



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
**COVER CROPS
& SOIL HEALTH**
**HARVESTING
THE POTENTIAL**

Termination Methods

- Winterkill
- Herbicides
- Mowing
- Rolling
- Tilling



Cover Crop Termination



2 most important Questions to ask:
#1: **What are you trying to accomplish?**
#2: **When is your planting window?**

Cover Crop Termination



Planning ahead is
important!

Treat Cover Crops Like Cash Crops!



Rolling cover crops



Rolling cover crops



Rolling Triticale/Vetch

*Tillage Radish[®] was also in this blend



Don't let this happen to you!



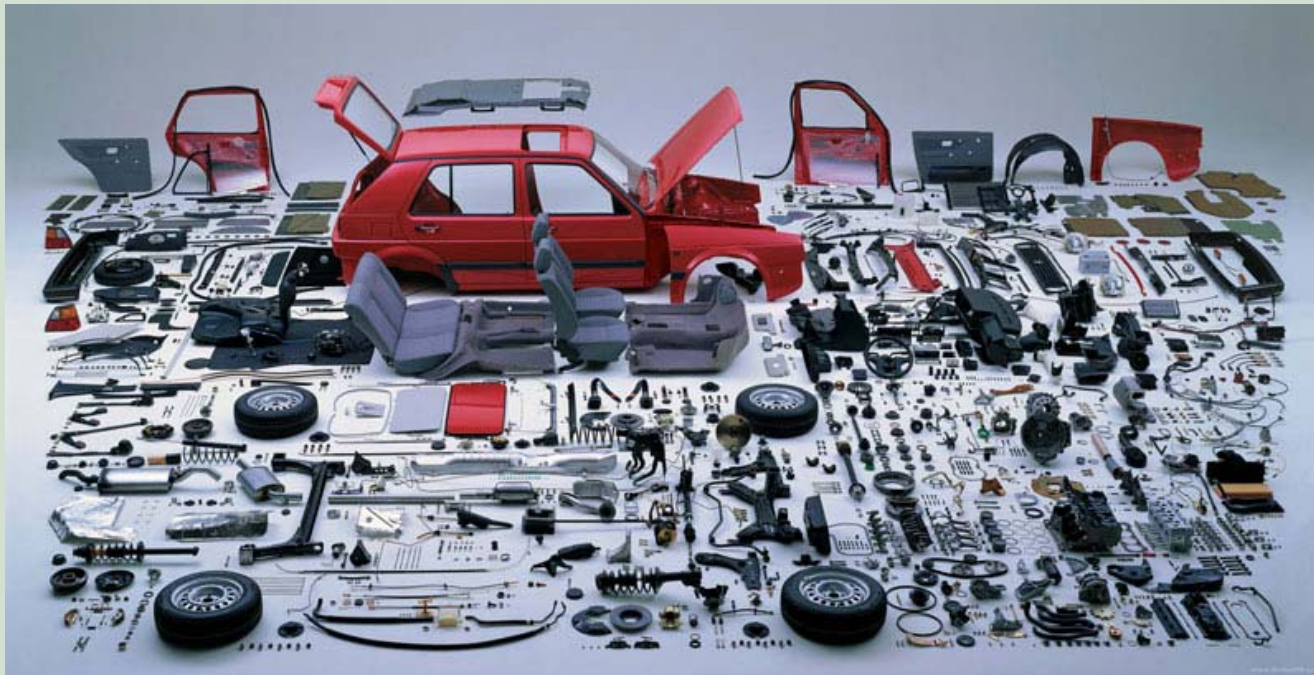
No Till/Cover Crop Pumpkins



Dawn Equipment- Cover Crop Roller



Successful Cover Cropping is the Sum of all the Parts



Radish and oats winterkilled



When is the Nitrogen released?

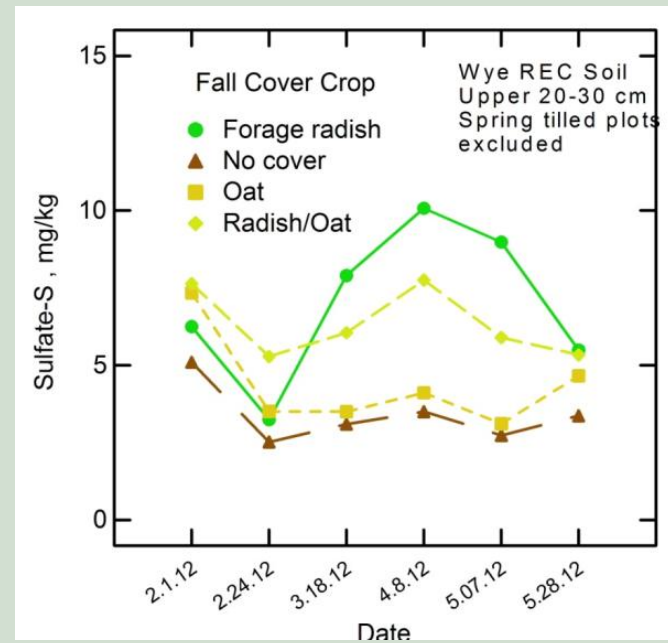
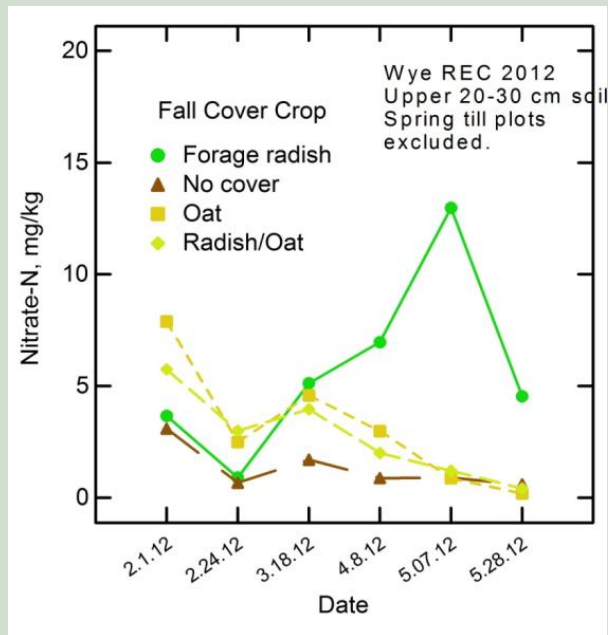


