

Cover Crops

Cover crops can slow erosion, improve soil, smother weeds, enhance nutrient and moisture availability, help control many pests, and bring a host of other benefits to farms across the country. For more than 20 years, NCR-SARE has supported projects by researchers, producers, and educators who are using this time-tested method of revitalizing soil, curbing erosion, and managing pests.

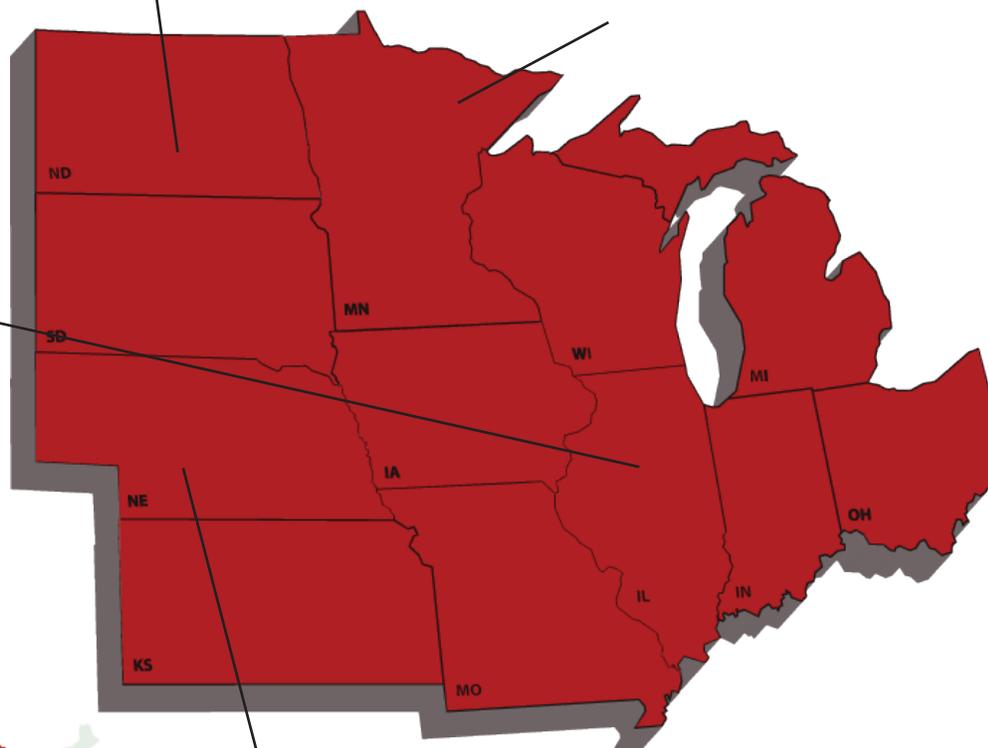
NCR-SARE Project Sampler

To view SARE's entire cover crop portfolio, or just the North Central Region's, visit <https://projects.sare.org>. For selected NCR-SARE cover crops grants, see the reverse side.

After harvesting his cash crop mid-summer, a farmer wanted to utilize his land in order to teach youth around the area about the importance of cover crops. Hosting a field day for youth, this program taught future farmers the importance of soil health, while also utilizing yields for livestock. See <https://projects.sare.org> and search for project number YENC12-057.

With support from SARE, an Illinois producer built a precision, multi-cover crop species seeder. See <https://projects.sare.org> and search for project number FNC15-1018.

In order to determine if cover crops could be grown in northern Minnesota's climate, three farmers from three different counties experimented with ten-acre plots of cover crops. Through this experiment these farmers learned about the characteristics and nutrient profiles for soils in their area. See <https://projects.sare.org> and search for project number FNC14-974.



Nebraska researchers assessed grain yield, soil structural compaction, and residual biomass as they studied the integration of cover crops and livestock. The project was conducted across three farms and two research sites. See <https://projects.sare.org> and search for project number LNC15-366.

NCR-SARE's Cover Crops Portfolio

Selected Grants

FARMER AND RANCHER GRANTS

Pasture-Crop Tests Without Chemical Termination

Timothy Carter, Honey Creek Farm, Indiana, FNC18-1117, \$3,300

Finding The Right Mix Of Cover Crops In A Sweetcorn And Snap Bean Operation In The Midwest

Mark O'Rourke, O'Rourke Family Gardens, Illinois, FNC18-1137, \$7,500

Measure the Effectiveness of Interseeded Cover Crops for Proactive Weed Prevention In A Chemical-Free, Low-Till Vegetable Market Garden Operation

James Catron, Hallelujah Acres Farm, Indiana, FNC17-1073, \$7,500

Increasing Soil Health And Infiltration With Cover Crops

Vernon Uit De Flesch, Uit De Flesch Farms, Minnesota, FNC16-1063, \$7,398

Utilizing Precision Application of Cover Crops to Minimize Planting Challenges while Maximizing Benefits to Corn

Matt Moreland, Red Barn Ranch, Missouri, FNC15-1007, \$3,818

Effectiveness Of Different Cover Crops For Erosion, Weed, Pest, And Disease Suppression In Pumpkins

Ralph Upton Jr., Upton Farms, Illinois, FNC15-1018, \$7,289

Adapting Cover Crops to Northern Climate Conventional Cropping Systems

Troy Salzer, Minnesota, FNC14-974, \$22,471

GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS

Integration Of Poultry And Cover Crops For Soil Health In Vegetable Production

Moriah Bilenky, Iowa State University, Iowa, GNC17-236, \$11,977

Evaluating Nitrate Toxicity Potential In Grazed Cover Crops

Mary Lenz, University of Nebraska, Nebraska, GNC17-242, \$11,947

Determination Of Decomposition Rates Of Cover Crops Residues And Their Nutrient Release Characteristics

Sabrina Badger, University of Minnesota, Minnesota, GNC16-218, \$11,906

Assessing Multi-Species Cover Crops Responses To Variable Soil Moisture And Soil Types

Kenneth Beamer, North Dakota State University, North Dakota, GNC16-219, \$11,928

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Does Grazing Or Harvesting Of Cover Crops Affect Soils and Crop Production? Assessment In Different Soil Types And Management Scenarios

Humberto Blanco, University of Nebraska, Nebraska, LNC15-366, \$199,974

Bringing the Benefits of Legume Cover Crops to Northern Midwest Climates

Julie Grossman, University of Minnesota, Minnesota, LNC14-364, \$114,497

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Midwest Cover Crops Council – Cover Crop Decision Tool

Kladviko Eileen, Purdue University, Indiana, ENC17-159, \$74,680

Soil Health and Nutrient Management Training for Immigrant and Minority Farming Communities

Julie Grossman, University of Minnesota, Minnesota, ENC15-145, \$74,760

YOUTH EDUCATOR GRANTS

Utilizing Cover Crops for Sheep

Rick Schmidt, North Dakota State University Extension North Dakota, YENC12-057, \$1,982

Updated 2018

For information on many more SARE-funded cover crop projects, search the SARE project database: <https://projects.sare.org>.



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