

AgWG Cover Crop Evaluation Recommendations

1/12/12 Meeting
Richmond Virginia

Cover Crops

- Need a default cover crop to address programs that do not the level of verification and information
- Need a definition of cover crops that allow starter fertilizer or manure nutrients
- Reduce complexity of cover crops as currently defined to reduce tracking and reporting burden. (250 variations)
- The structure of the cover crops may needed to address differences in application.

Cover Crops

- Commodity cover crops should be included in the evaluation in addition to traditional cover crops
- How is the model currently applying N to create a baseline condition for defining commodity cover crops.
- Frost dates should be replaced with heat units to define differences across the region
- Account for residual N from previous crops, especially legumes
- Forage radishes should be considered.
- How to track and report state regulations that eliminate fall fertilization of all small grains.
- Use of remote sensing data to track and report cover crops.

Cover Crops

- Elimination of fall fertilization of N based on fall N tests. How would this be defined, reported and represented as commodity cover crops
- Should commodity cover crops be included or should it be a NM question? It will likely be addressed by both panels.
- Cover crops in combination with fall manure applications; especially in association with livestock operations, should be evaluated.
- Cover crops are required by some state NM requirements for cover crops in association with manure applications
- Would it be possible to include range of errors in a association with the panel recommendations for the effectiveness values.
- Include cover crop species mixes as part of the evaluation, as well as cropping management variations.
- Improved definitions of cover crops that are predominant in Pennsylvania management conditions

Cover Crops

- The actual versus research level results should be considered in developing the effectiveness values, which is a base principle of the evaluation process.
- How are cover crops simulated in the Bay models, and if potentially the present modeling structure should be altered to improve the representation.