

Farmer Adoption Challenges for Cover Crops

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Rulon Enterprises

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5900 Acres CB rotation in N. Central Indiana on
Medium Textured Soils (178 bu 5 yr avg.)

Also Do:

700 Sow farrow to finish hog operation

Drainage Design and Installation

Custom Services

Consulting and Marketing

Seed Dealership



Our cropping system:



- 100% No-Till since 1992
- 90% CB Rotation, 10% CAC
- Liquid Hog manure 400 a/yr (No-Till)
- 1 acre grid fertility management w/ VRT
- Cover crops ~60% of acres each year
- Conservation is the best economic model
- There is no yield drag with No-Till
- We are accountable for what leaves our farm**

Why use cover crops?

- Erosion Control
- Transition from tillage to no-till
- Build soil structure/OM/enhance soil quality
- Increase soil biology/break disease cycle
- Soil repair (remove compaction without tillage)
- Nutrient management (trap and release)
 - Manure, residual, mining expensive nutrients in profile
- Grandpa used cover crops (rotation mgmt.)



What do you want from a cover crop?

- Choose the right cover for your goal
 - Compaction removal
 - Ease of management
 - Disease control
 - Nutrient cycling
 - Erosion control



Cover crops we have tried

- *Annual Rye Grass*
- *Cereal Rye*
- *Winter Peas*
- *Oats*
- *Oilseed Radish*
- *Crimson clover*
- *canola*



Seeding your cover crop

- Aerial Seeding
- No-Till Drill
- 15" Bean Planter
- Air Cart/harrow
- Spreader
- **CONSIDER:**
 - Seed size
 - Planting date
 - Moisture required to germinated
 - Fall growth needs
 - Seeding rates and cost



Other things to worry about

- Bulk blending/delivery
- Spring germination of fall seeding
- Seed supply
- Seeding rates
- Chemical Programs
- Test Strips







And...

**It really makes your fields look
nice!**

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