

# From the Ground Up: Cover Crop Solutions for Western Farmers

2021 Pacific Northwest Sub-Regional Webinar Series  
February 16 – March 16, 2021

Evaluation Highlights of Four Post-Workshop Surveys



National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



*This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2018-38640-28418 through the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under project number WESP19-01. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

## **PNW Workshop 1 Evaluation:** Cover crop use in the West and the WCCC (Feb 16)

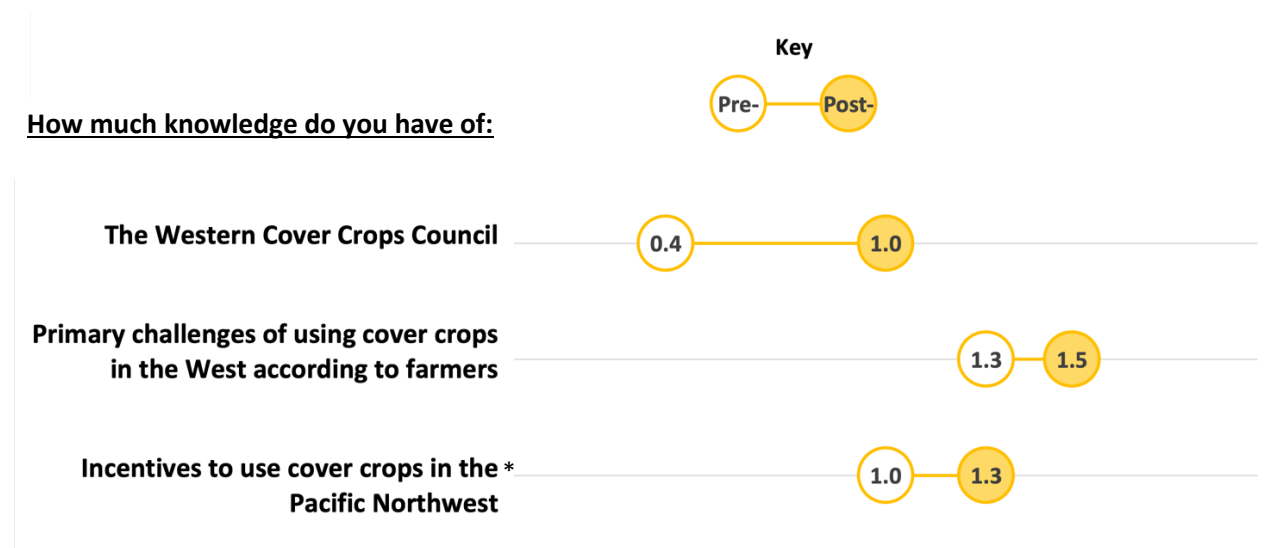
### Overview of post-survey results

50 respondents, 65% producer/farmer

- **72%** said their knowledge of cover crop use in the West increased ***somewhat*** because of participating in the webinar, **20%** said that it increased ***a lot***
- **58%** were ***very likely*** to seek out more information about something they learned in the webinar
- **64%** were ***somewhat likely*** or ***very likely*** to start using a new cover cropping strategy based on what they learned in the webinar
- **56%** planned to increase the number of acres they cover crop
- **47%** rated the workshop as ***good***, **22%** rated as ***very good***
- Respondents expressed substantial interest in NRCS programs, specifically EQIP
- Many respondents wanted to join the WCCC mailing list after the workshop

The following three figures compare aggregated pre- and post-Workshop 1 evaluation data for the **22 participants** whose evaluation answers were linked via self-generated ID codes.

