



Discover Cover Crops with Mark Doudlah

3/17/2015

If you attended our winter seminar “How to Thrive in Today’s Ag Economy: 10 Practical, Profitable Solutions” then you heard how Mark Doudlah uses no-till beans planted into crimped rye to achieve higher yields than conventional row crop cultivated beans.

If you were unable to attend, or have additional questions, here are some of the highlights.

Up until 5 years ago, Doudlah was a full-fledged conventional, no-tiller on prime Wisconsin farmland. Today most of his acres are organic and he has been very pleased with the results.

For Doudlah, success begins in the fall. He starts with 110# cereal rye, our **Residue®**, dry nutrients, and 500+ horsepower to keep everything rolling. He says getting a good stand of rye is all about the planting date and prefers to follow the combine with the drill as it is more consistent than an airplane. However, if it is a late wet harvest, an airplane may be the only viable option. If that’s the case, Doudlah increases seeding rate to 150#+ and plants the perimeter twice.



The cereal rye is crimped at full flower.



This is what an ideal patch of crimped rye looks like, but if you see some rye still standing, Doudlah says don't panic. He plants in 15" rows to close the canopy quickly. Rainfall can still infiltrate the mulch while maintaining weed control through fall.



Notice how clean this field of no-till soybeans planted into crimped rye is.



Which then yielded 47.1 bushels/acre. But Doudlah isn't the only one reaping benefits of no-till crimped rye soybeans.



Reginald Destree, his organic consultant, said, "Of all the plots and fields I've seen, crimped rye no-till soybeans have always out yielded the conventional row crop cultivated beans."

For more on Doudlah's cover crop practices, listen to his complete presentation on our AgriEnergy Resources website. And if you think cover crops could fit into your rotation, don't hesitate to give our knowledgeable team of sales agronomists a call at (815) 872-1190.