

# Growing Your Own Cover Crop



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Corning, Iowa

# How We Got Started

Heavy Spring Rains

Soil Erosion Problems

Current Practices Weren't Enough





# How We Plant

1990 Air Seeder  
45 to 60 lbs/acre  
Even stand  
Better cold emergence



4030 with Dry Box  
55 lbs/acre  
Faster  
Need a rain



# The Growing Season

Nutrients to standing crop

Scout often (especially in a wet season)

Plan for fungicide

Watch for army worms in following crops





# Harvest

Mid to late July harvest

Follow with another cover  
(Clovers, radishes, etc)

Cool Grain

Approximately \$1 for cleaning



# Home Grown Cover Crops

Dick Sloan  
Rowley, IA

Do it yourself methods to minimize the expense of integrating cover  
crop blends into a corn/corn/soybean rotation



Winter Cereal Rye  
Soft Red Winter Wheat  
6 row Winter Barley





# Crop scouting, stages, experiments





# Straw value, diverse cover crop mixes





Soybeans rotating to corn						
	290 acres all drilled WBR 522					
Corn going back to corn						
	170 acres					
		100 acres flown Wheat and Barley + Oats and Radish				
		70 acres drilled WBR432				
Corn rotating to soybeans						
	286 acres					
		80 acres flown Rye + Triticale, Oats, and Rape				
		206 acres drilled WBR 522				
sm. Grain	flown bu.	drilled bu.	bu. In bin	bu. To Sell		
Rye	72	350	1100	680		
Wheat	84	341	650	225		
Barley	32	230	320	58		



# Grain cleaner modified for rye and wheat





Removes unthreshed heads, smalls, dirt...





# Tox-O-Wik 350

1973 batch dryer

Used to debeard barley

Used to polish wheat

Add a blower to remove chaff?



# Mixer simplifies handling





Auger wagon moves blends to field



small grain	planting date	planting rate	fertilizer rate	fertilizer date	harvest date	grain yield	acres	production
		lbs./acre				bushels/acre		bushels
vns cereal rye	10/1/2012	56	none	n.a.	7/5/2013	24	13	312
vns cereal rye	10/14/2013	112	55-52-120	4/18/2014	7/22/2014	41	20	820
hg cereal rye	10/11/2014	100	30-0-120-10	4/17/2015	7/22/2015	38	20	760
SRW wheat	9/29/2014	94	30-0-120-10	4/17/2015	7/23/2015	65	10	650
Spooner rye	10/2/2015	110	45-26-60-10	3/22/2016	7/26/2016	60	20	1200
SRW wheat	10/3/2015	110	85-26-60-10	3/22/2016	7/26/2016	45	16	720
winter barley	10/5/2015	96	45-26-60-10	3/22/2016	7/2/2016	60	5.5	330
Spooner rye	10/11/2016	109	15-26-60-12	11/11/2016		50	18	900
hg w wheat	10/7/2016	106	15-26-60-12	11/11/2016		75	11	825
hg w barley	10/11/2016	98	15-26-60-12	11/11/2016		50	7	350



Year	Acres flown	Acres drilled	\$ flown	\$ drilled	\$ sold
2013	384	330	\$17,177.00	\$13,074.00	
2014	340	340	\$16,061.00	\$7,270.00	
2015	315	400	\$9,895.00	\$3,311.00	
2016	180	565	\$6,242.00	\$600.00	\$7,000.00