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COVER

CROPS

Agricultural News

The 2012 Bedford County Cover Crop Assistance program

The Bedford County Conservation District will once again be offering a cover crop assistance program through the Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay program. The program will be similar as the 2011 program in that **NO** incentive payments will be paid to the producer for cover crops planted on corn silage fields. Rather the rental rates for the BCCD no till drills will be waived and paid for by the Chesapeake Bay Program. There are limited funds. The number of acres that can be cost shared through this program for each producer will be a maximum of 50 acres, although it is highly encouraged to establish cover crops on all acres on which corn silage was re-

moved. The sign ups for this program will begin August 1, 2012, and will continue through August 31, 2012. All farms that enroll during this period will be ranked to determine eligibility and notified of enrollment. After the sign up deadline, if the funds are not all allocated, additional acreage will be available on a first come first served basis. All cover crops must be planted by November 1 and cover should remain until April 15, **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Rye Cover Crop Seed Available

Recognizing the importance of cover crops in reducing sediment and nutrient run-off and the increased cost of planting,

the conservation district will once again be offering rye cover crop seed to Bedford County producers. The cover crop seed was made available in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program grant funding and was purchased at a bulk rate to make it available to farms at a discounted rate.

Producers participating in the cover crop programs will be required to sign three Chesapeake Bay Special Project forms (CBPSP-1, CBPSP-3, and CBPSP-5)

Any questions regarding these programs can be directed to Cody Waltemire at 623-7900 ext 128.

Tillage Radish/Cover Crop Program

Interest in planting Tillage Radishes as a cover crop after corn silage has been growing over the last several years. The benefits of Tillage Radishes include reducing soil compaction, weed suppression, recycling of nutrients, erosion control, and an increase in organic matter. The Bedford County Conservation District is looking for farmers interested in planting a combination of tillage radishes and small grains, (rye, wheat, or barley) where corn silage has been harvested. For the best

results planting should be completed in mid September, so select fields where corn will be harvested early. The fields chosen should have no-till corn planted next spring.

The Conservation District will be modifying a Great Plains drill to plant the tillage radishes in 30 inch rows and the small grains in 7.5 inch rows. Use of the drill and the radish seed will be supplied by the district and the farmer will supply the small grain seed. Next spring the corn will be

planted right into the radish rows after the field has been burned down with a herbicide. Participants in this program can enroll a minimum of 10 acres and a maximum of 20 acres of cropland. We would like to do approximately 100 acres this year.

If interested in participating in this program contact the Conservation District office at 814-623-7900, ext. 125 or ext. 128, for more details.

BEDFORD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
702 WEST PITT STREET
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Non-Profit Organization
Permit Number 8
Bedford PA

We're on the web

www.bedfordcountyconservation.com

Cover Crop Meeting

The Conservation District, Jim Eshelman, and Homestead Nutrition, distributors for Cover Crop Solutions will hold a meeting on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 that will provide more information on cover crop options that include Tillage Radish. Tillage Radish can increase yields and profits by reducing inputs, scavenging nutrients, especially nitrogen, reducing soil compaction, suppressing weed growth, improving soil health, and helping to control nematodes. They germinate and grow very rapidly and winterkill. There are also many benefits to planting

Tillage Radish mixed with cereal grains and other cover crops to maximize benefits in your fields. Tillage Radishes are backed by more than ten years of university and on-farm research. Homestead Nutrition and Cover Crop Solutions have developed cover crop blends of common mixes for your convenience as well.

Beef and dairy pastures can also be enhanced to improve production by planting Tillage Radish and other grasses or grains into them. The opportunities with cover crops are extensive. Come

out to learn more about the many options for cover crops and how to maximize their benefits in your crop rotations.

The meeting will be held at Hoss's at the Bedford Turnpike Interchange on Wednesday July 25th 2012 at 7:00pm, (meal provided) followed by the meeting.

If interested in attending this meeting please contact the Conservation District office at 814-623-8099 or Jim Eshelman at 814-934-3561. Please RSVP by July 18, 2012.

