

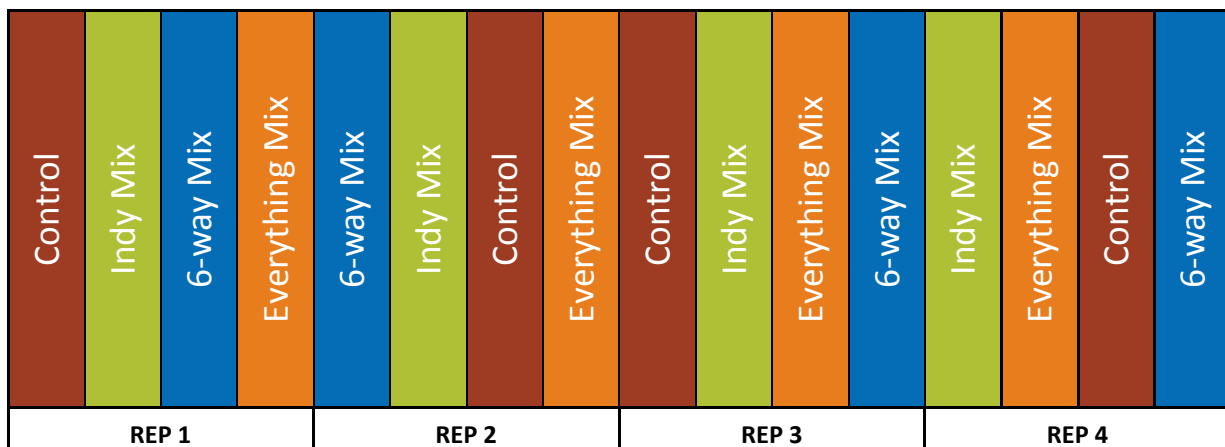
# Field Crops Research Protocols

## Cover crop mixes seeded into corn at the V3-V6 stage

**Objective:** Quantify the persistence and biomass production of cover crop mixes that are seeded into corn early in the growing season (approx. V3-V6 stage).

**Farmer-cooperators, Jon Kiel, Kirk Den Herder & Denny Vande Brake, will:**

- Take photos throughout the project.
- Keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions.
- **Spring 2015**, plant corn of the same variety and plant population across entire field.
- Establish a minimum of 4 replications at the V3-V6 corn stage as shown in the diagram below with randomized and replicated strips of:
  - Corn with no cover crop (control)
  - Corn with annual ryegrass, tillage radish & crimson clover (Indy Mix)
  - Corn with cereal rye, cowpeas, crimson clover, spring pea, forage collards & rapeseed (6-way mix)
  - Corn with all cover crops (Everything mix)
- Strips will be as wide as at least one combine pass and run the length of the field
- Apart from cover crop treatments, manage corn in all strips the same.
- **Fall 2015**, harvest corn in strips, record yield of each strip
- Collect biomass samples of cover crops at corn harvest and end of season prior to hard frost.
- **Spring 2016**, collect biomass samples of cover crops prior to termination.
- Turn in data to Practical Farmers of Iowa at the end of project
- Keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions



**Practical Farmers of Iowa will:**

- Help set up monitoring protocol
- Monitor progress of project and provide support when needed
- Publish results in a PFI research report, on PFI website, and potentially other outlets
- Provide \$550 in compensation at conclusion of the project.

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