Cereal rye cover crop seeded into corn at time of side-dressing

Objective: Quantify the persistence and biomass production of a cereal rye cover crop that is seeded into standing corn at the same time as side-dressing nitrogen fertilizer (early June).

Farmer-cooperators, Jack Boyer & Tim Sieren, will:

- Take photos throughout the project.
- Keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions.
- Spring 2015, plant corn of the same variety and plant population across entire field.
- Establish a minimum of 4 replications at the time of side-dressing as shown in the diagram below with randomized and replicated strips of:
  - Corn with no cover crop (control)
  - Corn with cereal rye interseeded
- Strips will be as wide as at least one combine pass and run the length of the field.
- Fall 2015, harvest corn from each strip separately, record yield of each strip.
- Collect biomass samples of cover crops at corn harvest and end of season prior to hard frost.
- Spring 2016, collect biomass samples of cover crops prior to termination.
- Turn in data to Practical Farmers of Iowa at the end of project.

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Practical Farmers of Iowa will:

- Help set up monitoring protocol
- Monitor progress of project and provide support when needed
- Publish results in a PFI research report, on PFI website, and potentially other outlets
- Provide $550 compensation at conclusion of the project in 2016

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