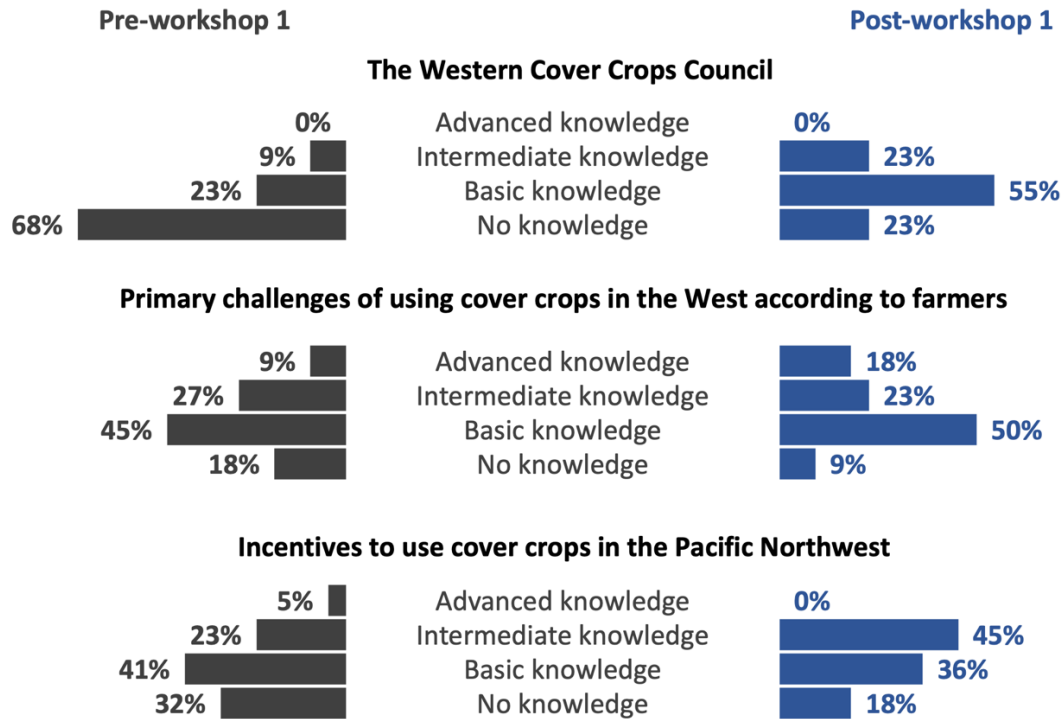
Workshop 1 participants (n=22) self-reported an **increased in their average knowledge score** from pre- to post-workshop on all three learning targets:



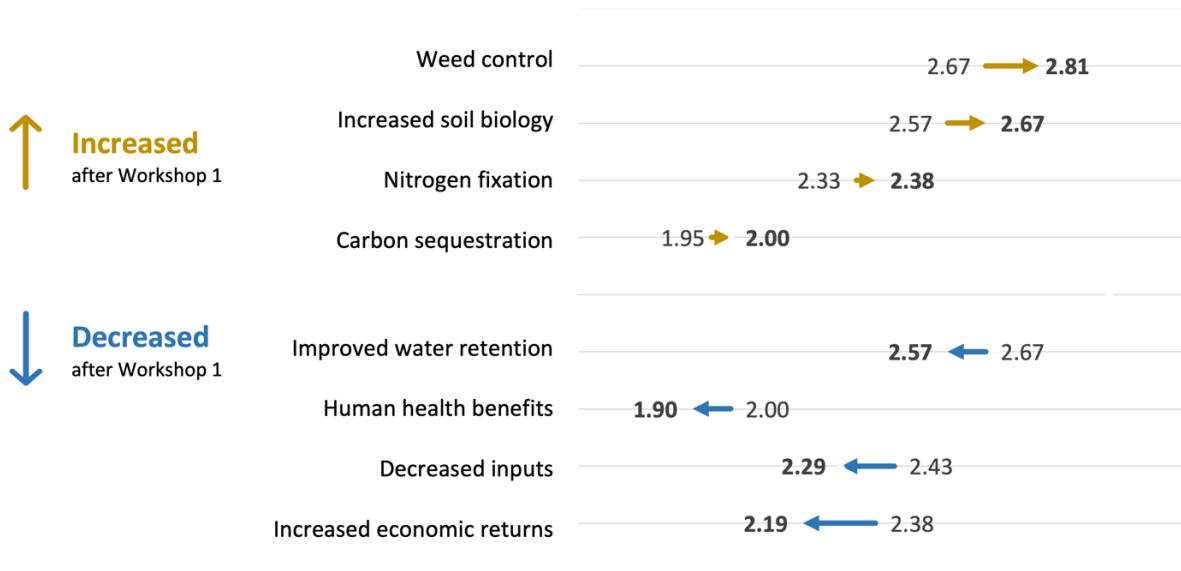
Participants rated their knowledge of these topics as No knowledge (0), Basic knowledge (1), Intermediate knowledge (2), or Advanced knowledge (3) before and after participating in the workshop. These are the average pre-and post-Workshop 1 scores for 22 participants.

