

2014 MINNESOTA COVER CROPS SYMPOSIUM

Friday, April 4th

St. Cloud, MN

Agenda:

- 8:30 am Registration, coffee, and pastries
- 9:00 am Opening session: Moderator: Dr. Adam Birr, MN Corn Growers Association
Welcome and overview remarks - Don Baloun, NRCS
- 9:15 am Why consider cover crops in Minnesota? Benefits for ag industry and their farmer clients -
Dr. Rob Myers, USDA-SARE and a 2013-14 MISA Endowed Chair
- 9:45 am Cover crops and nitrogen credits - Dr. Matt Ruark, University of Wisconsin
- 10:30 am Coffee break
- 10:45 am Moderator: Kent Solberg, Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota
Industry perspective on integrating cover crops into an ag cooperative business -
Todd Geselius, Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative
- 11:00 am Farmer panel discussing their experiences with cover crops
Facilitator: Jill Sackett, U of MN Extension
Producers: Jerry Ackermann - Jackson County, Carmen Fernholz - Lac qui Parle County,
Tom Hammer - Sherburne County, Dean Richards - Fillmore County
- Noon Lunch buffet with luncheon speaker - Dave Frederickson, MDA
- 1:00 pm Afternoon session: Moderator - Rob Myers, USDA-SARE
Current and future cover crop options for Minnesota - Matt Leavitt, Albert Lea Seed
- 1:30 pm Using cover crops as a tool to enhance soil health - Doug Miller, NRCS
- 2:00 pm Update on agency programs with cover crops
- NRCS programs - Carissa Spencer
- MDA programs - Heidi Peterson
- 2:30 pm New high clearance equipment for seeding cover crops - Rachel Halbach, Hagie Equip.
- 2:40 pm Opportunities and challenges for the Minnesota ag industry in assisting farmers with
cover crops: a facilitated conversation with industry stakeholders and other farm advisors.
Facilitator - Jill Sackett and Betsy Wieland, University of Minnesota Extension
- 3:30 pm Adjourn