

Soil Conservation Award



Kendall Clark also received the Soil Conservation Award for his use of cover crops in his farming operation.

The basis of selection of individual awardees will be determined on the following points:

- a. Use of land according to its capabilities.
- b. Completeness of conservation plan.
- c. Balance of farm enterprise.
- d. Quality of conservation work completed and maintenance of practices.
- e. Special Practices: In addition to traditional practices, special practices such as grassland development, forestry, pollution abatement, riparian management, water quality, and residue management should be considered.

Their operation began using cover crops in 2011 as a fallow replacement that would help with weed control, help with organic matter, and to protect the soil from erosion.

Currently they are running 600-800 acres with cover crops, depending on the year. Some of the covers they are using include mixes of peas, oats, flax, rape seed, lentils, and other brassicas. If there is limited moisture during a particular year, they tend to include the covers in their wheat and milo crop rotations. However when there is moisture to work with, they can stack some crops back to back.

The biggest benefits they have seen from the use of the cover crops so far have been keeping the soil covered and protected from the wind and heat. The protection from the cover crops has also led to added moisture when planting.

Kendall says he is still trying to learn that he doesn't have all the answers yet, but is trying to show it can be done in Lane County.