*\* The language varied between this pre- and post-workshop question. The post-workshop question specifically asked: "How much knowledge do you have of the **NRCS-EQIP program?**"*

Workshop 1 participants (n=22) **knowledge rating shift** of each learning target before and after the workshop:



Workshop 1 participants' (n=22) perception of **how important the following potential impacts of using cover crops** are, before and after the workshop:



Participants indicated how important these potential impacts of using cover crops are from their perspective before and after Workshop 1: Not at all important (0), slightly important (1), moderately important (2), or very important (3). These are the average pre-and post-Workshop 1 scores for 22 participants.

## **PNW Workshop 2 Evaluation**: Current cover crop projects in vegetable production (Feb23)

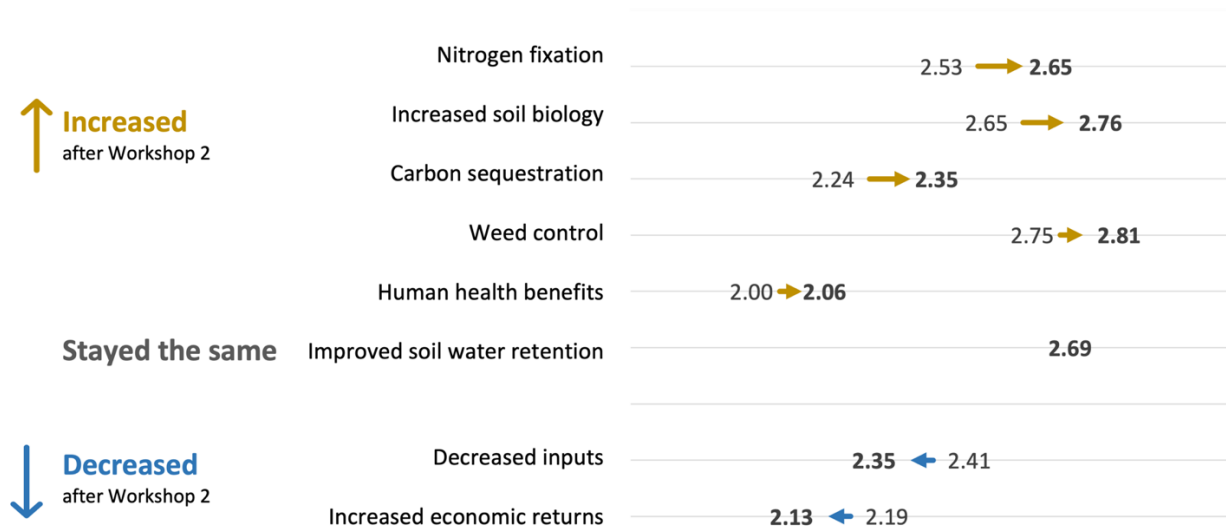
### Overview of post-survey results

~40 respondents, 70% producer/farmer

- **62%** said their knowledge of cover crop use in the West increased ***somewhat*** because of participating in the webinar, **33%** said that it increased ***a lot***
- **74%** were ***very likely*** to seek out more information about something they learned in the webinar
- **29%** were ***somewhat likely***, **64% *very likely*** to start using a new cover cropping strategy based on what they learned in the webinar
- **74%** planned to increase the number of acres they cover crop
- **40%** rated the workshop as ***good***, **45%** rated it as ***very good***
- Interest in learning more about cover crop varieties, timing of planting, terminating, etc
- "It would be great if there were a Q&A group for farmers to teach each other or even to continue farm tours throughout the year with virtual access."

Aggregated pre- and post-Workshop 2 evaluation data for the **17 participants** whose workshop evaluation answers were linked via self-generated identification codes.

Workshop 2 participants' (n=17) perception of **how important the following potential impacts of using cover crops** are, before and after the workshop:



Participants indicated how important these potential impacts of using cover crops are from their perspective before and after Workshop 2: Not at all important (0), slightly important (1), moderately important (2), or very important (3). These are the average pre-and post-Workshop 2 scores for 17 participants.

