the soils compare at the three sampling sites?

Is the nutrient application the same in the watersheds?

DIANE

Can you drive tractors over bioreactors?

What size area can a bioreactor/saturated buffer treat?

What size tile can go into a bioreactor/saturated buffer? Is there a limit?

What role do the woodchips play? What do you do with the woodchips when they are done?

LIZ

Best means to terminate cover crops?

Any different benefits between cereal rye and winter wheat?

What's wrong with using oats?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION

14 Evaluations Mailed

4.8/5 Overall quality of field day

6 Evaluations Returned

5.0/5 Effectiveness of expert presentation(s)

3 farmers farmed an average of **413** acres

3 are considering use of a cover crop in 2016.

Total current acres: 270 acres

Total new acres: 150 acres

2 will discuss cost share with district officials.

4 will seek more information.

4 discussed conservation ideas with other farmers, clients, landowners, or tenants.

1 does not plan to make any changes.

JANUARY EVALUATION

10 Evaluations Mailed

5 Evaluations Returned

4 farmers farmed an average of **803** acres.

3 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **65** new cover crop acres.

3 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

1 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

1 influenced no farmers.

0 influenced one other farmer.

0 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.

WEST CENTRAL CROP REPORTING DISTRICT FIELD DAYS

DATE: November 10, 2016

FIELD DAY: Cover Crop/Grazing Field Day in partnership with PFI

LOCATION: Lytton, IA - Wesley Degner Farm

ATTENDANCE: 34

TOPICS: Cover Crops, Grazing

SPEAKERS: Wes Degner (farmer), Ben Albright (farmer), Beth Doran (expert), Meghan Filbert (expert)

ATTENDEE DESCRIPTION*: (Respondents can select more than one statement)

FARMER/OPERATOR

14

LANDOWNER

6

GOVERNMENT

4

AVERAGE AGE OF ATTENDEES*: 42 years

AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELED TO FIELD DAY*: 53 miles

MALE ATTENDANCE: 27 **FEMALE ATTENDANCE:** 7

*collected from 25 comment cards at field day

QUESTIONS ASKED AT FIELD DAY:

ASKED AT FIRST FARM (WESLEY DEGNER)

What is your equipment cost to place the cover crops?
How many cows do you have on each acre?
What other crops will you do next year?
How do you kill the covers this spring?
Any problems with emergence crops? How were your yields?
Do you think your stand was better last year because you had more seed?
How tall was your stand last year?
Did you graze stalks before the cover came up?
On acres where you graze stalks without cover crops, do you offer protein to them?
How late will you keep them grazing out here?
Can you talk about the complement of cereal rye and stalks as grazing sources?
Does anyone have experience in using something in addition to rye, like brassica or legume?
Do they like the radishes?
Can radishes/rye take traction from being run down by equipment?
Once you don't have NRCS cost share money, will you still plant covers?
What's the cost difference between aerial and drilling covers?

ASKED AT SECOND FARM (BEN ALBRIGHT)

Would you seed it differently next time?
Are you trying to use it for cattle to grow on before they go to the feedlot?
Comment from farmer: "I haven't ripped the ground in 3-4 years and it works just fine; I get good yields."
How long have you used covers?
If cattle tromp down the covers, do you still terminate them in the spring?
How did you land on using rye and oats as a mix?
Have you measured the biomass?
Has anyone seen issues with covers and carryover of herbicides?
What kind of drill do you have?
Do you drill at an angle?
Are there any other cover combinations you want to try?
What were your savings on feed when grazing covers?
Can you explain the CSP program?
How tall did the covers grown before you put cattle on them to graze?
How concerned are you about bloat?

TWO-WEEK FOLLOW UP EVALUATION*

*Because the field day occurred in November 2016, event participants were not mailed a two-week follow up evaluation. This evaluation method measures changes that a producer intended to make during the 2016 growing season. Field day attendees were still asked to participate in the January evaluation (data below).

JANUARY EVALUATION

18 Evaluations Mailed

7 Evaluations Returned

7 farmers farmed an average of **1,124** acres.

6 fall seeded cover crops in 2016 on **327** new cover crop acres.

5 discussed challenges/benefits with landowners/tenants.

5 networked conservation ideas with other farmers or farmer clients.

2 influenced no farmers.

1 influenced one other farmer.

2 influenced two or more farmers.

0 did not make any changes.