

# MCCC North Central Soybean Advisors Cover Crop Survey

**Hello CCA/Agronomist--**

**We are conducting a survey about North Central Region soybean growers to learn more about the use and challenges of including cover crops before and after soybeans. This survey is funded by a North Central Soybean Research Program grant and carried out by a team from the Midwest Cover Crops Council.**

**You can complete this paper survey or access it online via the following link:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5PDV788>**

**Return completed paper surveys to your workshop/meeting representative. Or, mail to:**

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Michigan State University Extension  
200 N Main St  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858  
Phone: 989-772-0911  
Email: [grossp@msu.edu](mailto:grossp@msu.edu)**

**We appreciate your time!**

**Please note:**

**This survey contains the same questions and content as the online version. If you have already completed an online survey, do not complete a printed survey.**

**This survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.**

**Your answers will remain anonymous.**

**This survey is intended for advisors to soybean growers.**

**For the purposes of this survey, a cover crop refers to any crops intentionally planted between traditional spring/summer crop production periods.**

**All information in this survey is confidential and will be used for statistical purposes only.**

**1. How many soybean farmers to you advise?**

**2. Approximately how many acres of soybeans are grown by farmers you advise?**

### 3. How often do you advise farmers to grow cover crops **BEFORE** soybeans?

**Check one.**

- ☐ a. Always
- ☐ b. Frequently
- ☐ c. Sometimes
- ☐ d. Never

### 4. How often do you advise farmers to grow cover crops **AFTER** soybeans?

**Check one.**

- ☐ a. Always
- ☐ b. Frequently
- ☐ c. Sometimes
- ☐ d. Never

### 5. Where are farmers you advise fitting cover crops into their soybean rotation(s)?

**Check all that apply.**

- ☐ a. Cover crops in a continuous soybean program
- ☐ b. Cover crops following corn and before soybeans
- ☐ c. Cover crops following soybeans and before corn
- ☐ d. Cover crops following a small grain cash crop before soybeans
- ☐ e. Cover crops on fields receiving manure
- ☐ Other (please specify)

### 6. Estimate how many acres of cover crops were grown by farmers you advise **BEFORE** soybeans planted in:

2011

2012

2013

## 7. Which of the categories of cover crops listed below do you recommend **BEFORE** soybeans?

**Check all that apply.**

- ☐ a. Winter cereal grains (e.g., winter wheat, cereal rye, winter barley)
- ☐ b. Annual grasses (e.g., annual ryegrass, sorghum, sorghum/sudangrass, oats)
- ☐ c. Legumes (e.g., clover, winter pea, vetch)
- ☐ d. Brassicas (e.g., oilseed radish, mustards, rape, turnips)
- ☐ e. Summer annual broadleaf (e.g., buckwheat, cowpea)
- ☐ f. Two-species mix
- ☐ g. Multi-species mix (3 or more species)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

## 8. What method do you recommend or supply to seed cover crops **BEFORE** soybeans?

**Check all that apply.**

- ☐ a. Drill
- ☐ b. Planter
- ☐ c. Broadcast only
- ☐ d. Broadcast with shallow incorporation
- ☐ e. Broadcast into standing crop (non-aerial)
- ☐ f. Aerial
- ☐ g. Mixed with fertilizer and spread
- ☐ h. Highboy seeding in combination with spray application
- ☐ i. Seeding with equipment on harvester
- ☐ j. With manure application
- ☐ Other (please specify)

## 9. Estimate how many acres of cover crops were grown by farmers you advise AFTER soybeans harvested in:

2011	<input type="text"/>
2012	<input type="text"/>
2013	<input type="text"/>

## 10. Which of the categories of cover crops listed below do you recommend AFTER soybeans?

**Check all that apply.**

- ☐ a. Winter cereal grains (e.g., winter wheat, cereal rye, winter barley)
- ☐ b. Annual grasses (e.g., annual ryegrass, sorghum, sorghum/sudangrass, oats)
- ☐ c. Legumes (e.g., clover, winter pea, vetch)
- ☐ d. Brassicas (e.g., oilseed radish, mustards, rape, turnips)
- ☐ e. Summer annual broadleaf (e.g., buckwheat, cowpea)
- ☐ f. Two-species mix
- ☐ g. Multi-species mix (3 or more species)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

