



SARE Cover Crop Research on Northeast Community College Farm

Feb. 20, 2020, Advisory committee meeting

Jeff Eisenminger, Ben Wolken, Caleb Zohner, Devon Johnson, Kent Warneke, Rob Thomas, Corinne Morris, and Sarah Sellin all present

After introductions Sarah explained what the Consortium is, what is the goal, how NECC works with other schools, what our project is, and how we can assist students and producers.

Described our project, see attached packet. Stressed how we plan on adjusting for the future.

Dinner

Committee agreed that we are doing well with connecting with students, but they shared their own struggles with working with producers. Devon suggested that one-on-one has always been more successful to him; he proposed somehow having the student get a producer on the school farm, to explain to them a conservation practice (maybe this could fit into our capstone course). Caleb shared his struggles with cover crops, the main one being to somehow have shared equipment (like a grass drill) that producers could use (similar to what the NRD does). Jeff was very supportive of trying to build a relationship with the local NRD...we are close enough they could bring in producers for field days. Ben was thinking if we tried something very "out of the box" for this area, like relay cropping, we might be able to bring people in that way. Corinne thought maybe we could start an "exchange student" program with the other schools in the consortium, to share experiences from different areas.

Mission

Northeast Community College is dedicated to the success of students and the region it serves.

Goals to work on throughout this year:

- talk with the NRD about a collaboration of sorts
- talk with Tad from Northeast Iowa about exchanging a student
- maybe look at R2 field for relay cropping for 2021, if R5 will be utilized for construction for new buildings. Grant would roll over to this field.
- Utilize a very diverse mix for cover crop after barley, so we can continue to use that for plant identification in forage class
- Check on lease for combine; can we get a combine head for barley by July? Would need if we want to produce barley for grain.
- Speak with Bob and Tee about having students make a producer connection to explain a conservation practice (on NECC site)

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