Take production and conservation further with CCSI

Cover Crop

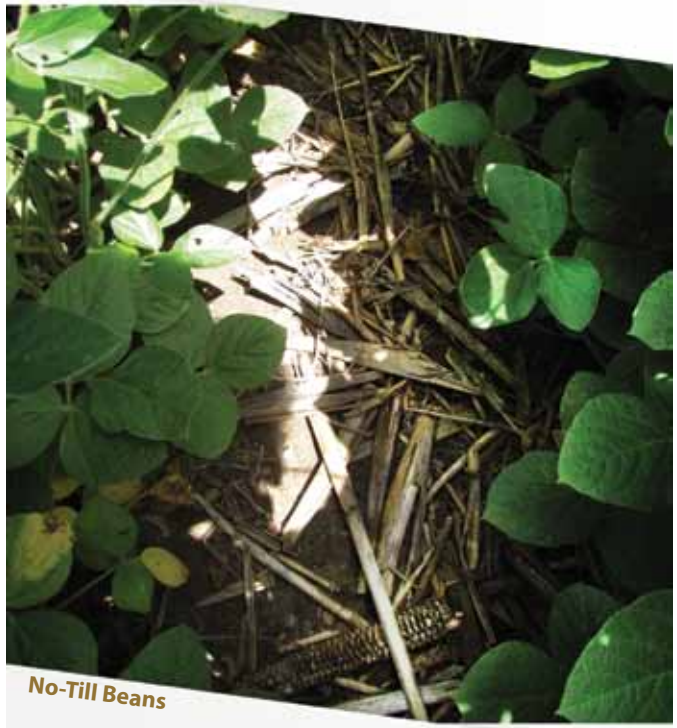
CCSI is a collaboration between Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) organizations, the agriculture industry and Hoosier farmers. Funding is provided by:

- the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service,
- the ISDA State Soil Conservation Board, and the administrative guidance of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Indiana farmers can meet world production demands by integrating today's conservation tillage technology with best management practices in nutrient management, pest management and cover crops.

Take production and conservation further with Conservation Cropping Systems. Contact the CCSI team today for help with your plan.

Contact Us



No-Till Beans

CCSI
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Dan Towery, left, and Hans Kok

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Websites
CCSI: **www.ccsin.org**
IASWCD and SWCDs:
www.iaswcd.org
USDA NRCS in Indiana: **www.in.nrcs.usda.gov**
ISDA: **www.in.gov/isda/index.htm**
Purdue Extension: **http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/extension/**

No-Till Corn

Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative

What is the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative?

Soil Cover

The Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) promotes a systematic approach to production agriculture. CCSI specialists encourage the adoption of **long-term continuous no-till** practices along with:

- Cover crops,
- Nutrient and pest management,
- Precision-farming technology, and the
- Use of conservation buffers.

The desired result for Indiana cropland is improved soil health and water quality, and profitability for Hoosier farmers.

Through field days, seminars and one-on-one consulting, CCSI experts will show you how to make adjustments in your management practices that can bring environmental and economic success to your operation.

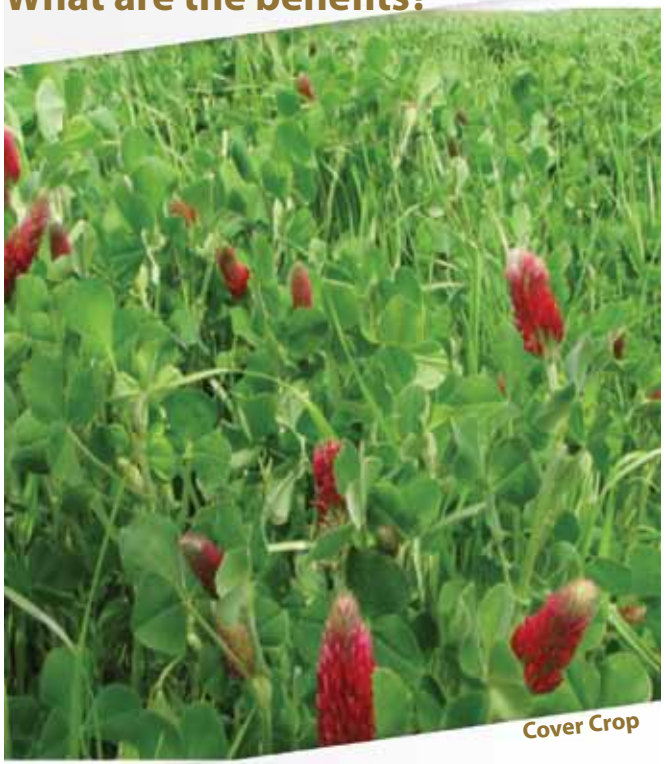
Sustainable cropping is a management strategy

Strip-Till

A sustainable cropping system is a management strategy that protects our natural resources and actually improves our soils. It allows a farmer to efficiently produce food, feed and fiber in an environmentally sound manner. Using this philosophy, a farmer disturbs the soil as little as possible allowing plants, microbes, insects and mother nature to do the work. The result is healthier, more productive soil.

Healthy soil has a balanced biological community and high organic matter with the capacity to retain and cycle nitrogen through a "living" and functioning ecosystem. This is particularly important in much of our Midwestern, system drained, cropland. In healthy soil systems, nutrient management is integrated with conservation crop rotations along with no-till/strip-till, cover crops, precision farming and conservation buffers. These practices are planned and prescribed to complement each other.

What are the benefits?



Cover Crop

The benefits are simple. Less is **more** with a systematic approach to farming:

- Using no-till or strip-till.
- Planting cover crops.
- Applying fewer inputs.
- Using less fuel.
- Improved soil health.

It adds up to less soil compaction, more nutrients in the soil, more moisture when you need it, better drainage, etc.

Just ask the farmers who utilized no-till/strip till and continuous cover crops, what their yields were in the fall of 2011 compared to traditional tillage fields that fell victim to the wet spring and then to the drought of the summer. Sustainable cropping systems protect resources and optimize input utilization.

As an Indiana farmer, you can maximize soil health and profitability. Indiana's CCSI and its partners provide a wealth of information and assistance to help you!