Nitrogen
Storage
Tanks

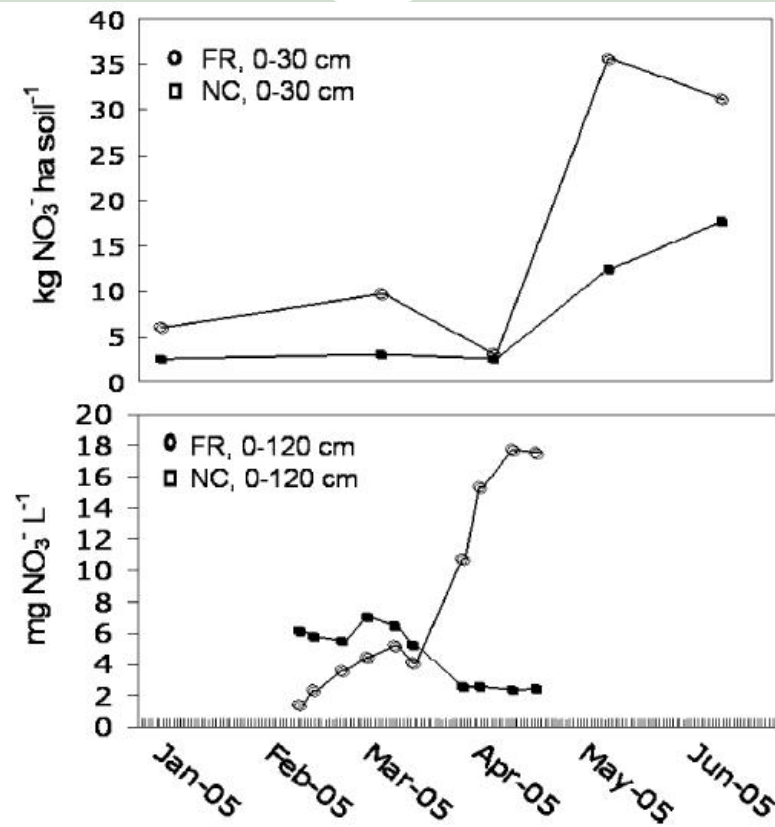
Lester Farms- KY



N and S availability



Release of N from Tillage Radish®



What about planting into green covers?



What about planting into green covers?



- Increasing in popularity in the Northeast
- Allows covers to maximize potential
- Holds off slugs
- Crop Insurance implications?
- Requires careful management
 - Moisture
- Equipment modifications?

Cereal Rye



- **Alleopathy**
- **Nitrogen management**
 - Assume no available N available at planting
 - Will be released later depending on maturity of cereal rye at termination
- **Moisture management**
 - Do not control cereal rye unless you are ready to plant if wet.
 - Control cereal rye early if dry and no rain in sight

What's the ppm of nitrates...



**...coming out
of your
tile lines or
running off
your fields??**

Moisture management



May



June



Results: Corn Planted Behind Cover Crops No (Zero) N Added at Planting



Cover Crops and Blends Tested

Corn, Bushels Per Acre (b/a) Yield

90 100 110 120 130 140 150 160

Zero N Added 5-31-11

Crimson Clover, Austrian Winter Peas, Hairy Vetch

151.55

Subterranean Clover/Hairy Vetch

144.56

Control (*only plot with N added, 75 lb/a*)

99.08

Austrian Winter Pea

144.92

Yellow Blossom Sweet Clover/Hairy Vetch

142.85

Crimson Clover

124.18

Hairy Vetch

152.36

Average Corn Yield
From Cover Crop Plots

143.40

44.32 b/a
Increase Over Control

What about crop insurance?



- Big strides made in the past 2 years for RMA, FSA, and the NRCS to cooperate on this issue
- National Wildlife Federation was a big help!
- Need to check with the local agent
- Can cover crops be used AS your crop insurance?
 - Well managed cover crops can mitigate weather extremes

Other considerations



- Weeds that are present in the cover crop
- If weed suppression is a primary objective of the cover crop, you need to increase the seeding rate by up to 50% over suggested rate for use as a cover crop

Timing of termination



- **Soil moisture**
 - Dry
 - Wet
- **Cover crop maturity**
 - N Production
 - Biomass production
- **Nutrient capture and release**
- **Succeeding cash crop**
- **Planting green**
- **Crop insurance considerations**

The Secret to Success!



Treat Cover Crops Like Cash Crops!