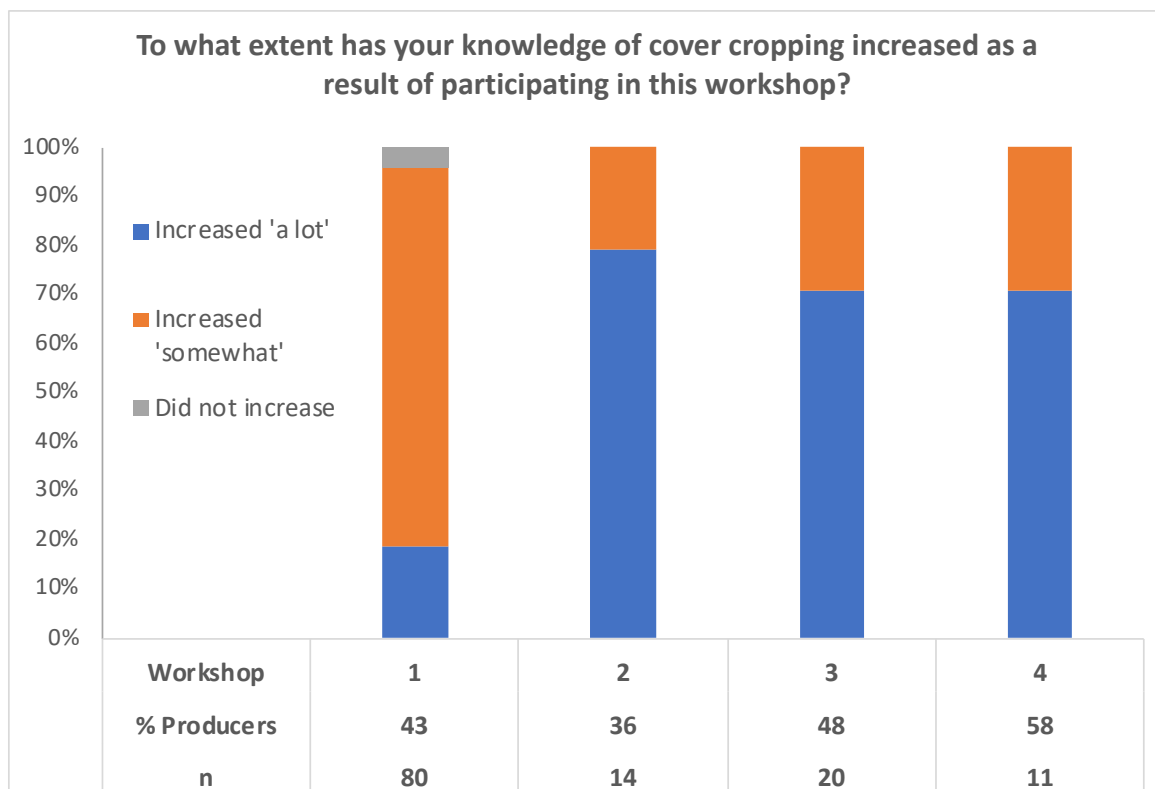


Intermountain Webinar Series Evaluation (Dec 10, 2020 – Jan 14, 2021)

Aggregated results from all four post-workshop surveys

~125 respondents total, ~35-60% producer/farmer

- **96-100%** said their knowledge of cover cropping increased *somewhat* or *a lot* (graph)
- **48-82%** said they were *very likely* to seek out more information about something they learned in the webinar
- **70-100%** said they were *somewhat likely* or *very likely* to start using a new cover cropping strategy based on what they learned in the webinar
- **29-100%** said they planned to increase the number of acres they cover crop
- **70-100%** rated the workshop as *good* or *very good*



For survey responses that were **matched with self-generated identification codes** (pre- and post-surveys), participants either maintained or increased their knowledge score on all the learning targets in the workshops (**see individual workshop reports**).

Participant motivation for using cover crops

In each survey, participants were asked, “From your perspective, how important are the following potential impacts of using cover crops?”

- Increased economic returns, decreased inputs, increased soil biology, improved soil water retention, carbon sequestration, weed control, human health

Increased soil biology, Weed control and Improved soil water retention ranked the highest.

Table 1. Means and percent distributions of survey respondents views of the importance of potential impacts of cover crop use. Data represents responses from all four post-webinar surveys. Mean based on score from 0 (Not at all important) to 3 (Very important).

