



# Weed Control With Cover Crops

Jon Bakehouse

Maple Edge Farm

Southwest Iowa (Hastings)

ERS  
va



-2023 roll-crimp trial  
-Note weeds growing in bare dirt



6/1/2023



- Elbon rye no-till drilled @ 90lbs/ac on 9/25
- Some soy yield concerns about planting "late" on 5/30
- Some soy yield concerns about growing with cereal rye for ~2 weeks in grain-fill strips (as well as rolling over rye)

Treatment	Soy Planting	Roll-Crimping	Description
Anthesis	5/30	5/30	Plant + roll @ anthesis
Grain-fill	5/30	6/15	Plant @ anthesis, roll @ grain-fill + trifoliolate



# Results/Observations

	Bu/ac	Moisture %	Cover Crop Ton/ac
Anthesis	55	11	2.2
Grain fill	53	11	2.6
Statistically different?	No	No	No

Sprayed anthesis 6/15; grain fill 6/27

Happy with yield; 53.3 farm average  
Rest of farm planted early May, rye sprayed at planting  
Biomass pretty terrible; 1.2" of rain in May; 8 tons/ac goal  
Both strips regrew after roll, hence herbicide applications



# Herbicides

## Farm Program

Pre: PowerMax; Zidua SC; FireZone (\$31)

Post: PowerMax; Enlist One; Anthem MAXX (\$50)

## Field Trial Program

PowerMax; Enlist One; Anthem MAXX (\$50)

- Dad runs sprayer, remembers ineffective herbicides, multiple tillage passes, walking beans and corn, all for mediocre results; I'm not sure any cost is too high
- Rye easily provided confidence to eliminate first herbicide pass
- Shooting for no herbicides (organic no-till), would settle for one application of contact
- Note nice ground cover in background picture, advantage of getting rye on ground



# Next Steps

Shorten weed control hand-off  
Cereal rye variety  
Improve biomass

- Make sure soy is ready to take over weed control duties when rye peters out
- Switched to ND Gardner this fall; bigger stems hopefully = better roll-crimp
- Reducing biomass variability is key; fertilizer?
- Email any questions:  
[Jon@MapleEdgeFarm.com](mailto:Jon@MapleEdgeFarm.com)