

Financial and technical assistance options for soil health

We recommend that you **contact an advisor with cover crop expertise** as your first point of contact for learning more about cover crops. The following specialists in Illinois can help you with personalized, local information.

**Jim Isermann, Cover Crop Specialist and Field Manager, Soil Health Partnership
cover crops and soil health**

(815) 257-2276, jisermann53@gmail.com

**Pete Fandel, Cover Crop Specialist and Professor of Agriculture, Illinois Central College
cover crops and herbicide residuals, soil health, nutrient management**

(309) 694-5410, pete.fandel@icc.edu

**Kris Reynolds, Cover Crop Specialist, American Farmland Trust
cover crops and soil health**

(217) 556-1896, kreynolds@farmland.org

**Dean Oswald, Cover Crop Specialist
cover crops and grazing, soil health**

(309) 333-0815, oswalddean@gmail.com

**John Pike, Cover Crop Specialist and IFCA Field Staff
cover crops and weed and pest suppression**

(618) 727-1234, jpik1.ag@gmail.com

You can find more specialists at this website: <http://www.ILSustainableAg.org>

Financial and technical assistance

USDA—NRCS federal cost-share

www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted

Illinois state office: (217) 353-6600

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program designed to address conservation needs on farmland. Operators (and in some cases owners) can apply for cost-share to cover costs associated with, for example, cover crops and soil testing.

NRCS will help eligible producers develop a conservation plan, which will become the basis of the EQIP application. EQIP applications are ranked based on a number of factors, including environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of the proposal. Look for application deadlines in early 2018.

State cost-share

Information available through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Find your District office through the directory put together by the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

(217) 744-3414, www.aiswcd.org

Other information and assistance

Information on sustainable agriculture

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

(612) 626-3113, www.northcentralsare.org

Midwest Cover Crops Council

(317) 392-6417, <http://mccc.msu.edu/>

Great site from Michigan State University for choosing the cover crop mix best suited to your farm.

Lease assistance

Ag Lease 101

www.aglease101.org

This website established by the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee includes materials created by economists and attorneys, including reports on fixed and flexible cash rental agreements and a crop-share lease template.

Drake University Agricultural Law Center

(515) 271-4956, <http://sustainablefarmlease.org/>

This website provides sustainable agricultural lease recommendations.

Peer-to-peer conservation assistance for landowners

Practical Farmers of Iowa

(515) 232-5661, www.practicalfarmers.org

This nonprofit seeks to “strengthen farms and communities through farmer-led investigation and information sharing.” They have an active listserv of landowners and operators interested in conservation. Their site includes fact sheets on cover crops and advice for landowners on talking with their operator.

Women’s Learning Circles

(515) 868-1331, jfilipiak@farmland.org

Peer learning circles for Illinois women landowners are hosted by the Women, Food and Agriculture Network and American Farmland Trust. Contact Jen Filipiak at the above number/email for more information and upcoming events.

General management and real estate

Farm Management Companies

Companies such as Farmers National, Hertz and Peoples offer extensive services for non-operating landowners, particularly absentee landowners, as they manage all aspects of a farm in close communication with the landowner and operator.

Extension land value survey

Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, <http://www.ispfmra.org>

The Nature
Conservancy 

nature.org/farmland
farmland@tnc.org
(317) 643 0906

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