UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF COVER CROP PLANTING DATE IN ILLINOIS ROW CROP PRODUCTION

NATHAN JOHANNING

Extension Educator, Commercial Agriculture, University of Illinois Extension

618-939-3434

njohann@illinois.edu

Based in Waterloo, Nathan has more than 14 years of crop research and outreach experience in Illinois. He works closely with the Midwest Cover Crops Council (midwestcovercrops.org). As a Commercial Agriculture Educator, he works with farmers in the St. Louis Metro East counties to understand and research solutions to their production challenges. He conducts research on a local farm and the Southern Illinois University Belleville Research Center. He's honored to have earned the respect of many of his college mentors and work with them as peers. In his spare time, he unwinds with his family on the farm where he enjoys some of his favorite home-cooked foods.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCHERS

- **Dr. Talon Becker,** *Extension Educator, Commercial Agriculture*, University of Illinois
- **Luke Merritt,** *Research Specialist*, University of Illinois

TRIAL LOCATIONS

- **Highland Community College,** Freeport
- **Northwest Illinois Agriculture Research & Demonstration Center**, Monmouth
- **Orr Agricultural Research and Demonstration Center**, Baylis
- **Belleville Research Center**, Belleville
- **Ewing Demonstration Center**, Ewing

QUESTIONS THIS PROJECT WILL ADDRESS

- What is the ideal planting date to maximize survivability of cover crops and biomass production?
- How does cover crop planting date affect seeding rate?
- Which cover crops work best in a soybean/corn rotation?
- How does cover crop termination timing affect the following crop's stand, growth and yield?

YOUR ISA AGRONOMY TEAM CONTACT

Jennifer Jones

217.251.1276

jennifer.jones@ilsoy.org

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WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS RESEARCH

Cover crops are an important tool in preserving and increasing soil productivity, stewarding water resources, suppressing weeds and retaining nutrients. However, planting cover crops coincides with the busy harvest season. Also, research to influence best practices for successful cover crops has been limited across the vast Illinois growing environments.

This project will implement two different trials to inform how cover crops can best fit within a soybean/corn rotation:

- Cereal rye after corn harvest before no-till soybean
- Different clover species after soybean harvest before no-till corn

The trials will assess optimal planting windows, seeding rates, and termination timing to maximize overwintering; biomass production; and rotational crop stand, growth and yield.

GOALS OF THIS RESEARCH

Results of this trial are designed to give farmers more cover crop options in their management toolbox. They will be equipped with better guidance on planting dates and optimum cover crop species for their soybean-corn rotations.

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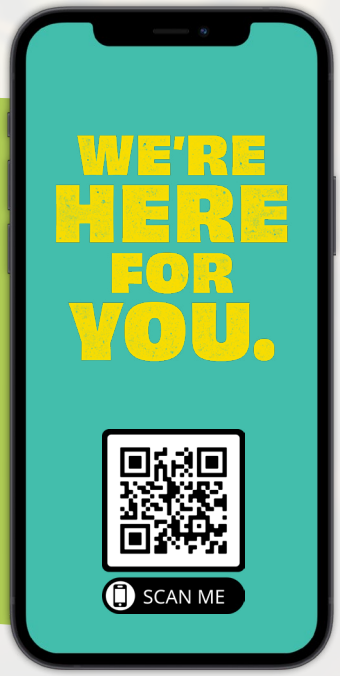
See updates and learn more about this project, the research team and other projects at ILSoyAdvisor.com and @ILSoyAdvisor on Facebook and Twitter.



Funded by the Illinois Soybean Association Checkoff Program.

The Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) checkoff and membership programs represent more than 43,000 soybean farmers in Illinois. The checkoff funds market development and utilization efforts while the membership program supports the government relations interests of Illinois soybean farmers at the local, state and national level through the Illinois Soybean Growers (ISG). ISA upholds the interests of Illinois soybean producers through promotion, advocacy and education with the vision of becoming a market leader in sustainable soybean production and profitability. For more information, visit the websites www.ilsoy.org and www.ilsoygrowers.com.

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