OVERVIEW

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Corn Growers Association, United Soybean Board and National Pork Board, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced a first-year round of state-level technical assistance funding for the Farmers for Soil Health partnership. Twelve new cover crop technical assistance grants totaling $13.6 million were awarded. The 12 awards generated $1.6 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of $15.2 million.

The Farmers for Soil Health Climate-Smart Commodities Partnership will accelerate long-term cover crop adoption on more than 1 million acres. The Climate-Smart project will offer farmers a transition incentive payment, along with personalized technical assistance, that will build cover crop capacity nationwide. The partnership will further incentivize farmers through a marketplace that efficiently quantifies, verifies and facilitates the sale of sustainably produced commodities.

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2023 STATE-LEVEL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Advancing Farmers for Soil Health in Tennessee
Grantee: Agricenter International
Grant Amount: $824,900
Matching Funds: $232,000
Total Project Amount: $1,056,900
Adapt the conservation agronomist model to deliver individualized technical assistance to farmers to facilitate sustained adoption of cover crops on soybean/corn acres in Tennessee. Project will support enrollment of 37,500 acres of cover crops, contributing to soil health and nutrient management across the state and within the Mississippi River watershed.

Advancing Farmers for Soil Health in the Atlantic Region (DE, MD, NY, PA, VA)
Grantee: Atlantic Soybean Council
Grant Amount: $999,300
Matching Funds: $68,000
Total Project Amount: $1,067,300
Combine regional conservation agronomy expertise with state and local level support to further advance cover crops in the Atlantic region. Project will support enrollment of 28,000 acres of cover crops on soy/corn acres improving soil health in Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia and contributing to improved nutrient management in the Chesapeake watershed.

Empowering Farmers to Improve Soil Health through Cover Crop Adoption (ND)
Grantee: North Dakota State University
Grant Amount: $825,000
Matching Funds: $0
Total Project Amount: $825,000
Provide science-driven technical assistance to help farmers adopt cover crops to increase soil carbon, reduce erosion and runoff, and provide wildlife habitat. Project will result in at least 35,000 new acres of cover crops and provide technical assistance to more than 70 farmers.

Expanding Cover Crops in Missouri with Farmers for Soil Health
Grantee: Missouri Soybean Association
Grant Amount: $1,099,800
Matching Funds: $40,000
Total Project Amount: $1,139,800
Deliver technical assistance to soybean and corn farmers to advance adoption of cover crops and improve soil health in Missouri. Project will support the enrollment of 65,000 acres of cover crops and will provide technical assistance to more than 200 farmers.

Expanding Cover Crop Technical Assistance with Farmers for Soil Health for Michigan Corn, Soybean and Pork Farms
Grantee: Corn Marketing Program of Michigan
Grant Amount: $900,000
Matching Funds: $450,000
Total Project Amount: $1,350,000
Expand technical assistance for Michigan farmers and overcome barriers to cover crop adoption on corn and soybean acres. Project will support 200 farmers in establishing cover crops on 55,000 acres.

Expanding the Precision Conservation Management Model to Advance Farmers for Soil Health (IL, KY, NE)
Grantee: Illinois Corn Growers Association
Grant Amount: $2,498,500
Matching Funds: $0
Total Project Amount: $2,498,500
Strengthen and expand the Precision Conservation Management model to increase sustained adoption of cover crops on corn and soybean acres in Illinois, Kentucky and Nebraska. Project will support enrollment of 96,500 acres of cover crops in the three states and provide individualized technical assistance support to more than 200 farmers.

Increasing Cover Crop Adoption in North Carolina with Farmers for Soil Health
Grantee: North Carolina Soybean Producers Association
Grant Amount: $824,600
Matching Funds: $0
Total Project Amount: $824,600
Introduce focused, higher-level conservation agronomy expertise to leverage the North Carolina Extension service network to increase cover crop implementation. Project will support enrollment of 27,500 acres of cover crops on soybean and corn acres in North Carolina and contribute to improved soil health and nutrient management across the state and in eight watersheds.

Increasing Cover Crop Adoption in Ohio with Farmers for Soil Health
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount: $1,149,900
Matching Funds: $110,100
Total Project Amount: $1,260,000
Engage experienced farmers, independent crop advisors and soil and water conservation district staff as well as leverage existing statewide public and private networks to provide cover crop technical assistance in Ohio. Project will support enrollment of 65,000 acres of cover crops and provide technical assistance to more than 300 farmers.

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**Increasing Cover Crops in Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin with Farmers for Soil Health**
Grantee: Conservation Technology Information Center
Grant Amount: $2,500,000
Matching Funds: $180,000
Total Project Amount: $2,680,000
Add new technical assistance professionals to increase capacity for cover crop adoption in Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Project will support enrollment of 87,000 acres of cover crops and provide technical assistance to more than 200 farmers.

**Increasing Cover Crops with Farmers for Soil Health and the Conservation Agronomy Program (IA)**
Grantee: Iowa Soybean Association
Grant Amount: $1,050,000
Matching Funds: $262,500
Total Project Amount: $1,312,500
Leverage and expand the current network of conservation agronomists to deliver technical assistance to farmers to increase cover crop adoption on new acres across Iowa. Project will support enrollment of 60,000 acres of cover crops.

**Indiana Farmers for Soil Health Initiative**
Grantee: Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance
Grant Amount: $500,000
Matching Funds: $0
Total Project Amount: $500,000
Launch a market-based, retail-centered approach to technical assistance and cost-share program enrollment. Project will support enrollment of 16,000 acres of cover crops on soy and corn farms in Indiana contributing to improved soil health and nutrient management in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds.

**Partnering with Conservation Agronomists and Farmers for Soil Health to Expand Cover Crop Use in Corn Acres (MN)**
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount: $450,000
Matching Funds: $334,000
Total Project Amount: $784,000
Provide a comprehensive package of targeted outreach and technical assistance to expand cover crop implementation on corn acres. Project will enroll 150 farmers in Farmers for Soil Health incentive programs, and support enrollment of 50,000 acres of cover crops in Central and Southwest Minnesota.