

“Managing Your Cash Crop to Make Room to Cover Crop Effectively”

Webinar Q & A

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Questions submitted by live audience

Sponsored by *No Till Farmer* and KB Seed Solutions

Presenters:

Cameron Mills, no-tiller and veteran cover crop user

Q: How do you handle liming? Do you feel chemical burn down is detrimental?

A: We soil sample every other year and spread lime accordingly as needed, variable-rate spreading over cover crops in the fall. No, I do not feel chemical burn down is detrimental ... most of the cover crops we use over winter and cannot be crimped.

Q: Is 30-inch corn silage too early to plant cover crops?

A: No. You can fly it on before you chop the corn, or you could drill it if you can get your corn chopped by mid-August. There are a lot of opportunities behind corn silage.

Q: If you have flat ground, how thick can you plant the cover crop without making a wet matt from the residue in the spring?

A: We seed 25 lbs. of ryegrass on flat ground and don't have any troubles in our area. We have also seeded 60 lbs. of cereal rye and waited until it was almost completely headed out, planted soybeans in it and then terminated without any troubles. It all depends on how well you manage your cover crops in the spring.

Q: How long after Authority Assist can radishes and turnips be planted? Or other sensitive covers?

A: The next year. While it ultimately depends on the health of your soil, I would wait at least a year as Authority Assist is a great herbicide, but is pretty rough on cover crops.

Q: Have you adjusted your nutrient application as a result of your cover crops?

A: Definitely! We have changed the timing, the quantity and the form. We use 28% at side-dress, chicken manure on top of the cover crops, and we use our soil tests as a guide, but spread according to what we see in the field. We have also done several years of studies to know how much nutrient scavenging the cover crops have behind our cash crops. This gives us a baseline on our farm for future reference.

Q: What form of nitrogen do you like for side-dress?

A: 28% is what we use on our farm and what I feel works best for us. We prefer 28% nitrogen because it is easy to handle and allows us to mix several other amendments and apply simultaneously (zinc, sulfur, etc.).