



March 4, 2021

MORNING

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

9:00 Opening remarks and NECCC updates

Steve Mirsky, Chair, NECCC and Victoria Ackroyd, Program Manager, NECCC



9:30 Plenary Session (1 CCA CEU)

Joel Gruver, Western Illinois University

Dr. Gruver will talk about his innovative cover crop research and share some of the key takeaways from his on-farm collaboration with farmers on how they've utilized cover crops as a systematic puzzle piece.

10:30 Break - Grab your coffee and check out the e-poster session and video contest.

11:00 Morning Sessions (1.5 CCA CEUs)

Session I - Interseeding Cover Crops

Session II - Cover Crop Seed

11:00 *Solar Corridors: Concept, Research, In Practice*
John Wallace, Penn State University

Precision Planting of Cover Crops
Natalie Lounsbury, University of New Hampshire

11:30 *Alfalfa Establishment in High Yielding Silage Corn*
John Grabber, ARS-WI

Cover Crop Variety Improvement: Updates on Breeding Initiatives
Virginia Moore, Cornell University

12:00 *Interseeding Strategies for Vegetable Crop Systems*
Dan Brainard, Michigan State University

On-Farm Cover Crop Seed Production, Challenges and Opportunities
Phil Atkins, Cornell University

12:30 Lunch



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AFTERNOON

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1:00 - 2:00 **Moderated Discussions** (nine breakout discussions; 1 CCA CEU. Descriptions on page 3)

2:15 **Afternoon Sessions** (1.5 CCA CEUs)

Session I - Cover Crops II

2:15 *Weed Management Programs in Cover Crop Systems*
Erin Haramoto, University of Kentucky

2:45 *Screening for Shade Tolerance in Cover Crops* **Maria Laura Cangiano**, North Carolina State University

3:15 *Success in Cover Crop Programs—Highlights of Chesapeake Bay Cover Crop Program*
Ken Staver, University of Maryland

Session II - Farmer Innovations from the Northeast

Carl Johanson, Goranson Farm, Dresden, ME
Jason Lilley, UMaine Cooperative Extension

Donn Branton, Branton Farm, LeRoy, NY
Jodi Putnam, Cornell Cooperative Extension

George Foster, Foster Bros Farm, Middlebury, VT
Kirsten Workman, UVM Extension

4:00 **Plenary Sessions** (1 CCA CEU)

4:00 - 5:00 **Mickie Swisher**, University of Florida
Dr. Swisher will provide training on Farmer-Driven Adaptive Research: Bringing Farmers into the Research Team

Chris Reberg-Horton, North Carolina State University
Dr. Reberg-Horton will introduce us to the robotic revolution—how artificial intelligence and robotic technology can innovate our cover-cropping regimes.





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MODERATED DISCUSSIONS

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Setting a Cover Crop Research Agenda – The Northeast Cover Crops Council is interested in hearing about your cover crop research questions! Join us to discuss research ideas that will help move cover crop production forward in our region. This discussion will be led by **Matt Ryan** from Cornell University.

Cover Crop Equipment Modifications – Interseeding cover crops can be accomplished through a variety of tools. Join this discussion to learn about equipment, equipment modifications, and other innovations being used to successfully interseed cover crops. This discussion will be led by **Jeff Sanders** from the University of Vermont.

Overcoming Cover Cropping Challenges in Soybeans – Have you been trying to figure out just how to get those cover crops into your soybean cropping system? Join this discussion to share information and strategies that will help overcome obstacles with cover cropping in soybeans. This discussion will be led by **Heather Darby** from the University of Vermont.

Cover Cropping in Vegetable Rotations – Vegetable systems are often diverse with a wide assortment of crops, planting dates, harvest dates, and rotations. Join us to discuss opportunities and strategies to implement cover crops in vegetable cropping systems. This discussion will be led by **Gordon Johnson** from the University of Maryland and **Jason Lilley** from the University of Maine.

Solar Corridors – This new concept of growing wide strips of cover crops between cash crops is gaining attention all across the US. This practice referred to as Solar Corridors is also being experimented with on farms in the northeast. Share ideas, thoughts, and experiences about this innovative new practice. This discussion will be led by **John Wallace** from Penn State University.

Planting Green – Many farming operations have adopted no-till and cover crops. You have likely heard about planting green, where the cash crop is planted directly into the living cover crop. This system has many advantages, but for those new to the practice there can be some challenges. Share your planting green tips during this discussion. This discussion will be led by **Mark VanGessel** from the University of Delaware.

Cover Crop Mixtures – Developing the perfect cocktail is always an interesting conversation piece. Join this discussion to share recipes, benefits, and tips on your experiences with cover crop mixtures. This discussion will be led by **Kirsten Workman** from the University of Vermont.

Unique Cover Crop Species and Varieties – As cover cropping increases across the northeast, farmers, researchers, and agricultural industry professionals are experimenting with new species and varieties. Share with the group any favorite cover crop species that have added benefits to your cropping system. This discussion will be led by **Virginia Moore** from Cornell University.

Enhancing Cover Crop Adoption and the Role of Policy, Incentives, and other Initiatives – Cover cropping is being adopted throughout the northeast region; however, more adoption is needed. Often times incentives and initiatives can help encourage farmers to try cover cropping for the first time. Join this discussion to share, learn, and hear about successful strategies being used around the region to increase cover crop adoption. This discussion will be led by **Dean Hively** from USDA ARS.

