



Wade Dooley



Iowa Learning Farms
Virtual Field Day
April 24

**Farming
for the
Future**

About Wade Dooley

- 6th generation farmer from Marshall County
- Raises corn, soybeans, small grains, cow/calf beef operation, popcorn and has previously raised vegetables
- Also provides custom hay and seeding services, as well as small grain for cover crop seed

Field 1:

- First year with cover crops: 1997
 - Following corn that had drown and was harvested for silage
 - Wanted to protect the ground, capture unused nutrients and provide fall grazing option
 - Kept going from there!
- 2019 – Drilled following silage harvest, aerial before grain corn harvest
- Grazing – fall, winter and spring on both rye and corn stalks

Field 2:

- Transitioning field next to Iowa River from row crop production to CRP for 10 years in response to extensive annual flooding
- Plan to convert it to pasture after CRP contract expires

Field 3:

- Started raising cover crop seed in 2015
- 2020 rye for grain harvest – seeded after soybean harvest ~October 29th
- Goal: 45-50 bushels of rye/acre
- Making more net profit on rye than on corn or soybean this year, but even in good corn/soybean years the profit is better for raising the cover crop seed

Field 4:

- In August 2019, after rye harvest, drilled in diverse cover crop seed mix (20-30 species)
- Turned up fan speed to reseed light weight rye seed as cover crop in addition to mix
- You can eat cover crops like turnips and radishes!
- Planting in heavy residue:
 - Using a no-till White planter with minimal modifications –
 - Press wheel to make sure trench closes
 - Spiked furrow closers
- Cover crops keep the soil in place, build soil and keep the water clean for now and the future!

Learn more about Wade's farm: <https://glenwoodcenturyfarm.com/>

For more on cover crops visit: <https://www.iowalearningfarms.org/cover-crops>