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## **Cover Crop Research at KSU**

The 2017 KSU Agronomy Field Day will be held on Friday, November 3rd at the Ashland Bottoms Research Farm - 2801 W. 40th Ave, Manhattan. This year's focus: cover crops!

Soil health means a lot of different things to different people, but one of the consistent focal points of the soil health movement has definitely been cover crops. This year's field day will focus on understanding the role cover crops play in water quality, weed control, and soil quality among others.

KSU Weed Ecologist Dr. Anita Dille will take on the weed control potential of cover crops in her talk on using cover crops for weed suppression. Her work has shown good weed suppression from the appropriate use of cover crops in our cropping systems.

The emphasis on cover crop effects on our commodity crops will also be touched on in two other sessions as well. Southeast Area Extension Agronomist Dr. Doug Shoup and KSU Crop Production Specialist Dr. Ignacio Ciampitti will share their research work in the arena of cover crop effects on soybean yields. KSU Cropping Systems Research Agronomist Dr. Kraig Roozeboom will share results from ten years of cover crop work in no-till wheat-sorghum-soybean rotations.

Water quality will also be a focal point of the day. Extension Soil Management Specialist Dr. Deann Presley will discuss her work on improving soil quality with cover crops – with some of that work from right here in the Meadowlark Extension District. Researcher Nathan Nelson will discuss his interesting work in the area of protecting surface water with healthy soils, cover crops, and fertilizer management. While Dr. Nelson's work will have a focus on Phosphorous, Dr. Peter Tomlinson, KSU Extension Environmental Quality Specialist will hit on the nitrogen management aspect of cover crops.

It will be a full day with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. Two concurrent one hour tours will start at 9:30 and conclude at noon with a complimentary lunch and poster session. There is no charge to attend, but preregistration is requested by October 30th to get a lunch count. Pre-register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ksu-agronomy-field-day-2017-tickets-38450982925> or by phone to Troy Lynn Eckart at 785-532-5776. On-site registration will also be available. For more information, contact me at a District Office or via e-mail to [dhallaue@ksu.edu](mailto:dhallaue@ksu.edu)