



## CASE STUDY

# Ripp-Vale Farm, Black Earth, Wisconsin No-Till Planting Green



### Objectives

Ripp-Vale Farm added cover crops to their no-till system with the goal of improved soil health. Through years of trial and adjustment, they found a system that works for their farm.



### Challenges

Planter set-up is key to success with this practice; row cleaners and closing wheels may need to be upgraded. Owning spray equipment is also beneficial to optimize termination timing.



### Results

The Ripp's have experienced improved carrying capacity in their fields, mellow soils, weed suppression, and improved soil health.

## PRACTICE DETAILS

### Fall: No-till plant cover crop

- If planting before September 1st, mixes that include legumes are appropriate
- If planting after September 1st, use winter rye only
- Plant cover crop at a slight angle from planned crop rows

### Spring: No-till plant corn or soybeans into cover crop

- When planting corn, terminate cover crop immediately after planting
- When planting soybeans, you have some flexibility in cover crop termination timing, up to 2 weeks post plant
- Ensure seed trench is closing properly
- Nitrogen at planting is key to a good corn stand when planting green

### Other things to note:

- Termination of the cover crop 3 to 7 days before planting is not recommended, the rye may get tough and the soil hard, making planting difficult
  - the cover crop should be dead or alive, not dying at planting time
- Keep your crops well rotated to avoid insect issues
- If you have manure as part of your cropping system, cover crops improve carrying capacity, but make a plan to control traffic and try to avoid fields when wet if possible



*"It puts fun back in farming, and it's beneficial. I remember my Grandpa saying you've got to take care of the land, because they don't make new land... the cover crops help build soil health, soil structure... you're benefiting the soil, protecting the land."*

### TOM RIPP

Ripp-Vale Farm

## PRACTICE PHOTOS



### Row Cleaners

Floating row cleaners are recommended



### Corn planted green into winter rye

May 14, 2024



### Closing System\*

Includes side-by-side fertilizer application and a drag chain



### Corn planted green into winter rye

June 14, 2024



### Residue breakdown in fall

October 2023

## TO LEARN MORE



Listen to the podcast "No-till Farming and Cover Crops with Tom Ripp"

[www.danedemofarmspodcast.buzzsprout.com](http://www.danedemofarmspodcast.buzzsprout.com)

*This project was conducted independently of Dane Demo Farms and was solely led by Ripp-Vale Farm.*

\*Aftermarket closing wheels increase corn emergence by 2% over standard rubber wheels.

Source: Jessica L Drewry, Brian J. Luck, Francisco Arriaga, "Closing Wheel Effect on Corn Emergence"

## About

Dane Demo Farms is a network of farmers that demonstrate and research leading edge conservation practices that improve water quality and soil health throughout Dane County, Wisconsin. Their efforts help reduce nutrients and sediment from entering our waters and build healthy soil.

<https://demofarms.danecounty.gov/>

