



**RESEARCH  
 PROTOCOLS**

**Interseeding Cover Crops to Corn  
 in Early Summer**

**Objective:** Determine the effect on corn grain yield of cover crops interseeded to corn in early summer.

**Hypothesis:** Interseeding cover crops will produce yields similar to where no cover crops are interseeded. Interseeding cover crops to corn in early summer will successfully establish cover crops.

**Farmer-Cooperator will:**

- Follow Research Protocols in accordance with Project Design, Data to Collect, Photo List and Timeline detailed below.
- Take photos throughout the project. Try to capture photos that depict the differences you observe among the treatments.
- Keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions.
- Turn in data and complete post-project survey by November 2020.

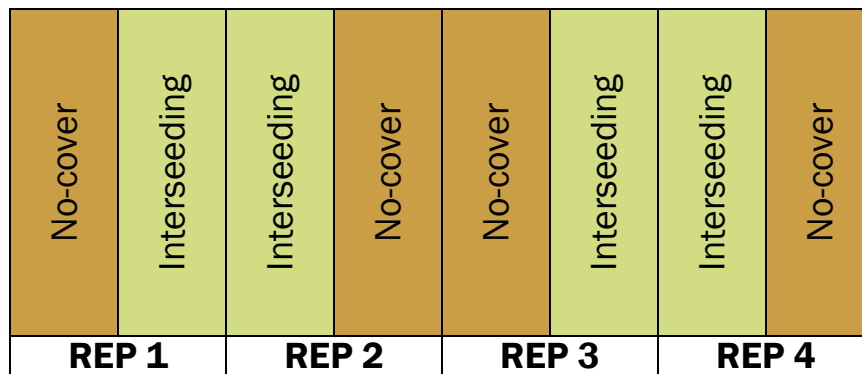
**Practical Farmers of Iowa will:**

- Help set up research 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 research honorarium to cooperator upon receipt of data.

**Project Design:**

Treatment	Description
Interseeding	Interseed cover crops to corn in early summer when corn reaches ~V4 stage or at layby (last pass through field).
No-cover	No interseeded cover crops (control).

- Apply these two treatments in a randomized, replicated trial: at least four replications of randomized paired strips. 2 treatments x 4 replications = 8 strips total.
- Cover crops for interseeding are entirely at the discretion of the cooperator.
- Strips must be at least as wide as one combine pass and should run the length of the field.
  - Example layout:



**Data to Collect (cooperator):**

- Corn grain yield
  - Harvest and record yield and moisture from each strip.
- Cover crop biomass
  - Just prior to corn harvest, sample aboveground biomass from each strip.
    - Randomly place 1'x1' PVC square in strip
    - Use shears to clip all aboveground plant material from within the square
    - Place all plant material from a single square into one paper bag
    - Label paper bags accordingly
      - Rep #
      - Number of squares sampled from (e.g., 1 square = 1 ft<sup>2</sup>)
      - Date of collection
    - Optional: Repeat this process 2-3 times per strip
      - (e.g., 2-3 paper bags per strip)
    - Send paper bags to PFI office
      - Samples will be dried and weighed

**Photo List (cooperator):**

- Interseeding cover crops; equipment in field.
- Cover crops growing in interrows (throughout season).
  - Close-ups of each species.
  - Wider shots of multiple species growing together.
- Cooperator collecting data.
- Cooperator in field trial.

**Project Timeline:**

<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Fall</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plant corn to entire field.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interseed cover crops to 'Interseeding' strips when corn reaches ~V4 stage or at layby.</li><li>• Take photos.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collect cover crop biomass samples just prior to corn harvest.</li><li>• Harvest corn from all strips.</li><li>• Turn in data and photos.</li><li>• Take post-project survey.</li></ul>

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