

So... Why Cover Crops?

As scientists began to look at things like nitrate leaching, eutrophication of lakes, carbon sequestration, and renewable energy, an "old friend" began to emerge as one of the most effective technologies-Cover Crops. Cover crops hold nitrogen and phosphorus in the soil, capture CO2 from the atmosphere and store that carbon in the soil, and harvest the sun's energy continuously. They do all of these things, with the side benefit of feeding the vast array of organisms that live, and work for us in the soil.

Many farm fields, which lay fallow from late summer to mid spring, have no mechanism to hold on to the nitrate nitrogen left over from the previous crop or released from soil organic matter through natural cycling. Conservatively, 40-60 lbs/ac of N can be lost each and every year during these months. Various cover crops can save up to 90% of these losses. Then, much of this scavenged N is released the following summer for the next crop. Any that isn't released becomes food for soil organisms and building blocks for increased organic matter and organic nitrogen. This becomes a soil bank account. By implementing this Conservation Cropping System, each season will increase soil health, soil function, and overall improve productivity.

The benefit to the rest of us is cleaner water and air, improved wildlife habitat, a greener winter landscape and yes a feeling of well being and stewardship of the soil.

To learn more about healthy soils and cost share opportunities attend our workshop series.

"Free Money" Cover Crop Cost Share

Morgan and Hendricks SWCDs are paying \$20/per acre on a first come first served basis thanks to Clean Water Indiana Grant funds. Funds can only be distributed according to each county's Grant Guidelines. We encourage you to submit your cost share application as early as possible.

For Cost Share Applications Contact
Morgan County SWCD 765-349-2060
Hendricks County SWCD 317-745-2555

R.S.V.P. Required

Reservations are requested to ensure enough food for all participants. Call the Morgan County SWCD **765-349-2060**
Hendricks County SWCD **317-745-2555**
or e-mail

bhendrix@morgancounty.in.gov
jessica.norcross@in.nacdn.net

Speakers

Hans Kok, Ph D CCA,
Coordinator, Indiana
Conservation
Cropping Initiative



Ray Archuleta,
Conservation Agronomist

Barry Fisher,
State Agronomist
Indiana NRCS



2011 Agricultural Workshop Series and Cover Crop Cost Share Opportunities



Local
Soil & Water
Conservation
Districts



Sponsored by :
Clean Water Indiana

Morgan County Soil & Water Conservation
Hendricks County Soil & Water Conservation
Natural Resources Conservation Services

CROPPING SYSTEMS

Friday, June 17

RSVP by June 10, 2011

Presented by: **Dr. Hans Kok**

Location: Mooresville Government Center
4 E. Harrison St. Mooresville, IN 46158
formerly a church— use Lion's Club entrance

Hans Kok, Ph.D., CCA, CCSI

Dr. Hans Kok is the coordinator of the Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, (CCSI), a program sponsored by the Indiana Conservation Partnership. The CCSI promotes a continuous, systematic approach to production agriculture, resulting in improved profitability, soil quality, and water quality on Indiana cropland by focusing on:

- **Continuous no-till/strip-till**
- **Cover crops**
- **Precision farming**
- **Nutrient and pest management**



This will result in improved soil quality, water quality and profitability on Indiana cropland.

Agenda

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| 7:00 am | Registration & Breakfast
<i>sponsored by Morgan County Pork Producers</i> |
| 7:30 am | Dr. Hans Kok |
| | Break |
| 9:45 am | Cisco Seed Company |

HEALTHY SOILS

Tuesday, July 12

RSVP by July 5, 2011

Presented by: **Ray Archuleta**

Location: Reynolds Farm Equipment
102 Deere Park Dr. Mooresville, IN 46158
South of Gray Bro's Restaurant off Highway 67
In education room on 2nd floor

Ray Archuleta, Conservation Agronomist

Ray Archuleta serves on the USDA NRCS's Technology Team in Greensboro, North Carolina. Ray has over 25 years of experience with NRCS, and is a Certified Professional Soil Scientist with the Soil Science Society of America. Ray will discuss improving soil health by mimicking nature. Landowners can reduce chemical input in grazing and cropping systems by applying natural ecological principles to improve soil function. Ray will use a variety of demonstrations to show the importance of soil health. One demonstration will show how crucial soil aggregate stability is to water infiltration. Please join Ray for an informative and energizing presentation on the future of soil health and the future of agriculture.

Agenda

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| 8:30 am | Registration |
| 9:00 am | Healthy Soils |
| 11:15 am | NRG Ag Service
Reynolds Farm Equipment |
| 11:40 am | Lunch sponsored by:
Morgan County
Beef Cattle Association |

COVER CROPS PROS & CONS

Thursday, August 11

RSVP by August 4, 2011

Presented by: **Barry Fisher**

Location: Mooresville Public Library
220 W. Harrison St, Mooresville IN 46158
Meeting in Community Room

Barry Fisher, State Agronomist, NRCS

Barry Fisher provides agronomic training and assistance to NRCS Field Offices and works with advancing technology to help identify successful steps to implement No-Till and Conservation Cropping Systems. Workshop topics will include:

- **Selecting the right cover crop**
- **Planting methods**
- **Cost share programs**
- **Benefits of cover crops**

Barry has a passion for no-till that is contagious. His enthusiasm sells no-till and conservation on the farm and in the boardroom. He shares his message with farmers in machine sheds and with top officials at national meetings. His message is clear...no-till saves time, money, and energy while improving soil, air, and water quality as well as yields...this is a no-brainer.

Agenda

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| 8:00 am | Registration & Coffee |
| 8:30 am | Barry Fisher |
| 10:45 am | CREP Program |

Morgan & Hendricks Counties will be taking Cover Crop Cost Share applications at all three workshops. Application deadline is August 15, 2011