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.

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.

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.

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.

SARE’s four regional programs and outreach office work to advance – to the whole of American agriculture – innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in ground-breaking research and education. Visit SARE online at www.SARE.org.
**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

**Research and Education Grants**

**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

**Professional Development Grants**

**Midwest Cover Crops Council – Cover Crop Decision Tool**
Kladivko 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