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Regional Office, Worthington
1527 Prairie Dr
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Cover Crops in a Corn/Soybean Rotation Field Day



November 13, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**American Legion,
Okabena (am) and
Jerry & Nancy Ackermann
Farm, Lakefield (pm)**

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Please dress accordingly for the weather for the in-field portion of the field day!

Pre-registration not required.

4.0 CEUs will be applied for (2.0 CM, 1.0 NM, 1.0 SW).

For more information, please contact Liz Stahl, 507-372-3900, ext. 3912 or stah0012@umn.edu. In case of inclement weather, contact the Farm Information Line at 1-800-232-9077.

DIRECTIONS:

Jerry & Nancy Ackermann's farmsite is located at 39750 820th St., Lakefield, MN. From Lakefield, turn west onto Mill Road West/County Road 14. Travel 5.3 miles. Farmsite is on the north side of road.

The American Legion in Okabena is located at 116 Minnesota Avenue.

AGENDA

Morning Sessions will be at the American Legion, Okabena

10:00 Welcome, Introductions & Layout of the day

Liz Stahl, Extension Educator – Crops, U of MN Extension

10:10 Experiences in Seeding Cover Crops in a Corn/Soybean Rotation

Jerry Ackermann, Farmer, Jackson County
Jerry Perkins, Farmer, Nobles County
Dave Christoffer, Farmer, Jackson County

Hear from local farmers who seeded cover crops into standing corn this summer. How did they do it, what else they have tried, what have they learned, what were the challenges, etc. There will be time for questions and discussion.

11:10 On-Farm Demonstration of Seeding Cover Crops into Corn - Results to Date

Liz Stahl, Extension Educator – Crops, U of MN Extension

Results to date from the on-farm cover crop inter-seeding project will be presented. This project was made possible through funding by MN NCR-SARE.

11:40 Research Update on Use of Cover Crops in a Corn/Soybean Rotation

Jill Sackett, MN NCR-SARE Co-Coordinator & Extension Educator – Ag Production Systems

12:10 – 12:45 LUNCH (Provided courtesy of our sponsors)

Afternoon Sessions will be at the Jerry & Nancy Ackermann Farm, Lakefield

12:45 Travel to Jerry & Nancy Ackermann's Farmsite

1:00 Using a Cover Crop – What's Going on in the Soil Anyway?

Michael Lehman, Research Microbiologist, USDA/ARS

Step onto the Prairie Ecology Bus to SEE what helps encompass "soil health".

2:00 Hands-on Tests of Soil Health Indicators (in-field, weather permitting)

Stephanie McLain & Loren Clarke, District Conservationists, NRCS

Attendees will conduct infiltration tests and compare the structure of soils with and without cover crops. Also, compare indicators across sites with varying years of cover crops.

3:00 Wrap-up and Evaluation

3:15 On your way home!

