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**Nebraska On-Farm Research Network**

**Cover Crop Research Protocol – with and without cover crop**

**Treatment Design:** The following is the treatment design for testing cover crop use in your system. A total of 4 replications are needed for this trial. The same hybrid and management practices for the cash crop following cover crops should be used across the entire study area.

**NOTE:** Rows planted in each treatment need to be equal to or greater than combine head width.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Replication 1 | Cover Crop | Yield: |
| No Cover Crop | Yield: |
| Replication 2 | No Cover Crop | Yield: |
| Cover Crop | Yield: |
| Replication 3 | No Cover Crop | Yield: |
| Cover Crop | Yield: |
| Replication 4 | Cover Crop | Yield: |
| No Cover Crop | Yield: |

*Grower Requirements and Data Collection:*

For a cover crop experiment, there are several pieces of information you should collect to have meaningful results.

1. Note the species used in the cover crop treatment.
2. Note the method and date of cover crop termination.
3. Take pictures of the established cover crop.
4. Flag or mark GPS location of each treatment.
5. Provide all necessary inputs for crop production.
6. Complete background agronomic form about site and practices.
7. Collect yield data and grain moisture with weight wagon or yield monitor. If using yield monitor, please designate a separate “load” for each treatment and set up separate “products” names for each treatment harvested. Yield monitor must be **well calibrated**. Contact UNL Extension if assistance with this process is needed.
8. Collect stand counts at harvest.
9. Submit harvest data to UNL Extension within 30 days of harvest or by Dec. 15.
10. Allow UNL Extension to use submitted and collected data for research, educational, and informational purposes.

Optional data to collect that would be beneficial but not required:

* Soil organic matter samples.
* Soil moisture monitoring.

*Nebraska On-Farm Research Network will:*

1. Provide technical assistance in setting up replicated and randomized experimental design.
2. Provide assistance upon request with treatment implementation, flagging, stand counts, stalk rot tests, and recording yield.
3. Analyze raw data using statistical analysis and provide this information to the grower.

**Disclaimer:** The Nebraska On-Farm Research Network does not endorse the use of products tested in on-farm replicated strip trials. While treatments are replicated within trials and may be replicated across multiple sites under various conditions, your individual results may vary.

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