

Project Statistics

Lead District: Jasper
Amount Funded: \$30,800
Participating Districts:
Benton, Newton



Project Information:

Project Title:
Demonstrating and
scaling up alternative
cover crop seeding
Project Dates:
1/1/19-12/31/21

Project Overview:

The majority of the grant will be used to purchase a cover crop seeder in order to increase cover crop use and diversity of cover crop species used by demonstrating and scaling up the seeding of cover crop into V5 corn and into skip row corn. This opens a window to get a diverse mix of cover crops established, that isn't as species restrictive at V5 seeding. In June of 2019, 4 sites will be for seeded with cover crop. Two, 100 acre sites at V5 corn and two, 40 acre sites in skip row corn. Possible additional sites may be added in years 2 and 3 as more farmers have expressed interest.

Additionally, the sampling of cover crop biomass for nutrients and the PFLA soil health test will be utilized at the demonstration sites each year - treatment vs check strips. Diversity of cover crop use is key for pollinators and using legumes which will fix nitrogen, whereby farmers can potentially reduce fertilizer without losing yield. These simple tests are excellent for demonstrating and aiding discussion with soil health increases and indicators as you change a farm management system. Outreach will involve 1 field day for V5 corn and 1 field day for skip row corn. This will involve meeting at the farmer demonstration site to discuss cover crops, soil health and results of the project each year. A quick fact sheet will also be developed to highlight lessons learned each year and distributed in the region.

Program Overview:

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program (IC 14-32-8) was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. Through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs, the program supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution.

Program Administration:

The CWI fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB). The fund is derived from a portion of cigarette tax funds. (IC 6-7-1-29.3) The cigarette tax fund is 4.22 percent of total cigarette tax revenue, and the CWI fund receives one sixth of this amount. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects.

For more information about CWI, please visit: in.gov/isda/2379.htm.
For more information about the SSCB, please visit: in.gov/isda/2361.htm.
Email questions or comments to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov.
To find your local SWCD: please visit: in.gov/isda/2370.htm.

