

Cover Crop Project Targeting Corn and Soybean Growers

FAIRMONT, Minn. (07/14/2010) – Rural Advantage, in partnership with Practical Farmers of Iowa, is seeking agricultural producers interested in utilizing cover crops. Cost-share dollars are available. Priority will be given to corn grain and soybean producers, but all those interested should apply.

Cover crops are capable of providing multiple benefits when placed on the landscape (i.e. increased water infiltration, increased soil organic matter, decreased nitrate leaching), but Minnesota's growing season can cause a narrow window of time for establishment. Aerial application or highboy application at leaf yellowing are two options for establishment in a corn-soybean rotation. No-till drilling or broadcasting with light tillage after cash crop harvest are two other options. Early establishment is easily met with crops such as wheat, oats, and canning crops.

Rural Advantage is seeking farmers willing to establish cover crops. Funding is available for up to \$20 per acre for up to 20 acres [\$400 maximum per farm]. Participating farmers may plant the cover crop of their desire, but must be willing to be a field day site if applicable. The sites will need to be research and demonstration related and simple reporting will be necessary. Funding for the project runs from Fall 2009 to Fall 2012.

For more information, please contact Jill Sackett, Extension Educator, at the Rural Advantage office.
507-238-5449 sacke032@umn.edu

Source: Jill Sackett - Extension Educator, Conservation Agronomist with University of Minnesota Extension and Rural Advantage, Fairmont, Minn.

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