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IN THIS ISSUE

- Certification Program Update
- Cover Crops: Will I Get a Return on Investment
- Cover Crop Test Plot

www.yaharapridefarms.org
By becoming a Yahara Pride Farms certified
Additionally, the following benefits will soon be
- Discounted registration fees to attend industry
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Yahara Pride Farms
achieve improved water quality everyone - producers, government
program details).
following Dennis, Chairman Jeff Endres presented information about our quickly growing Cer-
Managers, presented information about our quickly growing Cer-
We were honored to have the Department of Agriculture, Trade
representative Keith Ripp speaks on the Implement of Husbandry Bill.

2014 YPF Cost-Share Program

A. Seeding
1. Fall Cover Cropping
2. Strip Tillage
D. Following Winter Wheat
C. Into Established Cover Crop
B. Into Corn Residue

3. Strip Tillage

C. Headland Stacking

1. Total Yards or Gallons Equivalent

2. Strip Tillage

F. Following Alfalfa
D. Following Winter Wheat
C. Into Established Cover Crop
B. into Corn Residue

1. Total Yards or Gallons Equivalent

Final Steps
Now that a score has been determined, the next step is to implement a plan to improve your score. This is a seasonal process, so not all practices can be completed at once. Nutrient management, weed control, soil health, and farm layout are just a few steps that can be implemented after reviewing the program.

Yahara Pride Farms Cover Crop Test Plot

• Cereal Rye
• Radish
• Barley
• Oats

• Phosphorus Index

1. Total Yards or Gallons Equivalent

• Phosphorus Index

3. Strip Tillage

1. Total Yards or Gallons Equivalent

• Headland Stacking

2. Strip Tillage

1. Total Yards or Gallons Equivalent

• Phosphorus Index
Yahara Pride Farms

Certified

Agricultural Production

Building on our Progress

Thanks to our partners!

Yahara Pride Farms

Cost-Share Programs

Continued from page 1

2014 YPF Cost-Share Programs

Objectives:

- Reduce nutrient loading
- Improve water quality
- Increase biodiversity
- Protect wildlife habitat
- Increase crop yield
- Reduce soil erosion
- Increase soil health

Incentives:

- Financial assistance for implementation of conservation practices
- Technical assistance for planning and implementation
- Certification for meeting program requirements

Eligibility:

- Wisconsin residents
- Agricultural producers
- Landowners

Contact Rachel Fossum at 608-255-6329 or by email: rachel@yaharapridefarms.org if you are interested in participating in any of these programs.

Certification Program Benefits

- Sustainable agricultural producer label
- Expedited permitting
- Discounted registration fees to attend industry meetings & conferences
- Tax or Farm Accounting Services
- Servicing, Processing Certification Benefits

Final Steps

- Certification of the conservation practices
- Element Plan evaluation and summary
- Facility score
- Aerial photos and/or GIS maps
- Final report

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Cover Crops: Will I Get a Return on Investment
Dave Robison, Legacy Seeds

At the "Building on our Progress" conference, presenter Dave Robison shared many amazing benefits of cover cropping including soil health, effects on yield and nutrient retention. Below is a chart that details the extra profit (subtracting seed and application cost from total revenue) of implementing cover crops using various types of cover crop seed and seed mixes.

How cover crops affect yield
Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) multiple state data shows 5-10% increase in yield in corn (2 year data)
CTIC multiple state data shows 11-14% increase in yield in soybeans (2 year data)
Robison Farms research (2012: central Indiana) (corn yield in 2010 was 198 b/a)

Additional benefits of cover crops:
• Increased earthworm activity
• Improved root mass and root depth
• Improved water infiltration
• Improved plant health

Revenue Per Acre Revenue less seed & application cost Net advantage (extra profit)
Check (no cover crop) $605.13 $605.13 $0.00
Annual Ryegrass + Crimson Clover + Radish $691.78 $646.91 $41.78
Winter Cereal Rye $729.45 $696.97 $91.84
Oats + Radish $798.04 $733.29 $128.16
Annual Ryegrass Blend $772.05 $743.05 $137.92
Annual Ryegrass + Crimson Clover $784.36 $750.76 $145.63
Crimson Clover + Radish $885.44 $829.44 $224.31
Oats + Rye + Appin Turnips $945.13 $870.23 $265.10
Austrian Winter Peas + Radish $947.72 $892.07 $286.94

Inoculating Cover Crop Legumes Pays Off
Several farmers have asked me why they need to spend an "extra" 4-6 cents per pound to inoculate the legume seed they are planting for producing nitrogen with their cover crops. I get asked this especially about Austrian Winter Peas and Cowpea.

However, if you are planting Crimson Clover, Berseem Clover, Kura Clover, Alisike, Hairy Vetch, Sunn Hemp, or Medium Red Clover it's just as important to inoculate! Why? I’ll list a few reasons below:

Inoculated peas are significantly better at producing nitrogen. Legumes are planted as cover crops most specifically to produce nitrogen. Legume seed is relatively expensive; if it does NOT produce nitrogen, then it is exceptionally expensive. The inoculant is a species specific bacteria that allows that plant to fix nitrogen. If there are not enough bacteria there is limited nitrogen production from the legume plants. A healthy legume cover crop can produce nearly 200 units of nitrogen.

Even if you have produced a similar crop in your field within a two year time period, it still pays to inoculate each year since many of the bacteria prove to be “weak” and unable to perform like a healthy and vigorous bacteria.

If inoculating Peas or Cowpea you will need to do a “seedbox” treatment. There are not yet inoculants that can be pre-applied that will allow you to have healthy bacteria. Therefore, most inoculant companies suggest putting the inoculant on within hours of parting the seed in the ground. Be sure to get very good coverage on all of the seeds.

Do not hurry. Each seed needs coverage to actually be inoculated. I know that sounds silly, but I have seen many fields and plots where only some of the pea or vetch plants were performing well. The ones that looked poor had no nodules.

Many companies sell pre-inoculated clover seed. If yours does not, then either find another supplier or purchase the correct inoculant from your current seed supplier. Do not waste a great opportunity to produce as much nitrogen as possible. It is less expensive to produce nitrogen than it is to purchase it.

Conclusions from Dave
While cover crops have been the “hot topic” over the past 3-4 years we still have a lot to learn.

Some experienced cover croppers may scoff at losing yield and claim it is because only one species was used as a cover crop – that we all need to use “cocktail mixes.”

Others may say that using one species is all they are comfortable with managing.

Both groups might be correct in their thinking. But each individual farmer must make his own choice of what he can deal with (or wants to deal with). Whatever choice a producer makes should always have a goal of improving the soil health. If the soil is healthier, then usually a better, more profitable crop will follow. But it does not always happen that way. Like many things in life, patience and best management practices usually pay off – and most likely will always pay off in the long run.

For more information on Dave’s research, please visit PlantCoverCrops.com. All information and photos from this article are provided by Dave Robison.
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Robison Farms Cover Crop Research Plot

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Do NOT expect tall cover crops

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Yahara Pride Farms

Thank you for your participation!

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop Type</th>
<th>Seed Prices ($/acre)</th>
<th>Phosphorus Index</th>
<th>Soil Nitrates (lbs./acre)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Radish and Barley</td>
<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereal Rye</td>
<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<br />

Four step process
1. Example of Farm Evaluation Sheet
2. Example of MAP Fertilizer Program
3. Additional Vertical Tillage
4. Aerial seeding
5. Broadcast

Endres Berryridge Farms (member sign shown right at 4:10)

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<th>Acres</th>
<th>Ponds</th>
<th>Phosphorus</th>
<th>Nitrate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Disturbance Subsoiling</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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