

unlock the
SECRETS
IN THE
SOIL

MU Cover Crop Symposium Jan. 2013



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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



Number of Contracts with Cover Crops

- ❖ Fiscal Year 2012 = 306 contracts
- ❖ Fiscal Year 2013 = 272 contracts

Number of Acres Applied with Cover Crops

- ❖ Fiscal Year 2012 = 7,530 acres
- ❖ Fiscal Year 2013 = 24,400 acres

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



- Number of Acres Planned under EQIP
 - ❖ Fiscal Year 2012 = 24,900 acres
 - ❖ Fiscal Year 2013 = 55,130 acres

Four Basic Soil Health Principles



- 1. Keep it Covered = Armor on Soil Surface
- 2. Do Not Disturb = Less Tillage
- 3. Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil ecology
- 4. Use plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil ecosystem