

Ohio No-Till News

Randall Reeder, OSU Extension Agricultural Engineer (retired), writes this page, with input from the Ohio No-till Council members.



OHIO SOYBEAN COUNCIL
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Cover Crops: The Right Choice

How do you decide which cover crop or cover crop mix is best for a specific situation? Important factors include planting date, the cash crop to follow (usually corn or soybeans), and the desired benefit(s).

Nathan Brause hosted our no-till field day Aug. 29, and we returned Oct. 1 to check on cover crop growth in a dozen ten-foot wide strips. Cody Beacom, Bird Agronomics, drilled the covers Aug. 3.

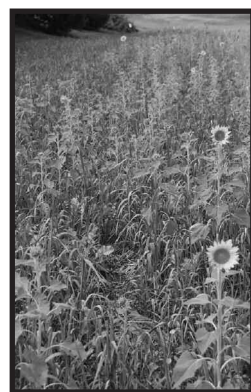
The Crawford County SWCD promoted an evening event Oct. 1, and will have two more, tentatively in December and March, to maxi-



Cody Beacom of Bird Agronomics drilled a dozen different cover crop strips Aug. 3. (photos taken Oct. 1)



Nathan Brause (right) and Jim Hoorman discuss benefits of oilseed radish roots. Jim started a new business, Hoorman Soil Health Services.

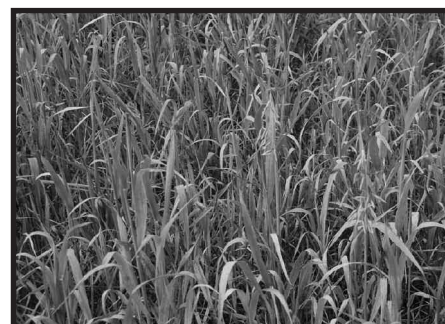


Farmers planting cover crops for the first time might prefer a mix that dies in winter. One example is: Oats, radish sunflower, flax and buckwheat.

maximize the educational value for area farmers. Nathan Brause will receive the annual Outstanding No-till Farmer Award given by the Ohio No-Till Council on December 5. You will read more about him in a future issue of *Ohio's Country Journal*. About 20 years ago, like many farmers his first conservation tillage system was strip-till for corn. He began using cover crops ten years ago and switched to continuous no-till for the whole farm



A good mix that overwinters ahead of corn includes: Oats, radish, rapeseed, balansa clover and crimson clover.



A mix that overwinters ahead of soybeans might include: Cereal rye, barley and oats.

four years later. He received encouragement and coaching from Bret Margraf of Seneca County.

"You need to understand cover crops before going to no-till," according to Brause. See, cover crops are critical to the success of continuous no-till. Knowing how to select and manage individual covers or mixes will ease the transition to no-till. Brause also "plants

Upcoming No-Till Events

- Dec. 5, 2019
Ohio No-till Conf.,
Der Dutchman, Plain City
- Jan. 7-10, 2020
National No-Till Conf., St.
Louis, MO
- March 3-4, 2020
Conservation Tillage Conf.,
Ada
- Apr. 1, 2020
Ohio No-till (Spring) Field
Day, Dave Brandt Farm,
Fairfield County
- Aug. 19, 2020
Ohio No-till (Summer) Field
Evening, Nathan Brown
Farm, Hillsboro
- Aug. 20, 2020
Ohio No-till (Summer) Field
Morning, Fred Yoder Farm,
Plain City

green" into the cover crops.

He added wheat to the corn/soybean rotation to get the soil health advantage of a longer growing season for cover crops. Baling and selling the straw more than offsets the cost of a cover crop mix. And the cover crop cancels out any disadvantage of removing the straw.

No-Till Conference Dec. 5

Our keynote speaker is Mark Anson who farms 10,000 acres of no-till with cover crops.

His topic: "Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters, Healthy Life." Other discussions include: managing

cover crops, soil fertility, regenerative farming, and federal/state farm policy. Our goal is to answer

YOUR questions. Details will be in the mid-November issue.

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