**PNW Workshop 3 Evaluation:** Current cover crop projects – Dryland and irrigated system of the inland PNW (Mar 2)

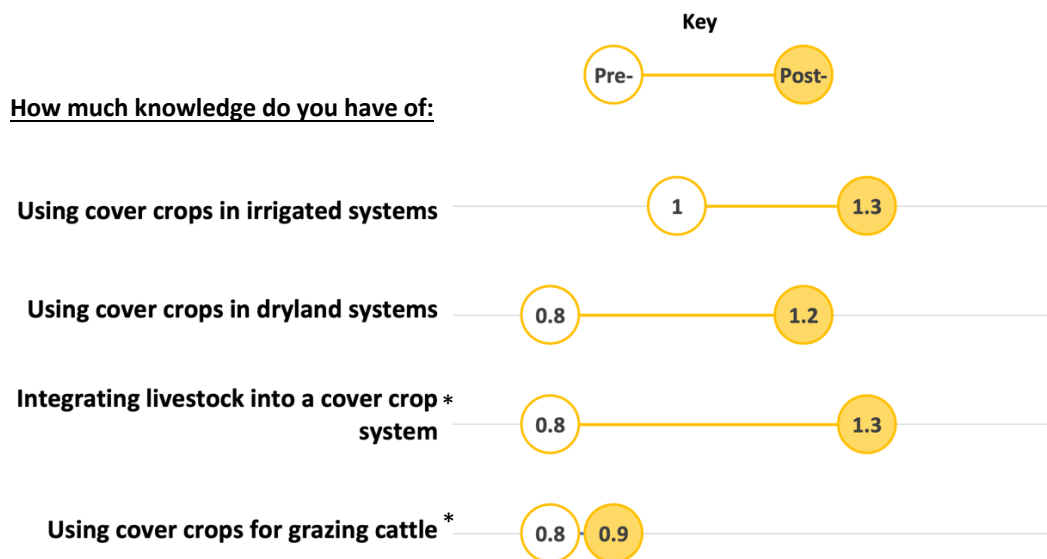
Overview of Workshop 3 evaluation

29 respondents, 55% producer/farmer

- **72%** said their knowledge of cover crop use in the West increased **somewhat** because of participating in the webinar, **24%** said that it increased **a lot**
- **79%** were **very likely** to seek out more information about something they learned in the webinar
- **40%** were **somewhat likely**, **40% very likely** to start using a new cover cropping strategy based on what they learned in the webinar
- **71%** planned to increase the number of acres they cover crop
- **46.5%** rated the workshop as **good**, 46.5% rated it as **very good**
- Substantial interest in CC mixes and integration of livestock
- Most interest in joining a working group for “optimizing cover crops for grazing”

The following three figures compare aggregated pre- and post-Workshop 3 evaluation data for the **13 participants** whose evaluation answers were linked via self-generated ID codes.

