



**Spring Cover Crop Newsletter
Ifft Yorkshires
Jim and Josh Ifft**

Welcome to our spring newsletter. First we want to thank all our customers from fall 2016 and all who attended our cover crop launch meeting. Last fall was a great year to seed covers with all the timely rains. We have great stands and hope to receive all the benefits during the growing season. In this newsletter we hope to cover several timely topics for this spring and encourage everyone to plan for next fall.

Remember- the earlier we can get our cover crops seeded in the fall the better we can take advantage of all their added benefits. Having a plan going into spring for your fall cover crops is crucial!



Termination



Probably the biggest spring concern for cover crop users is when and how to terminate their cover crop. Although it will vary from farm to farm we have several guidelines we like to follow. First rule of thumb especially for beginning cover croppers is to err on the early side. You can kill covers anytime when it's warm enough for the glyphosate to work. Obviously the longer you let it stand you will have more biomass and more benefits to soil health. Timing that has worked well for us on cereal rye and cereal rye blends going into soybeans is to terminate the last few days before we plant corn. Usually we have nice growth by then, temperatures are plenty warm and it will keep you from planting that first corn when it's not quite fit! One caution for those of you who have your herbicide custom applied- this is the busiest time of year for custom applicators. We recommend you maintain a good relationship with your applicator, have a plan in place early, and communicate often. For cereal rye we have had good luck with 32-40 oz. of Powermax –depending on the size of the rye- with double rate of a pH adjusting surfactant (we use N-tense) and 15 gpa. If you added rapeseed to your cereal rye a pint of 24D added to the glyphosate should do a good job. As always your chemical supplier is a great resource and feel free to call us with your termination questions.

Herbicide Concerns



We all should pay attention to which herbicides we use this spring to avoid carryover to our cover crops this fall. As a general rule cereal rye is very forgiving to most corn herbicides and the radish-turnip family is the most sensitive. There has been considerable research done on this issue and we are listing several websites that do a real good job explaining what works and what doesn't. Most chemical dealers can help you and we are always available if needed.

<http://crops.missouri.edu/covercrops/cornherbicide.pdf>

<http://crops.missouri.edu/covercrops/soybeanherbicide.pdf>

Corn

<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/news/2013/07/herbicides-persistence-and-rotation-to-cash-and-cover-crops>

Soybean

<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/news/2013/07/herbicides-persistence-and-rotation-to-cover-crops-ii-soybean>

<http://practicalfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/herbicide-injury.pdf>

The drill



We were very pleased with the performance and accuracy of our Crustbuster drill last fall. This winter we have completely rebuilt the row units and are ready for another good year . Custom drilling is available for spring oats and summer forages and all fall cover crops.

Cover crop results



Cover crops continue to get a lot of press and reports of good results keep coming in. Over 6 years of trials Brandt research shows a 4.8 bu increase for soybeans following cereal rye. Becks PFR research in Kentucky showed 11-12 bu increase for soybeans following cover crops.

With soil health and fertilizer runoff issues facing all farmers we encourage everyone to have cover crops in your management plan. We are experimenting with different blends and various varieties preceding both corn and soybeans. Stay tuned for trial results.

Turf, waterway, and forage seed

Through Biotill we have available turf grasses, waterway and pasture mixes and forage seeds at very attractive prices. Generally we can have seed here in 1-3 days after order.

Fall field day

Stay tuned for our pre-harvest field day. Plans include a drilling demonstration, speakers, and plenty of good food and refreshments.

Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions. Once again- start planning early for your summer/fall cover crops and let's have a great 2017!

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