

## **Utilizing Cover Crops in Conventional Cropping Systems – A Three-Part Telenet Series**

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Source: Earl Allen, U of I Extension-Fulton County Extension Director; Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, U of I Extension Crops Specialist-Macomb Extension Center

A three-part lunchtime telenet series titled “Utilizing Cover Crops in Conventional Cropping Systems” is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>, September 9<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> all Wednesdays from 12:00-1:15 p.m.

According to event organizers Earl Allen, U of I Extension-Fulton County Director and Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing, U of I Extension Crop Systems Specialist, the series is being offered as a professional development opportunity for U of I Extension staff, NRCS and SWCD personnel, CCA’s and other ag professionals. Primary sponsor for the series is the USDA SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) program.

An excellent line-up of multi-state speakers includes the following:

### **August 26 – Part I: Cover Crop Concepts**

Tom Kaspar, Plant Physiologist, USDA-ARS National Soil Tilth Laboratory, Ames, Iowa

Topic: *Overview of the Midwest Cover Crops Council*

Dale Mutch, Cover Crops/Field Crops IPM Specialist, Michigan State University

Topic: *A Michigan Perspective on Utilizing Cover Crops in Conventional Cropping Systems*

### **September 9 – Part II: Cover Crop Species and Their Management**

Mike Plumer, Natural Resources Educator, University of Illinois Extension

Topic: *Grass Cover Crops, Benefits and Management*

Joel Gruver, Asst. Professor, Soil Science and Sustainable Agriculture, Western Illinois University

Topic: *Legume/radish Cover Crops, Benefits and Management*

### **September 30 – Part III: Cover Crop Economics**

Alan Sundermeier, Ag and Natural Resources Educator, The Ohio State University Extension

Topic: *Economic Impacts of Cover Crops in Conventional Cropping Systems*

David Campbell – Illinois Grower

Topic: *Grower Experience using Cover Crops - Benefits and Challenges*

Extension staff may listen to the telenets individually or host the programs for other agriculture professionals through their county or center office. Access to the telenets for U of I Extension staff is free. Attendees, other than U of I extension staff, will be charged \$10/session. Program fees will be retained by the hosting extension office. CCA credits have been applied for in the amount of 1 hr per telenet session.

To register as a hosting extension office or as an individual extension staff member, go to the Fulton County Extension website ([fulton.extension.uiuc.edu](http://fulton.extension.uiuc.edu)), find the Program Registration

section of the main page, and click on each session for which you wish to register. All other individuals must register by contacting your local extension office. If your local extension office is not hosting the program, contact the Fulton County Extension office (309-547-3711) to find the hosting office nearest you. If you have other questions or you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program contact Earl Allen, U of I Extension Fulton County Director at [erallen@illinois.edu](mailto:erallen@illinois.edu).