

Cover Cropping Costs and Benefits



Compiled by Jeffrey Sanders, University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops & Soils Program, 11/2014, based on calculations from the USDA NRCS Cover Crop Economics

Tool: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSCconsumption/download?cid=stelprdb1252244&ext=xlsm

NRCS Planting Rates in Pounds of Seed	Cereal Rye	Annual Rye	Triticale	Cereal Rye / Radish Mix	Annual Rye / Clover / Radish Mix
Planted	75	20	75	60,3	12,5,2
Broadcast	112	30	112	85,4	18,6,4
Forage (added pounds of seed for forage production)	20	5	25	n/a	n/a
Seed Cost per pound (2014 Prices)	\$0.25	\$0.60	\$0.50	\$0.41	\$1.86

Expenses						
	Typical Values	SCENARIO 1 Cereal Rye: Drilled, Plowed Down	SCENARIO 2 Annual Rye: Broadcast & Disked	SCENARIO 3 Triticale: Drilled & Harvested	SCENARIO 4 Cereal Rye & Radish Mix: Aerially Applied	SCENARIO 5 Annual Rye & Clover & Radish Mix: Broadcast / No-tilled
Seed Costs		75# * \$0.25 = \$18.75	30# * \$0.60 = \$18.00	(75# + 25#) * \$0.50 = \$50.00	89# * \$0.41 = \$36.49	28# * \$1.86 = \$52.08
Application Method (2014 Prices)						
Broadcast	\$4.84		\$4.84			\$4.84
Broadcast/Disk	\$19.17		\$19.17			
Aerial Applied	\$40.00				\$40.00	
Drilled	\$13.26	\$13.26		\$13.26		
Termination Costs						
Plow Down	\$18.63	\$18.63				
Disk	\$17.35		\$17.35			
Herbicide	\$30.00				\$30.00	\$30.00
Crimping	\$7.50					
Increased Time & Management	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50
Decreased Yield Costs (Price per ton at the bunk)	\$55.00			3 * \$55.00 = \$165.00		

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Benefits (Income)						
	Typical Values	SCENARIO 1 Cereal Rye: Drilled, Plowed Down	SCENARIO 2 Annual Rye: Broadcast & Disked	SCENARIO 3 Triticale: Drilled & Harvested	SCENARIO 4 Cereal Rye & Radish Mix: Aerially Applied	SCENARIO 5 Annual Rye & Clover & Radish Mix: Broadcast / No-tilled
Nutrient Credits (2014 Prices)						
Nitrogen Credit	\$0.40	$\$0.40 * 30 =$ \$12.00			$\$0.40 * 30 =$ \$12.00	$\$0.40 * 35 =$ \$14.00
Phosphorus Credit	\$0.46					
Potash Credit	\$0.35					
Other Credits						
Herbicide Reduction						\$30.00
Insecticide Reduction						
Yield Increase Credit (price per ton at the bunk)	\$55.00	$2 * \$55.00 =$ \$110.00			$1 * \$55.00 =$ \$55.00	
Erosion Reduction Credits						
Tons of topsoil (typically 2-3 tons per acre in Vermont)	\$20.00	$2 * \$20.00 =$ \$40.00	$2 * \$20.00 =$ \$ \$40.00	$3 * \$20.00 =$ \$60.00	$2 * \$20.00 =$ \$40.00	$1 * \$20.00 =$ \$20.00
Field maintenance reduction. Work done to fix erosion per acre	\$5.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$1.00
Effects of erosion to public Waters (per ton of lost soil)	\$4.93	$2 * \$4.93 =$ \$9.86	$2 * \$4.93 =$ \$9.86	$3 * \$4.93 =$ \$14.79	$2 * \$4.93 =$ \$9.86	\$4.93
Forage Credit (per ton of forage harvested)	\$50.00			$5 * \$50.00 =$ \$250.00		
Cost to Harvest Silage per Acre	\$30.00			\$30.00		
NRCS Cost Share	\$62.00	\$62.00	\$62.00	\$62.00	\$73.00	\$73.00
Totals		Drilled Rye, Plowed down	Broadcast / Disked	Drilled Triticale for Harvest	Aerial Applied	Broadcast, No-Tilled
Total Costs		(\$52.14)	(\$41.69)	(\$229.76)	(\$107.99)	(\$88.42)
Total Benefits		\$236.36	\$114.36	\$421.79	\$194.86	\$142.93
Total Return		\$184.22	\$72.67	\$192.03	\$86.87	\$54.51

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