**Increasing Varietal Suitability** and Availability of Cowpea and Forage Radish Cover Crop Seed for Northern Climates

Frank Kutka, NPSAS FBC LNC 12-347

NCR-SARE's Farmers Forum, 2015



Advancing sustainable agriculture since 1988

#### Soil Health Matters!



#### The Infiltration Test



#### The Slake Test



# Cover Crops Support Soil Health







#### Daikon Radish, Raphanus sativus



### Daikon Radish, Raphanus sativus





# Daikon Radish, Raphanus sativus

#### Daikon Radish, Raphanus sativus



### Daikon Radish, Raphanus sativus









**Our Radish Study Sites** 

#### FBC evaluated 56, and then used 8





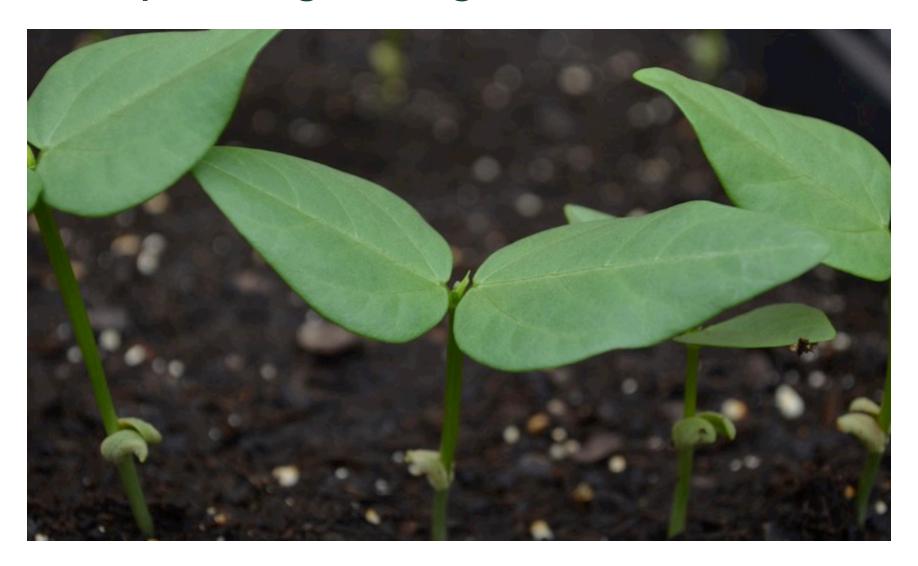
Katrina
Becker at
Stoney Acres
CSA in
Athens, WI

#### Further Work with Daikon Radish

- Root storage study 2014-2015
- Variety demonstrations in 2015
- Further increase and initial selections within our new breeding population
- Field days to include farmer and gardener input on variety choices and breeding selections











#### Dry Seed Can Be Grown in the North!



#### 96 Cowpea Varieties Screened in 2012





# Seed Increase in Puerto Rico



**Our Cowpea Study Sites** 

#### 2013 North Dakota Cowpea Trial



# 2013 North Dakota Cowpea Trial



#### Seed Increase in Puerto Rico



#### Seed Increase in Puerto Rico



#### Cowpea Seeds Back from Puerto Rico



The Cowpea Weevil



# Collaborator Pat Carr at Carrington



#### 2014 North Dakota Cowpea Trial



# 2014 Wisconsin Cowpea Trial



### 2014 Wisconsin Cowpea Trial



#### Purple Hulled Varieties are Pretty



#### Some Cowpeas Matured in 2014



# Some Cowpeas Matured Slowly



#### Cowpeas are sometimes Erect



#### Red Ripper is a True Cover Variety



#### 2014 North Dakota Cowpea Trial

**Participatory Evaluation of** Cowpea Varieties for Northern Regions

#### Further Cowpea Evaluation

- Seed of eight varieties is being increased at the University of Puerto Rico Lajas Ag Experiment Station this winter
- In 2015 our partners will evaluate the eight varieties in the Dakotas and Wisconsin
- FBC plans to hold additional field days and a meeting in the fall to get farmer input concerning the choice of a variety or two to increase and sell
- We wonder about getting input from gardeners and cooks as well in case the food value of these varieties might be important for future marketing
- You are invited to take part!

