

2014 SARE Cover Crop Survey Results

The following information summarizes results of a soil health/cover crop survey that was conducted at a field tour at Scott Peterson's farm in Floodwood, MN. The survey was conducted as part of a 2014 SARE Farmer/Rancher Grant entitled, "Adapting Cover Crops to Northern Climate Conventional Cropping Systems." The survey was completed by 15 individuals.

1.) What do you raise/grow on your farm (circle all that apply)?

	beef	dairy	sheep	pasture	hay	corn	soybeans	small grain
Total	7	1	1	7	9	2	1	3
Percentage of Respondents	47%	7%	7%	47%	60%	13%	7%	20%

2.) How would you describe your knowledge and experience with cover crops?

	Limited	Moderate	Advanced
Total	6	8	1
Percentage of Respondents	40%	53%	7%

3.) If you have grown cover crops what did you plant? For what purpose did you plant?

47% of respondents indicated that they had grown cover crops. The following table includes the raw data.

Respondent	What	Why
1	Ryegrass	
6	forage corn, turnips, sunflowers, oats, white clover, rye	forage, weed suppression
7	clover, Japanese millet	plow down
9	oats	forage, weed suppression
10	spring wheat, oilseed radishes	compaction, organic matter
11		
12	radish, cow peas, vetch, sudan, annual ryegrass	forage, soil builder, organic matter
15	oats	hay cover crop

4.) Did this project further your understanding of cover crops and their benefits?

	yes	no
Total	14	1
Percentage of Respondents	93%	7%

5.) Are you interested in trying on your farm the cover cropping strategy that you observed today?

	yes	no	No Response
Total	9	1	5
Percentage of Respondents	60%	7%	33%

6.) Please rate your interest in cover crops for the following items:

	Not Interested	Somewhat Interested	Very Interested	No Response
Spring Forage Production	13%	27%	33%	27%
Summer Forage Production	7%	20%	47%	27%
Fall Forage Production	7%	13%	60%	20%
Environmental Benefits	7%	20%	67%	7%
Increased soil biology (water quality)	7%	13%	67%	13%
Break up compacted soil	0%	20%	73%	7%
Increased water infiltration	7%	13%	67%	13%
Increased soil cover	0%	20%	67%	13%

7.) Do you have any further cover crop interests that you would like to see demonstrated or researched?

Only six of the respondents answered this question. Answers included, "family/farm garden use," "cover crop to compete with weeds in hay and pasture," "weed suppression in small grain crops," "plow down," "good understanding of current recommended practices demonstrated at hands-on tours are very valuable to me," "interested in learning anything," and "no."