**Appendix 3 – Cover Crops Survey**

This survey is anonymous and voluntary. The average time to complete it is 5-10 minutes. Responses will be used to refine cover crops presentations. Thank you in advance for completing this survey!

**1. How many acres do you farm?**

0-10 10-50 50-100 100+

**2. What crops do you produce? You may circle more than one answer.**

livestock row crops vegetable crops tree fruit crops ornamental/specialty crops

**3. Have you used cover crops in the last three years?**

yes no

**4. If you have used cover crops in the last three years, how many acres of them did you plant?**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acres

**5. What type of cover crop(s) did you plant? You may circle more than one answer.**

legumes (e.g., hairy vetch, crimson clover)

grasses (e.g., cereal rye, annual ryegrass, winter wheat)

brassicas (e.g., yellow mustard, forage radish, turnip)

other (e.g., buckwheat)

mixtures or “cocktails” (e.g., hairy vetch + cereal rye)

**6. Why did you plant cover crops? You may circle more than one answer.**

erosion control

water management (e.g., to use as a mulch, to be able to plant a wet field earlier in spring)

to improve the soil (e.g., decrease compaction, add organic matter)

to scavenge nitrogen or to produce nitrogen (legumes)

to decrease disease or insect problems in a field

wildlife habitat

as part of a cost-share program

**7. What is your single biggest concern about (or problem with) cover crops?**

cost to use cover crops (e.g., seed and planting costs)

time needed to manage cover crops

difficulty in choosing what cover crop(s) to use

difficulty managing cover crops

potential negative impact of cover crops on following cash crop (e.g., nitrogen tie-up)

**8. Before this workshop, how aware were you of the benefits of cover crops with regard to soil health?**

1 2 3 4 5

very neutral very aware

**not** aware

**9. What topics would you like to hear more about? You may circle more than one answer.**

Cover crops and field water dynamics (e.g., erosion control, percolation)

Cover crops and soil physical properties (e.g., compaction)

Cover crops and soil fertility (e.g., nutrient cycling)

Cover crops and soil organisms

**10. Before this workshop, were you aware that nitrogen could be lost from farm fields as part of greenhouse gas emissions?**

yes no

**11. Are you interested in learning more about the influence of cover crops on greenhouse gas emissions?**

yes no