

## Trends with Cover Crops Across the Corn Belt



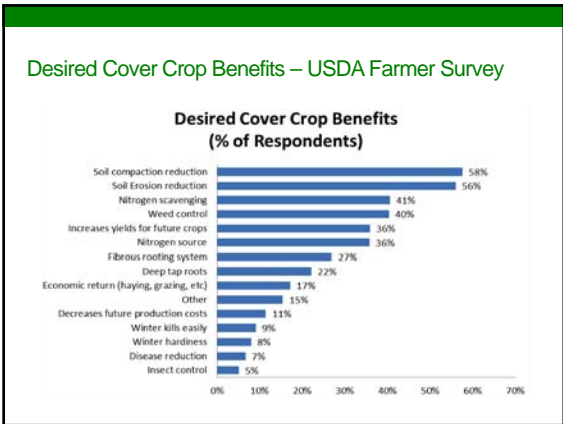
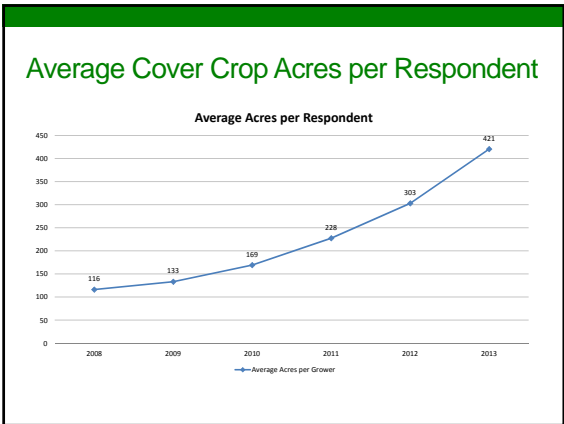
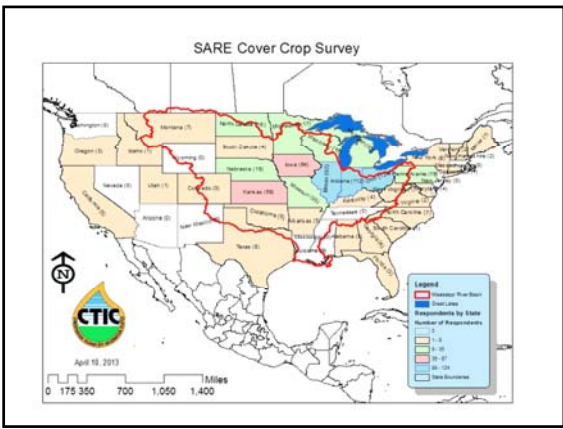
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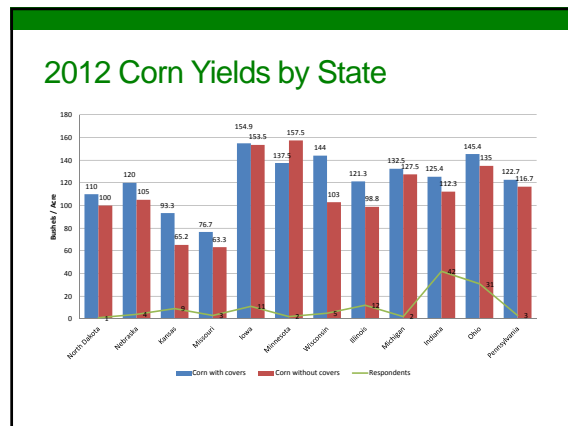
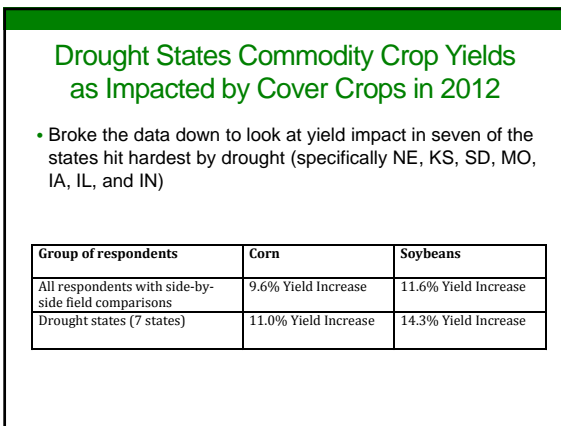
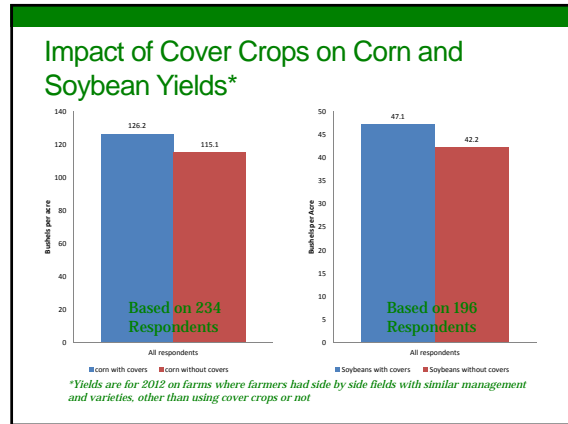
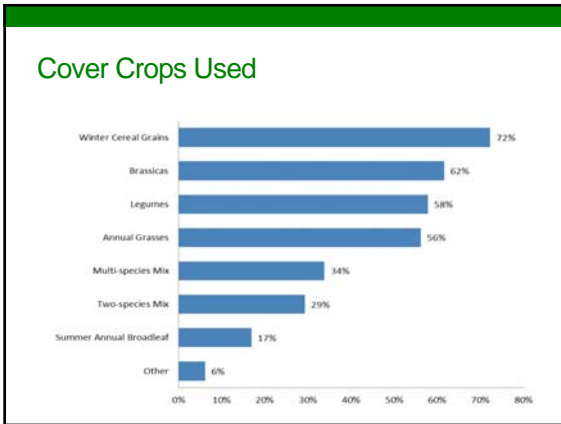
### Presentation Outline

- Trends on cover crop acreage, use, and impact on corn and soybean yields
  - Results from SARE/CTIC farmer survey
- New approaches with equipment and establishment of cover crops

### SARE/CTIC Cover Crop Survey

- 759 - producers that responded to the survey  
In total, the farmers surveyed planted over 218,000 acres of cover crops in 2012
- Surveys were distributed online nationally and at Midwest farmer meetings / conferences in winter of 2012-13
  - National No-tillage Conference – Indianapolis, IN  
January 2013
  - Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference, Ada, OH  
March 2013
  - Soil and Water Conservation Society Cover Crops meetings  
Decatur, IL – January 2013
  - Altoona, IA – December 2012
  - No-Till on the Plains – Salina, KS  
November 2012



High clearance cover crop broadcast seeder











### Concluding Thoughts

- There are significant new business opportunities with cover crops, for ag retailers, equipment manufacturers, seed companies, crop advisors, and many others.
- Using cover crops is not simply planting them and terminating them. Most experienced cover crop users will say they have made other changes in their farming system as a result of adopting cover crops.
- Bottomline – it's going to take a wide-ranging embrace of cover crops by the ag industry for cover crops to truly take hold across the Corn Belt, but the potential benefits for conservation, water quality, and soil health are huge.

Thanks! Visit [www.sare.org/covercrops](http://www.sare.org/covercrops)

