

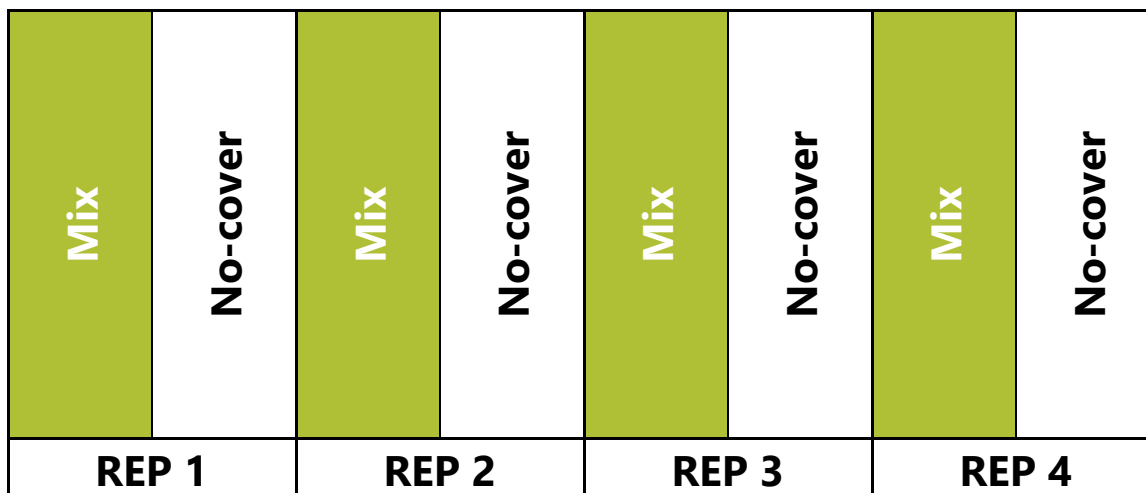
Field Crops Research Protocols

Spring-Seeded Cover Crop Mixes Ahead of Soybeans

Objective: Quantify the agronomic and economic effect on soybeans following spring-seeded cover crop mixes.

Farmer-cooperator will:

- Take photos throughout the project and keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions.
- **Early Spring 2017**, plant at least four replicated strips of cover crop mixes and no-cover control in two fields as shown in diagram below.
 - *Field 1:* hairy vetch + lentils + crimson clover + oats + barley + rapeseed + flax + sunflower.
 - *Field 2:* oats + barley.
- Strips will be as wide as at least one combine pass and run the length of the field
- **Spring 2017**, collect aboveground biomass samples of cover crop mixes in both fields near termination.
- Plant soybeans and terminate the cover crop mixes in both fields.
- Collect soil moisture readings at soybean planting, cover crop termination, 2 weeks after planting and 6-8 weeks after planting.
- **Fall 2017**, harvest soybeans from strips, record yield of each strip from both fields.
- Turn in data to Practical Farmers of Iowa at the end of project.



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 \$1,100 compensation at conclusion of the project in 2017.

Contact: Stefan Gailans, Research and Field Crops Director, (515) 232-5661; stefan@practicalfarmers.org