### **11. What method do you recommend or supply to seed cover crops AFTER soybeans?**

**Check all that apply.**

- ☐ a. Drill
- ☐ b. Planter
- ☐ c. Broadcast only
- ☐ d. Broadcast with shallow incorporation
- ☐ e. Broadcast into standing crop (non-aerial)
- ☐ f. Aerial
- ☐ g. Mixed with fertilizer and spread
- ☐ h. Highboy seeding in combination with spray application
- ☐ i. Seeding with equipment on harvester
- ☐ j. With manure application
- ☐ Other (please specify)

### **12. What are the biggest challenges with using crops BEFORE soybeans?**

**Check up to three (3) of your most significant challenges.**

- ☐ a. Selecting the right cover crop species for my operation
- ☐ b. Establishing cover crops
- ☐ c. Increases overall crop production risk
- ☐ d. Cover crop becomes a weed the following year
- ☐ e. Nitrogen immobilization (N not available for the crop)
- ☐ f. Cover crop sometimes uses too much soil moisture
- ☐ g. Increased disease potential
- ☐ h. Increased insect potential
- ☐ i. Time / labor required for planting and increased management
- ☐ j. Cost of planting and managing cover crops
- ☐ k. No measurable economic return
- ☐ l. Yield reduction of the following crop
- ☐ m. Cover crop seed cost
- ☐ n. Cover crop seed availability
- ☐ o. Residual herbicide carryover
- ☐ p. Difficulty terminating cover crops
- ☐ q. Uncertainty of crop insurance rules
- ☐ Other (please specify)

## 13. What are the biggest challenges with using crops AFTER soybeans?

**Check up to three (3) of your most significant challenges.**

- ☐ a. Selecting the right cover crop species for my operation
- ☐ b. Establishing cover crops
- ☐ c. Increases overall crop production risk
- ☐ d. Cover crop becomes a weed the following year
- ☐ e. Nitrogen immobilization (N not available for the crop)
- ☐ f. Cover crop sometimes uses too much soil moisture
- ☐ g. Increased disease potential
- ☐ h. Increased insect potential
- ☐ i. Time / labor required for planting and increased management
- ☐ j. Cost of planting and managing cover crops
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- ☐ m. Cover crop seed cost
- ☐ n. Cover crop seed availability
- ☐ o. Residual herbicide carryover
- ☐ p. Difficulty terminating cover crops
- ☐ q. Uncertainty of crop insurance rules
- ☐ Other (please specify)

## 14. What benefits do you look for in a cover crop you recommend?

Check up to three (3) of the benefits most important to you.

- ☐ a. Control of insects
- ☐ b. Control of weeds
- ☐ c. Nitrogen source
- ☐ d. Nitrogen scavenging
- ☐ e. Reduces diseases
- ☐ f. Reduces soil compaction
- ☐ g. Reduces soil erosion
- ☐ h. Winter kills easily (no spring burn-down needed)
- ☐ i. Winter hardiness/survival
- ☐ j. Economic return (e.g., haying, grazing, biofuels)
- ☐ k. Decreases cost of producing following crop
- ☐ l. Increases yield of the following crop
- ☐ m. Fibrous rooting system
- ☐ n. Deep tap roots
- ☐ o. Ease of terminating cover crop
- ☐ Other (please specify)

## 15. How much per acre (in whole dollars) are farmers willing to spend to plant cover crops on an annual basis – broken into seed cost, establishment (operations) cost and herbicide cost?

Seed cost \$/acre

Establishment cost   
(e.g., labor, equipment,  
or contractor cost)  
\$/acre

Herbicide cost above   
normal burn-down  
\$/acre



## MCCC North Central Soybean Advisors Cover Crop Survey

**16. List some topics for which research could reduce the challenges or improve the performance of cover crops used in soybean rotations.**

Topic 1:

Topic 2:

Topic 3:

**17. In what ZIP code is your business located?**  
**(enter 5-digit ZIP code; for example, 00544 or 94305)**

**Thank you for participating in this survey!**