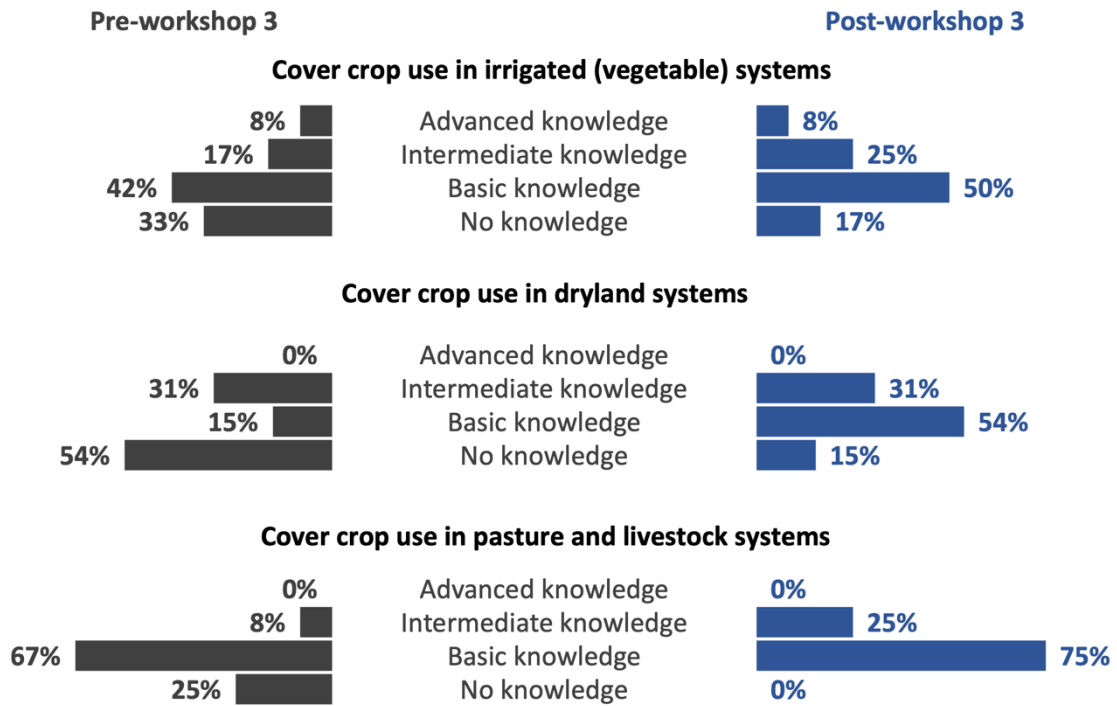
Workshop 3 participants (n=13) self-reported an **increase in their average knowledge score** from pre- to post-workshop on all three learning targets:



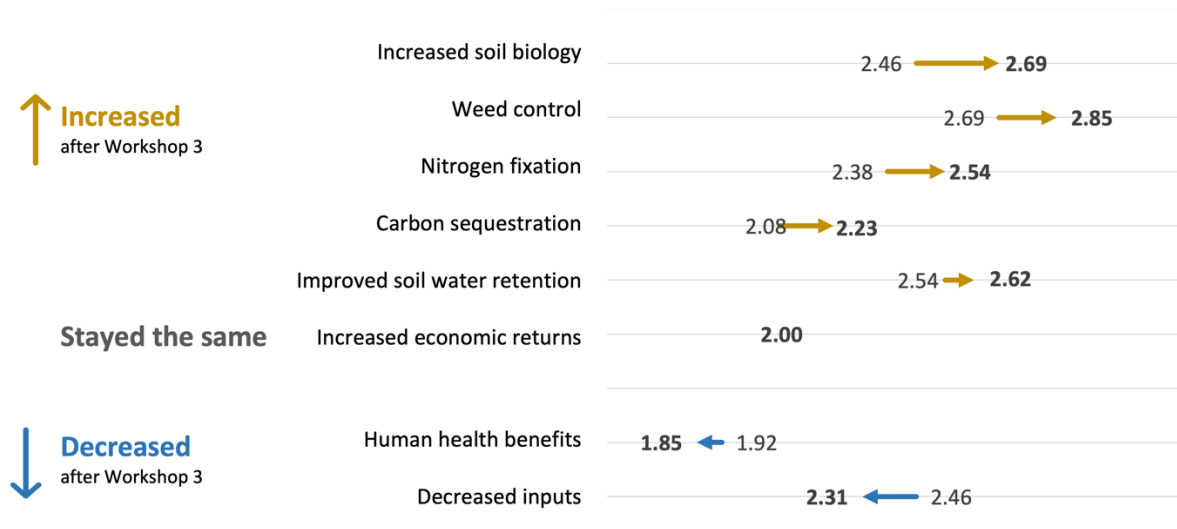
Participants rated their knowledge of these topics as No knowledge (0), Basic knowledge (1), Intermediate knowledge (2), or Advanced knowledge (3) before and after participating in the workshop. These are the average pre-and post-Workshop 3 scores for 13 participants.

\* The pre-workshop question was, “How much knowledge do you have of using cover crops in pasture and livestock systems in the PNW?”, and the post-workshop questions were: “How much knowledge do you have of 1) Integrating livestock into a cover crop system; and 2) Using cover crops for grazing cattle?”

