# WISCONSIN Cover Crops Conference

**Thursday, February 20**

**Program Overview**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Early Riser Discussions</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 – 9:00</td>
<td>Spruce/Sands Discussion 1: Adding Small Grains to your Crop Rotations</td>
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<td>Evergreen/Frontier Discussion 2: 60 inch Corn – Why &amp; How?</td>
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<td>Stonefield/Harvest Discussion 3: Grazing Cover Crops</td>
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<td>Trillium/Woodland Discussion 4: Cover Crops in Processing Vegetable Rotation</td>
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<td>Northwoods Expo Q &amp; A: Weed Control and Covers</td>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Northwoods Expo Q &amp; A: Weed Control and Covers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:30</td>
<td>BREAK AND REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES</td>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:30</td>
<td>Getting the Most From Your Land – Regenerate Your Bottom-Line, Reduce Your Risk</td>
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<td>Rick Clark</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Break</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 10:45</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Concurrent sessions</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – Noon</td>
<td>Spruce/Sands Session 1: Herbicides, Cover Crops, and Weed Management</td>
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<td>Evergreen/Frontier Session 2: Maintaining Soil Health While Managing Manure</td>
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<td>Stonefield/Harvest Session 3: Building a Soil Health System – Easy Points of Entry</td>
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| Noon – 1:00| Lunch and Time to Visit with Exhibitors                                                  |

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:15</td>
<td>Spruce/Sands Session 4: Planting Green</td>
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<td>Evergreen/Frontier Session 5: Assessing Soil Health</td>
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<td>Stonefield/Harvest Session 6: Getting More Out of Cover Crops – Alternative Forage</td>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Break &amp; Networking</th>
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<td>Northwoods Expo</td>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>SUMMARY SESSION</th>
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<td>2:45 – 4:00</td>
<td>Soil Health Systems &amp; Weather Extremes – Lessons Learned in 2019</td>
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<td>Chris Kucharik, Bill Stangel, Tyler Schoonover, Clint Hodorff</td>
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Program and Speaker Bios

9:30-10:30  KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Rick Clark, a fifth-generation farmer from Williamsport, Indiana, will share how he's transformed his 7,000 acre conventional farm to a regenerative system. His entire operation is currently planted with non-GMO seeds, and he farms without using starter fertilizer, seed treatment, fungicide, or insecticide. Wondering how he makes that work? Join us to hear how conservation agriculture has helped Clark build a resilient farming operation.

For more than a decade, Clark has been no-till planting and using cover crops. In the last eight years, he has transitioned into a planting green system in order to build biomass, suppress weeds, recycle nutrients, and feed soil microbes. Clark recognizes that cover crops are planted for a multitude of reasons, so why burn them off in early April, when there is still work for them to do? In addition to these practices, Clark uses a diversified approach of working with neighboring dairies and other markets to diversify and strengthen his operation. With a degree in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University, Clark uses data to guide his decision-making process to make financially sound decisions and be in a “position of strength.” His presentation is designed to challenge everybody and offer ideas to increase your operation’s bottom-line, while decreasing your risk.

Thank you to our sponsors!
Session 1
Herbicides, Cover Crops, and Weed Management
Kevin Bradley, University of Missouri – Extension Weed Scientist/Plant Science Professor
Weeds are a major challenge, particularly with the increase in herbicide resistance. How do we utilize cover crops and herbicides as complimentary tools? Diversify your weed management toolbox with cover crops to achieve long term weed management.

Session 2
Maintaining Soil Health While Managing Manure
Fancisco Arriaga, UW – Associate Prof. in Department of Soil Science – Madison, WI
Joe Baeten, Basin Supervisor – WI Department of Natural Resources – Green Bay, WI
Jeff Endres, Endres Berryridge Farms – Waunakee, WI
There is a common misconception that farms with manure cannot adopt the principles of soil health. Join us to hear from farmers who are challenging this misconception and how they have not only found ways to apply manure without disturbing the soil, but how their soil is thriving from the nutrients retained from the manure. Additionally, this session will include a conversation with the Wisconsin DNR, who will dispel the myth that manure must always be incorporated to meet state standards.

