

Cover Cropping			
	- Column	+ Column	
Qualitative Benefits of the Practice	Cost of Implementation and Potential Income Loss	Potential Income Gain and Reduced/Avoided Costs	Your Judgment: Value Per Acre of This Practice on Your Land
<p>Conserves soil moisture</p> <p>Adds valuable organic material to the soil</p> <p>Scavenges and holds nutrients that might otherwise be lost from the soil</p> <p>Protects water quality by holding soil and nutrients in place</p> <p>Increases diversity of plant species on the farm and may improve wildlife habitat</p> <p>Helps reduce weeds</p> <p>May allow reduced herbicide application on the cash crop</p> <p>Helps break pest and disease cycles</p> <p>The numbers in this table are broad estimates, and you should adjust them for your farm's conditions.</p>	<p>Cost of cover crop seed blend: \$20 to \$35 per acre, depending on cover crop types chosen (4)</p> <p>Cost of aerial seeding into standing corn or soybean crop: \$15 per acre (4)</p> <p>Cost of killing the cover crop prior to planting the cash crop: \$16/acre for tillage method, \$7/acre for ground spraying, \$10/acre for aerial spraying (6)</p> <p>Management cost for dealing with a more-complex system than corn & soybean: estimate at ¼ of crop rotation "Complexity Cost," so \$15/acre (see <i>Complexity Cost text box in Crop Rotation section</i>)</p>	<p>Corn and soybean income gain from yield gains per acre following cover crop; \$18/acre (see <i>Cover Crop Yield Gain textbox</i>)</p> <p>Avoided cost of nitrogen fertilizer because of nitrogen supplied by a legume cover crop: \$18/acre (see <i>Cover Crop Nitrogen text box</i>)</p> <p>\$8.60/acre/year gain in fertilizer value of soil by saving 4.1 tons/acre/year from soil erosion; cumulative over years (see <i>Value of Saving Soil text box in Crop Rotation section</i>)</p> <p>Benefit to society: approximately \$20/acre/year gain in water quality value of soil by saving 4.1 tons/acre/year of soil from erosion (see <i>Value of Saving Soil text box in Crop Rotation section</i>)</p>	<p>Potential income gain and costs avoided: +</p> <p>Potential income loss and costs to pay: -</p> <p>Your judgment on value to your farm of qualitative benefits: +</p> <p>Value to society or environment: +</p> <p>Add up the total net value per acre per year:</p> <p>Multiply by a time frame (5 years? 10 years?)</p> <p>Total value over time:</p>