Workshop 3 participants (n=13) **knowledge rating shift** of each learning target before and after the workshop:



Workshop 3 participants' (n=13) perception of **how important the following potential impacts of using cover crops** are, before and after the workshop:



Participants indicated how important these potential impacts of using cover crops are from their perspective before and after Workshop 1: Not at all important (0), slightly important (1), moderately important (2), or very important (3). These are the average pre-and post-Workshop 3 scores for 13 participants.

## PNW Workshop 4 Evaluation: Topics in cover crop seed (Mar 9)

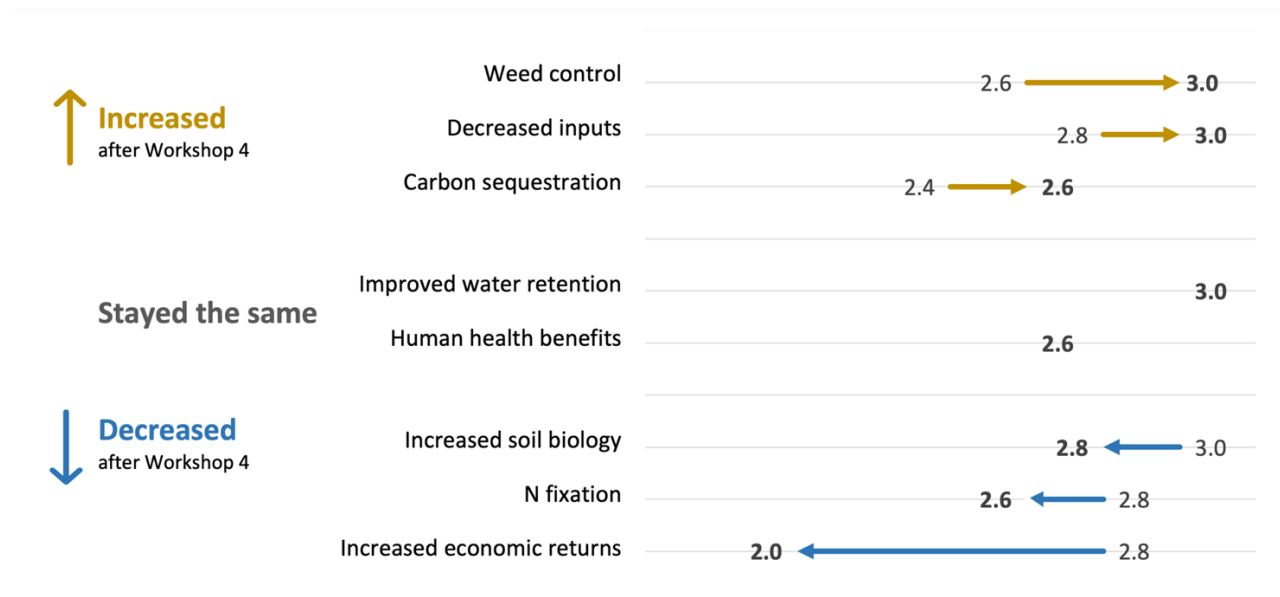
### Overview of post-survey results

16 respondents, 53% producer/farmer

- **47%** said their knowledge of opportunities for cover crop use in the PNW increased **somewhat** because of participating in the webinar, 53% said that it increased **a lot**
- **41%** said their knowledge of different cover crop species/varieties increased **somewhat** because of webinar, **59%** increased **a lot**
- **75%** were **very likely** to seek out more information about something they learned in the webinar
- **12.5%** were **somewhat likely**, **87.5%** **very likely** to start using a new cover cropping strategy based on what they learned in the webinar
- **87.5%** planned to increase the number of acres they cover crop
- **67%** rated the workshop as **good**, **33%** rated it as **very good**
- Interest in inter-seeding cereal grains with other cover crops and working with seed companies
- Greatest interest in joining working group related to **cover crop variety trials**

Aggregated pre- and post-Workshop 4 evaluation data for the **5 participants** whose workshop evaluation answers were linked via self-generated identification codes.

Workshop 4 participants' (n=5) perception of **how important the following potential impacts of using cover crops** are, before and after the workshop:



Participants indicated how important these potential impacts of using cover crops are from their perspective before and after Workshop 4: Not at all important (0), slightly important (1), moderately important (2), or very important (3). These are the average pre-and post-Workshop 4 scores for 5 participants.