



Event Summary – UVM Extension Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team

EVENT TITLE: 2016 Cover Crop Field Day for TSPs
EVENT DATE: May 3, 2016
EVENT TIME: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (3 hours)
EVENT LOCATION: Foster Bros. Farm (Middlebury, VT)
Clifford Farm (Starksboro, VT)
AUDIENCE: 23 total attendees
(1 farmer, 2 agribusiness service providers,
16 Agency staff, 4 Extension/University)

SUMMARY:

The UVM Extension Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team hosted a cover crop field day targeted to individuals who provide technical assistance or other services to farmers who are interested in growing cover crops. The field day was advertised to service providers through email announcements from UVM Extension as well as internally through VACD and NRCS. The goal was to share some of the results from our Vermont NRCS Conservation Grants, “Better Cover Crop Mixes for Vermont” and “Soil Health Demonstration Farm” and a USDA-NIFA and SARE funded research project, “Evaluating Forage Radish to Enhance Winter Rye Cover Crops” in hopes that it will assist them when giving recommendations to producers relating to successfully implementing cover cropping practices.



We visited four different demonstration/research sites during the field day:

1. *Foster Brothers Farm – CIG Soil Health Demonstration & CIG Compaction projects*
We re-visited the soil health field day site from October 2015 to see how the cover crop plots over wintered and discussed preliminary results from cover crop, soil health and compaction projects funded through CIG grants
2. *Foster Brothers Farm – CIG “Better Cover Crop Mixes for Vermont”*
We visited a no-till corn field that was one of 7 locations for our demonstration project evaluating 10 different three-way cover crop mixes planted at three different times (interseeded @ V7, interseeded @ R2 and drilled after corn harvest)
3. *Clifford Farm - CIG “Better Cover Crop Mixes for Vermont”*
Another corn field that was a demonstration site for the CIG grant evaluating cover crop mixes on a different soil type.
4. *Clifford Farm – USDA-NIFA Winter Rye and Radish cover crops*
In another field on the same farm, we visited a NIFA funded research project evaluating forage radish and winter cover crops, both broadcast and drilled at different seeding rates after a timely corn harvest.

The field day was successful, and we received positive feedback from multiple individuals expressing appreciation for the opportunity to see and discuss these different cover cropping systems. Having a targeted field day seemed a good way to discuss the particular issues relevant to technical service providers who are assisting producers.

SPONSORS:

This field day was based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2014-68006-21864 and a Northeast SARE Graduate Student Grant GNE-14-091 and a Vermont NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant.

