

5 Year Transition Program

A Collaborative Effort of the Precision Conservation Management program & the Soil Health Partnership

What is the 5YT Program?

We are looking for farmers in conventional corn-soybean production systems interested in comparing the short- and long-term effects of cover crops and/or reduced tillage with their current production system over a period of 5 years. Once a cooperating farmer identifies the practice they wish to adopt - reduced tillage or cover crops - SHP and PCM will work one-on-one to help them implement the practice successfully in a split-field system. Together, we will work with you to track changes in soil health, productivity, and profitability of the conservation system relative to the conventional system.

Who We Are

PCM is a service program that works directly with farmers to identify conservation practices that address conservation issues in a financially responsible way. PCM specialists pair your agronomic management data with economic cost tables, resource use models, and environmental assessments to develop management solutions that you can feel good about adopting.

The Soil Health Partnership partners with farmers to explore the economic and environmental benefits and risks of soil health practices. SHP collects on-farm data to evaluate the impacts of soil health practices on the soil, environment, and the farmer's bottom line.

Data Driven Results

The objective of the 5YT program is to integrate specific conservation practices into the standard operating systems for production agriculture. Program staff work with participating farmers to demonstrate the real-world benefits and challenges the practices represent. Over time, benefits of well-managed systems will be documented, and challenges will be managed to the extent that it is practical. The result will be the best-case scenario for in-field soil health systems. Successes will not only increase awareness, but also adoption by others in the community. Those who participate will have access to financial and technical assistance through the full 5 years.

Why Join:

- Soil health & nutrient analysis
- Comparisons of productivity and profitability between systems
- 1-on-1 technical assistance from SHP field staff and PCM specialists

Producer Checklist:

- Initial Visit-45 minutes to 2 hours for data collection
- Field map/GPS coordinates for field
- Treatment application layout
- Yield monitor data

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An NRCS Partnership

Farmers participating in this 5YT program agree to share select data with NRCS. Shared data is limited to those acres enrolled in the 5YT program comparing new practices with farmer's traditional practice.



Learn More:

PCM - www.precisionconservation.org
SHP - www.soilhealthpartnership.org

Five Year Transition Program

Trial Design and Program Details

On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials

The purpose of these trials is to support widespread adoption of innovative approaches, practices and systems on working lands. These trials focus exclusively on implementation of conservation practices and systems that improve soil health.

What we are looking for:

- ✓ Farmers wanting to learn how to incorporate cover crops into their system.
- ✓ Fields that have never had cover crops implemented before.
- ✓ Building a soil health system that works on your farm.



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Driving the Adaption of Soil Health Systems in Illinois

Project Options: Soil health practices can progress with farmer experience.

•Transitioning fields from no-till to cover crops-

Example- Planting a winter kill mix before corn and overwintering mix before soybeans.

•Transitioning from conventional till fields to no-till & cover crops-

Example- Starting the first year with cover crop and no-till before soybeans. Second year, winter kill cover crops and single pass tillage before corn.

•Other Trial Options-

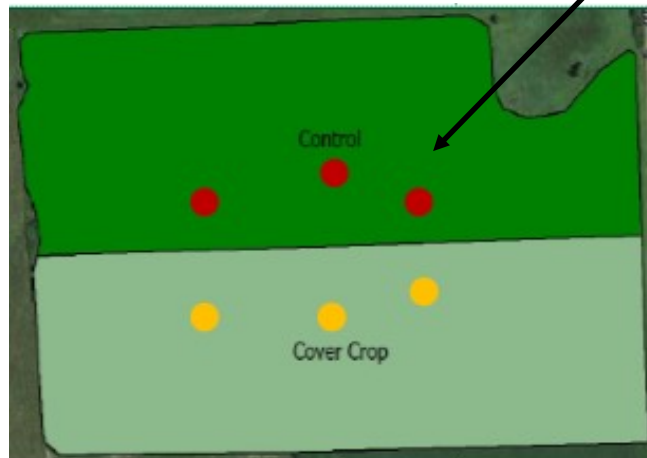
Strip till, cover crop mixes, inter-seeding, over-seeding....

These trials are for 5 years on one field. Trials will be adapted to fit your cash crop rotation and soil health goals

Soil testing and in-field assessments

Producer Checklist:

- Field map/GPS coordinates for field
- Treatment application layout
- Yield monitor
- EQIP eligible
- Detailed field operation records required (submitted to NRCS)



Split Field Trial Design

Example of a trial designed for cover crops. Minimum of 40 acres per treatment is desired.

