

Cover Crops and Soil Health Field Day

Event Details

Wednesday, October 10, 2018
Check in: 12:30-1:00 pm
Presentations: 1:00-4:00 pm



This event is open to the public and free to attend. Complimentary snacks and drinks will also be provided. ****Certified Crop Advisor CEU's are available. ****

Topics & Speakers

- ◆ Setting up no-till equipment, with equipment available for demonstration, Roy Hardy, NTC Agriculture Equipment instructor
- ◆ Rainfall simulator demonstration, Steve Krueger, NTC Crop Science Instructor
- ◆ Cover crop types and discussion, in field, Don Radtke, NTC Farm Operations Manager
- ◆ Soil Pit Analysis, in soil pit, Star Environmental Inc.
- ◆ Soil Health Partnership Field Manager, Tricia Verville

Location: NTC Agriculture Center of Excellence, 6625 County Road K, Wausau, WI 54401

****From Hwy 51, follow County Road K west approximately 4 miles. Farm is on the right.**

Questions?? Call Don Radtke at 715-803-1702 or radtke@ntc.edu



Topics & Speakers

- ◆ **Conservation Equipment Set Up:** Once there is a commitment to change a practice, it is important to learn how you can go about it on your own farm. Every piece of equipment needs to be tuned in for the type of ground it will be running on and how you will be using it. Walk through some typical equipment such as a no-till planter with crimper roller and learn about how to adjust the setting to get it to run like you want. Roy Hardy, NTC Agriculture Equipment Instructor
- ◆ **Rainfall erosion demonstrations:** We will start by understanding what soil principles enhance soil aggregation and infiltration rates. Once we understand what those things mean, we can explore how management practices on farm affect erosion potential. This will be tested by running the rainfall simulator and analyzing the results. Typically, the more tillage on a soil, the more erosion and the more natural a system, the less runoff of soil particles and better infiltration in the soil profile. Steve Krueger, NTC Crop Science Instructor
- ◆ **Cover crop management –in field:** A mixture of cover crop species has been planted on a field active in the Soil Health Partnership that Northcentral Technical College farms. The session will start by discussing the layout of the field and importance of replicated trials with specific protocols to be able to use soil health data for the good of the individual farm and good of the group. Data relating to soil health and conservation practices is important so we can not only see how the practices are working on a management level, but also an economic level. Then we will move into how the cover crops were planted, experiences with these species and others used in the past, species ID and management considerations with cover crops in corn, soybeans and alfalfa. Don Radtke, NTC Farm Operations Manager
- ◆ **Soil Pit Exploration with Star Environmental Inc.:** Discovering what is below the surface of the soil and learning about horizons, root activity and water movement through the profile. A soil pit will be dug and we will walk through what the things we find mean for growing crops. Trying to help piece out how the background geography played a part in forming the soil there today and discussing how management practices can affect these different layers individually.



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Cover Crops and Soil Health Field Day

Save the Date - October 2, 2019!

This event is designed to feature guest speakers with a variety of expertise in areas including, cover crops and soil health in agriculture. Additional details on speakers and topics will be shared as information is finalized.

This event is open to the public and free to attend. Complimentary snacks and drinks will also be provided.

AGENDA

- 12:30 p.m. Registration
- 1:00 p.m. Welcome
Don Radtke, NTC Farm Operations Manager
- 1:15 p.m. Soil Pit Analysis
Star Environmental, Inc.
- 2:00 p.m. Precision Farming and Equipment Set-Up
Roy Hardy, NTC Adjunct Instructor
- 3:00 p.m. No-Till vs. Conventional / Minimal Tillage
Don Radtke and Steve Krueger, NTC Instructor
- 3:30 p.m. Soil Health Partnership
Jim Isermann, Field Manager

LOCATION

NTC Agriculture Center of Excellence
6625 County Road K
Wausau, WI 54401
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EVENT DETAILS

Wednesday, October 2, 2019
Check-in: 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Presentation: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Free to attend

****Certified Crop Advisor CEU's will also be available for the day.**



QUESTIONS? Contact Don Radtke at 715.803.1702 or radtke@ntc.edu