

Cover Crop Planning Case Studies

The situation: The agronomist for a local ag retailer is interested in expanding their service for producers who want to use cover crops. They want to provide good quality seed as well as offer seeding coordination service (e.g. maybe line up a plane or may convert a high clearance sprayer) and termination management. Some of their customers are signed up in gov programs so they want their CC mixes and seeding rates to meet the eligibility requirements. Since developing a customized blend for each farmer isn't going to be very efficient, they want to meet with you to come up with 3-4 standard seeding mixes. Most of their customer's acres are corn-soybean, but some wheat and silage also common in the area.

Resources: Midwest Cover Crop Council www.MCCC.org , CC Decision guide, FOTG

Your group's scenario (discussion):

A.

Corn-soybean rotation, following soybeans-

Most farmers want to include a legume so they can cut N.

The mix needs to complement the subsequent corn crop.

Dealer is able to seed into standing crop for customers, or many farmers can seed after harvest

B.

Corn-soybean rotation, following corn-

Not sure about seeding into standing corn.

Farmers are nervous about annual rye.

C.

Corn-soybean rotation, following soybeans

Farmers who do not want any extra weed control hassles in spring

Seeding method is negotiable (ie could aerially seed, or could seed after harvest)

D.

Continuous corn-

Excellent, experienced no-till/strip till farmers.

Many do their own spraying, and are well equipped for no-till.

They want to continue to build soil health.

E.

After wheat going to corn-

Many of these farmers have cattle.

They may want use this window to jump start soil health.

F.

After Corn-silage going back to corn-

Most of them apply manure after silage harvest.

Many have regular problems with runoff and erosion, even though most are using VT.