

# WISCONSIN Cover Crops Conference

Investing in your  
farm's future

February 2020

Holiday Inn,  
Stevens Point, WI



## Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> Program Overview

8:00 – 9:00	Early Riser Discussions				
	Spruce/Sands Discussion 1 Adding Small Grains to Your Crop Rotations Adam Kramer	Evergreen/Frontier Discussion 2 60 inch Corn – Why & How? Logan Dwyer, Bill Stangel	Stonefield/Harvest Discussion 3 Grazing Cover Crops Justin Seager, Tom Cotter	Trillium/Woodland Discussion 4 Cover Crops in Processing Vegetable Rotation John Ruzicka	Northwoods Expo Q & A Weed Control and Covers Kevin Bradley
9:00 – 9:30	BREAK AND REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES				
9:30 – 10:30	Northwoods Expo				
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Getting the Most From Your Land – Regenerate Your Bottom-Line, Reduce Your Risk Rick Clark				
10:30 – 10:45	BREAK				
10:45 – Noon	Concurrent sessions				
	Spruce/Sands Session 1 Herbicides, Cover Crops, and Weed Management Kevin Bradley	Evergreen/Frontier Session 2 Maintaining Soil Health While Managing Manure Francisco Arriaga, Joe Baeten, Jeff Endres	Stonefield/Harvest Session 3 Building a Soil Health System – Easy Points of Entry Adam Kramer, Greg Friendshuh, Chris Miller		
Noon – 1:00	LUNCH AND TIME TO VISIT WITH EXHIBITORS				
1:00 – 2:15	Concurrent sessions				
	Spruce/Sands Session 4 Planting Green Rick Clark	Evergreen/Frontier Session 5 Assessing Soil Health Jamie Patton, Holly Dolliver, Chelsea Zegler	Stonefield/Harvest Session 6 Getting More Out of Cover Crops – Alternative Forage Tom Cotter, TJ Kartes		
2:15 – 2:45	BREAK & NETWORKING				
2:45 – 4:00	Northwoods Expo				
	SUMMARY SESSION Soil Health Systems & Weather Extremes – Lessons Learned in 2019 Chris Kucharik, Bill Stangel, Tyler Schoonover, Clint Hodorff				

# SIGNATURE



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**MICHAEL FIELDS**  
AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

# PLATINUM



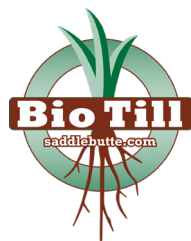
# Program and Speaker Bios

## 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.

# GOLD



CENTER for INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS



# SILVER



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**Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference Planning Committee:** Heidi Johnson, Whitney Prestby, Michelle Scarpace, Chelsea Zegler, and Randy Zogbaum, UW-Madison Extension; Brian Briski and Barry Bubolz, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jason Cavadini, UW Marshfield Research Station; John Gaska, UW-Agronomy; Tom Novak, Total Crop Management LLC; Amber Radatz, Discovery Farms; Dan Smith, UW Nutrient and Pest Management Program; Mike Sorge, DNR, Rod Webb, Pierce County Land Conservation; Paige Frautschy and Julia Brunson, The Nature Conservancy; Francisco Arriaga, UW-Madison; Rachel Rushmann, DATCP



## 10:45 – Noon CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### 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.



## 1:00 – 2:15 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### 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.

## 2:45 – 4:00 SUMMARY SESSION

#### Soil Health Systems & Weather Extremes – Lessons Learned in 2019

**Chris Kucharik**, UW, Professor of Agronomy & Environmental Studies – Madison, WI

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

**Tyler Schoonover**, Schoon-Haven Farms – Menomonie, WI

**Clint Hodorff**, Second Look Holsteins – Eden, WI

Weather challenges have created serious challenges for farmers in recent years. How can you use soil health principles to create resilient agricultural systems? Listen to farmer and agronomist experience on turning lemons into lemonade as it relates to our recent weather conditions. This session will explore current and predicted long term weather trends and bring insight into the way crops interact with environmental concerns.



Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 pm

# ICE, WATER & WIND

## Exploring Soil Diversity in Wisconsin

(following the DATCP Producer-Led Workshop)

**Holly Doliver**, UW-River Falls

Moderated by:

**Jamie Patton & Michelle Scarpace**, UW NPM Program & UW-Division of Extension

Come celebrate the resource we all love — soil! Join us as Holly Doliver takes us on a journey through Wisconsin while learning about the diverse soil types across the state, and about how they formed. Because each soil is unique, soil properties can change differently over time. Holly has seen this firsthand, and will discuss research she's been involved with to understand how agriculture management affects soil health. Following Holly, we are bringing in experts from all across the state who are building soil health in unique ways. From biochar to prairie strips, join discussions led by some of the most respected farmers, consultants, and researchers across the state and learn about new practices you can utilize to build soil health!

**Holly Doliver** is a Professor of Soil Science and Geology and Department Chair of Plant and Earth Science at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She grew up on a farm in central Minnesota, and her research interests include the effects of land use changes and agricultural management practices on soil quality, fate and transport of nutrients and contaminants in the environment, and geomorphology and surficial geology of Western Wisconsin.

### Discussion topics include:

Changes in the soil from no-till, biochar, compost, in-season manure application, manure-sharing, bioreactors, livestock integration, soil health in vegetable production, incorporating wildlife habitat on your farm, soil microbiology, on-farm trials, water infiltration, soil compaction, and exploring soil diversity.



Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