Session 3
Building a Soil Health System – Easy Points of Entry
Adam Kramer, Black Sand Granary – Patch Grove, WI
Greg Friendshuh, Friendshuh Farms – Clear Lake, WI
Chris Miller, NRCS District Conservationist – Baraboo, WI
Are you new to cover crops or looking for additional assistance on how to implement soil health practices on your farm? Join us to hear from two farmers who have taken a systems approach to transform their conventional operation into a conservation operation. Additionally, we’ll feature a NRCS District Conservationist who focuses on helping farmers develop conservation plans and identifies ways to incorporate these practices into their system. While cover crops play an important role, there are other management adjustments that can be made to help you improve your soil’s health. This session will help farmers identify easy points of entry, so that beginners can start recognizing the benefits, while minimizing their risk to extreme weather.

Session 4
Planting Green
Rick Clark, Clark Land & Cattle – Williamsport, IN
In this in-depth session with keynote speaker Rick Clark, pick his brain about the how-to, the challenges, and the ways to adapt systems to plant green successfully. Ask your questions about fertility, pests and herbicides, and equipment setup. Bring your experiences and contribute to the discussion so that everyone can go home with some new strategies.

Session 5
Assessing Soil Health
Jamie Patton, UW NPM Program – Senior Outreach Specialist – Shawano, WI
Holly Dolliver, UW-River Falls – Professor of Soil Science and Geology – River Falls, WI
Chelsea Zegler, UW-Division of Extension – Crops & Soils Educator – Madison, WI
Soil health is a buzz word but when you are out on the farm, do you really know how you would assess it? It is complicated, often conceptual, and seemingly hard to measure. This session will take a look at which measurements to focus in on so that you can develop realistic expectations for your system and give you an idea what to look for in the future.

Session 6
Getting More Out of Cover Crops – Alternative Forage
Tom Cotter, Cotter Farms – Austin, MN
TJ Kartes, Saddle Butte Ag Forage & Cover Crop Seeds – Blooming Prairie, MN
Will the increased use of cover crops as an emergency forage translate into increased use of alternative forage rotations because of the many benefits? Can these crops and rotations ease manure spreading concerns, nutrient management costs, and soil conservation woes? This panel will share first hand experience and the details you need to make your future plans.

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**Thursday, February 20th from 8–9 am**

**EARLY-RISER DISCUSSIONS**

**Farmers Figuring it Out**

**Discussion 1**

Adding Small Grains to Your Crop Rotations

Adam Kramer, Black Sand Granary – Patch Grove, WI

Small grains provide soil health and conservation opportunities. This presentation will cover but may not be limited to: how and why to incorporate small grains into a grain crop rotation, crop rotation economics, pest and nutrient management.

**Discussion 2**

60 inch Corn – Why & How?

Logan Dwyer, Havin Hills Rolling Acres – Chetek, WI

Bill Stangel, Soil Solutions Consulting, LLC. – Madison, WI

With increasingly wet field conditions, farmers are looking for alternative approaches to planting cover crops, including interseeding covers earlier in the season. During this session we will hear from farmers who have had success interseeding covers into 60 inch corn. They’ll share how switching to 60 inch corn has increased their cover crop stand and how they have managed to maintain corn production, despite the wider spacing. Additionally, we will discuss how one farmer has grazed his interseeded cover crop and the benefits of diversified forage opportunities.

**Discussion 3**

Grazing Cover Crops

Justin Seager, Maple Valley Farms – Marion, WI

Tom Cotter, Cotter Farms – Austin, MN

When planning covers as a forage for your grazing herd there are some important details to consider. Join our session to hear from farmers who have successfully implemented grazing as part of their conservation system and learn how you can make cover crop grazing work on your land. You will learn how covers can be used to extend the grazing season and reduce winter feed costs along with what cover crop plant species to consider, planting time and rates, how to integrate covers into your cash crop rotation, fertilizer considerations, and how much forage you could expect from a cover crop mix.

**Discussion 4**

Cover Crops in Processing Vegetable Rotation

John Ruzicka, Guth Farm, Inc. – Bancroft, WI

How do you manage covers when pests for the next crop are a concern? Discuss how to interact with the end vegetable processor to determine cover crop usage, methods for establishment, cover crop species used, and any special equipment or investment required.

**Q & A**

Weed Control and Covers

Kevin Bradley, University of Missouri, is available to share his perspectives on integrating cover crops while maintaining an effective weed control program.