

Cover Crop Data and Recommendations

Precision Conservation Management Data continues to be limited by a lack of farmers in the program planting cover crops. As you review the data presented below, be aware that 1,500 – 2,000 fields in our program *did not* plant cover crops, while only 150-275 fields in our program *did*.

Also, the extremely wet spring in 2019 was not kind to cover crop plantings. PCM did add several first-time cover crop acres in 2019, but many of those new acres struggled because of the weather.

Even so, cover crops are an opportunity that farmers need to experiment with. A new initiative on the horizon – Ecosystem Services Market Consortium - will incentivize farmers and ranchers to improve soil health systems to benefit society. The marketplace will reward farmers for the good conservation practices they are implementing. Cover crops can be a good practice that they will reward.

CORN, High SPR	OVERWINTERING	WINTER TERMINAL	NO CC
2015-19 AVG VALUES			
<i># fields</i>	107	49	1960
<i>Yield per acre</i>	215	217	220
<i>Soil Productivity Rating</i>	139	140	140
GROSS REVENUE	\$766	\$780	\$791
COVER CROP SEED	\$5-40	\$5-40	\$0
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS*	\$391	\$365	\$390
COVER CROP PLANTING	\$0-15	\$0-15	\$0
TOTAL POWER COSTS	\$125	\$121	\$109
OVERHEAD COSTS	\$37	\$37	\$37
TOTAL NON-LAND COSTS	\$553	\$522	\$536
OPERATOR & LAND RETURN	\$182-232	\$231-281	\$255

SOYBEAN, High SPR	OVERWINTERING	WINTER TERMINAL	NO CC
2015-19 AVG VALUES			
<i># fields</i>	253	15	1780
<i>Yield per acre</i>	68	68	69
<i>Soil Productivity Rating</i>	139	139	140
GROSS REVENUE	\$624	\$625	\$635
COVER CROP SEED	\$5-\$40	\$5-\$40	\$0
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS*	\$151	\$143	\$143
COVER CROP PLANTING	\$0-15	\$0-15	\$0
TOTAL POWER COSTS	\$98	\$81	\$83
OVERHEAD COSTS	\$30	\$30	\$30
TOTAL NON-LAND COSTS	\$280	\$254	\$257
OPERATOR & LAND RETURN	\$302-352	\$334-384	\$378