	Mean	n	Not at all important (%)	Slightly important (%)	Moderately important (%)	Very important (%)
Potential impact	2.51					
Increased soil biology	2.72	114	0	4	19	76
Improved soil water retention	2.70	114	1	4	18	76
Reduced inputs	2.54	112	1	8	27	64
Weed control	2.52	114	0	7	34	59
Increased economic returns	2.43	114	2	11	29	58
Carbon sequestration	2.35	114	1	12	38	49
Human health benefits	2.32	114	4	15	27	54

Participants’ reported main takeaways and future interest

W1: learning more about cover crops and SOM, and interseeding/cover crop mixes; joining the WCCC mailing list

W2: learning more about cover crops in dryland systems and integrating grazing; joining working groups related to these topics

W3: plan to make use of software to track farm and soil practices, cover crop mixes and integration of livestock; joining a working group for “measuring and monitoring soil health”

W4: next step to investigate more resources (cover crop selection, tools, soil tests); interest in joining a working group for “understanding the cost/benefit analysis of cover crop use”

Summary of each post-workshop survey

Workshop 1: Cover crop use in the West and the WCCC

~80 respondents, 43% producer/farmer

- 77% said their knowledge of cover crop use in the West increased 'somewhat' because of participating in the webinar, 19% said that it increased "a lot"
- 60% were very likely to seek out more information about something they learned in the webinar
- 70% were somewhat likely, 18% very likely to start using a new cover cropping strategy based on what they learned in the webinar
- 67% planned to increase the number of acres they cover crop
- 57% rated the workshop as good, 25% rated it as very good
- Substantial interest in cover crops and SOM, interseeding/cover crop mixes/overseeding, 'green cover crop' website
- Many interested in joining the WCCC mailing list

Workshop 2: Virtual field tours

14 respondents, 36% producer/farmer

- 79% said their knowledge of cover crop use in the West increased 'somewhat' because of participating in the webinar, 21% said that it increased "a lot"
- 57% were very likely to seek out more information about something they learned in the webinar
- 60% were somewhat likely, 40% very likely to start using a new cover cropping strategy based on what they learned in the webinar
- 100% planned to increase the number of acres they cover crop
- 38% rated the workshop as good, 62% rated it as very good
- Planned to put into practice what they learned about interseeding and compost
- Want to learn more about cover crops in dryland regions, integration of grazing, quantifying N credits from legumes
- Interest in joining working groups for "optimizing cover crops for grazing" and "cover crop use in dryland systems"

Workshop 3: Building soil health and natural capital

~20 respondents, 48% producer/farmer

- 71% said their knowledge of cover crop use in the West increased 'somewhat' because of participating in the webinar, 29% said that it increased "a lot"
- 48% were very likely to seek out more information about something they learned in the webinar
- 50% were somewhat likely, 20% very likely to start using a new cover cropping strategy based on what they learned in the webinar
- 30% planned to increase the number of acres they cover crop
- 70% rated the workshop as good (50%) or very good (20%)
- Planned to make use of software to track grazing, soil and farm practices

- Other topics of interest: grazing animals other than beef, carbon storage/carbon credit, NRCS requirements about species, systems thinking in agriculture
- Want development of a decision make tool based on regional climates to help growers choose what to plant based on their goals
- Most interest in joining a working group for “measuring and monitoring soil health”

Workshop 4: Emerging themes

~11 respondents, 58% producer/farmer

- 71% said their knowledge of cover crop use in the West increased ‘somewhat’ because of participating in the webinar, 29% said that it increased “a lot”
- 82% were very likely to seek out more information about something they learned in the webinar
- 50% were somewhat likely, 33% very likely to start using a new cover cropping strategy based on what they learned in the webinar
- 29% planned to increase the number of acres they cover crop
- 45% rated the workshop as good, 36% rated it as very good
- Next step for most was to look at more resources (cover crop selection, tools, soil tests)
- Want more information on soil health metrics, how to choose best ones
- Participant advice to reach out to agricultural lenders to explain regenerative agriculture goals, will improve success of lending
- Most interest in joining a working group for “understanding the cost/benefit analysis of cover crop us”

Common themes throughout all evaluations (including PNW series & Field Days)

- Importance of producer experience/perspective/knowledge sharing
- Cost/benefit analyses of cover cropping in various Ag systems
- Need help with cover crop species selection that is very specific to situation
- Logistics of cover cropping: access to seed, seeding, equipment, termination, timing, etc.
- Many interested in alternative ways to incorporate cover crops into their system: interseeding, overseeding, dual-purpose cover crops, grazing, etc.
- Better explanation of how to access incentives, who qualifies/who does not
- How to measure cover crop management effects on soil health
- Interest in joining specific working groups to tackle topics of interest



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