PATHWAYS TO REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE: FARM POLICY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
SAVING THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US

- Protecting farm and ranch land
- Promoting sound farming practices
- Keeping farmers on the land
Co-benefits of Cover Crops & No-till

- **Soil Temperature and Moisture Regulation**
- **Reduced Soil Loss from Wind and Water**
- **Winter and Early Season Weed Suppression**
- **Increased Diversity of Soil Biological Communities**
- **Improved Soil Structure**
- **Nutrient Capture and Availability**
Illinois Fall Covers for Spring Savings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Covers for Spring Savings</td>
<td>Fall Covers for Spring Savings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cover Crop Premium Discount Program</td>
<td>Cover Crop Premium Discount Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>500+</td>
<td>768</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONTRACTS REQUESTED</td>
<td>CONTRACTS REQUESTED</td>
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<tr>
<td>REQUESTED ACRES</td>
<td>REQUESTED ACRES</td>
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<tr>
<td>113,000</td>
<td>185,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL PARTICIPATION FROM IL SWCD's</td>
<td>TOTAL PARTICIPATION FROM IL SWCD's</td>
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<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 days</td>
<td>&lt;24 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000 ACRES ALLOCATED</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Crop Insurance Premium Discount Program

Leveraging State, Federal and Private funding

Innovative, efficient approach to accelerating cover crops on a big scale

IF COVER CROPS WERE PLANTED ON 25% OF ROWCROP ACRES IN ILLINOIS, IT WOULD BE EQUAL TO

REMOVING 633,323 PASSENGER VEHICLES FROM THE ROAD FOR A YEAR

Climate Initiative
Projects
Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP)

Managed by USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA)

Market-based risk management tool to strengthen the economic stability of ag producers and rural communities.

In 2019, covered 380 million acres of cropland

Farmers use indemnities to pay off short-term operating loans

Maintains agriculture financial services industry

Farms enrolled in crop insurance survive 7 years longer

American Farmland Trust
FCIP Risks

Value of insured crop is a major factor in determining value of premium subsidy and indemnity payment.

Farmers incentivized to increase yield and revenue

Unintentional deprioritizing of risk-mitigating actions

Mitigates short-term financial risk at the expense of long-term production risk
Active Risk Management

- Understanding how human management systems interact with natural systems
- Reduce potential for disasters
Future Climate-Scenario

- NASA – 24% corn yield reduction in next 10 years
- EPA – Lower yields for all major commodities
- Increase in commodity prices
- Increase in FCIP costs
Stronger Pathways

- Climate-smart practices protect farm incomes and increase on-farm resilience
- Inter-Agency cooperation within USDA
- Additional premium discounts
Climate-Smart Conservation Practice Expansion

- Current conservation practice adoption low
  - 1/3 of cropland acres using no-till or strip-till
  - Less than 5% using cover crops
- Need for more assistance from state and federal government agencies
- Reduce risk by stabilizing yields and lowering input costs
Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP)

- Offered by USDA in 2021 and 2022
- 12.2 million acres enrolled in 2021
- Cost of $59.4 million
- $5 per acre discount on crop insurance
COVER Act

- Extends $5 per acre premium
- Voluntary
- Compliments existing USDA programs
- TA for outreach efforts
- Creates Soil Health Pilot Program
Saving the Land that Sustains Us

For more information, reach out to

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