



Your Information Here



Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Developing a Winning **Cover Crop Plan** with Your Customer

Key Questions

Does the customer have past experience with cover crops?

What is the customer's tolerance of risk? (e.g., cover crop success, following crop impacts)

What are the primary and secondary goals for cover crops? (e.g., erosion control, soil health, forage, water quality)^

Field Nickname(s) (optional)_____

Current Year's Crop (corn, soybeans) Anticipated Harvest Date_____

Next Year's Crop (corn, soybeans)_____

Fall Tillage Type_____ Spring Tillage Type_____

Preferred Seeding Method (aerial, drill, floater, high clearance sprayer, other)_____

Does the customer prefer winter kill or overwinter cover crop?¹_____

Why?_____

What are the planned nitrogen source(s), timing and method of application?

Planned spring termination method (herbicide, tillage, mowing, grazing, crimping)_____

Will spring cash crop seedbed conditions be similar to other fields? (Yes/No)² _____

If no, what planter adjustments are needed to account for cover crop residue conditions? _____

Responsibilities³

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Cover crop seed procurement | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer |
| • Cover crop seeding | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer |
| • Nitrogen application | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer |
| • Spring termination | <input type="checkbox"/> Producer | <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer |

Recommendations

What to plant _____

When to plant _____

Seeding rate⁴ _____

If not using certified seed, make sure to hit the target rate recommendations based on pure live seed (PLS).

Seed dealer recommendations _____

Other Resources

- PFI Cover Crop Decision Tree
- Midwest Cover Crops Council - Cover Crop Decision Tool
- Iowa Cover Crops Working Group
- ISU Extension Cover Crops Publications - Small Grain Cover Crops for Corn and Soybean
- NRCS Agronomy Technical Notes 36 and 38
- ^Managing Cover Crops Profitably (3rd Edition)

¹ Note greater impact of overwinter species on nearly all potential goals (soil health, erosion control, etc.). If winterkill, consider previous year residual herbicide program to ensure no restrictions.

² See ISU-Mark Hanna video series on planter conversions on YouTube (e.g., Closing Systems)

³ Plan ahead for spring management and provide timely service.

⁴ Confirm rates are consistent with specifications if seeking financial assistance.