



UNIVERSITY OF
VERMONT

EXTENSION

CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

COVER CROP FIELD DAY

NOVEMBER 6, 2014 * VORSTEVELD FARM * PANTON, VT



FARMER COALITION INC.

A special thank you:

Hans, Gerard & Rudy
Vorstevelde Farm
Panton, VT

Edmund Schilliowski
SeedWay
*Seed donation



Cory Chelko & Jeff
Grembowicz
TA Seeds
*Seed donation



Ben & Jerry's Caring Dairy



Resource
Management
Incorporated

Down to Earth Recycling Solutions

Project Summary:

The Vorstevelde farm on the notoriously 'heavy clay soils' in Panton, Vermont near the shores of Lake Champlain and the Dead Creek. They are innovative, ambitious brothers who are not afraid to try new things on their dairy farm. They have been adopting a modified reduced tillage system on their farm that has mostly eliminated fall plowing in exchange for manure injection in the fall and light harrowing in the spring on their annually cropped fields. They have also been adding cover crops to their cropping system to take full advantage of their fall manure applications, while trying to keep in mind the difficult to manage spring conditions on soils that can have upwards of 90% clay content.

During the field day we will take a look at:

- 8 different **cover crop mixes** no-till drilled after a winter rye/winter wheat harvest in August along with manure injection
- A new cover crop mixture after corn silage harvest that includes **winter rye, winter wheat, oats and forage radish**. They hope to maximize fall biomass and residue for nutrient cycling and erosion control, while reducing the amount of living material in the spring when conditions can be limiting for field work.
- **MANURE**. On any dairy farm, efficient manure utilizations is an important concern. The Vorstevelde are trying different **injection** methods in conjunction with their cover crops. We'll take a look at some of the things they've tried this year...injecting before and after cover crop plantings, utilizing different sweeps during injection, etc.



Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team

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Site Statistics:

Location: Panton, VT

Soil Type: Vergennes Clay & Covington/Panton silty clay

Cover Crop Mixes Drilled*: August 12, 2015

Previous Crop: Winter Rye/Winter Wheat Grain

Manure: Liquid dairy manure injected

*Drilled plots seeded with Haybuster No-Till Grain Drill

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Cover Crop Plots

Vorsteveld Family Farm - Soil Health Field Day



Wood Ash @ 4 tons/acre	Winter Rye @ 110 lbs/acre + Eco-Till Radish @ 10 lbs/acre	Eco-Till Radish @ 10 lbs/acre	SW-RA (Aust. Winter Pea + Eco-Till Radish) @ 25 lbs/acre	SW-RAR (Annual Ryegrass + Eco-Till Radish) @ 25 lbs/acre	SW-RCT (Winter Triticale + Crimson Clover + Eco-Till Radish) @ 50 lbs/acre	SW-ROP (Aust. Winter Pea + Jerry Oats + Eco-Till Radish) @ 50 lbs/acre	Crimson Clover + CCS Tillage Radish @ 24 lbs/acre	CCS Tillage Max 'Indy' (Annual Ryegrass + Crimson Clover + Tillage Radish) @ 25 lbs/acre	Wood Ash @ 4 tons/acre
NO Wood Ash									NO Wood Ash
Wood Ash @ 2 tons/acre									Wood Ash @ 2 tons/acre

Vorsteveld Soil Health Cover Crop Mixes - Planted on 08-11-2014, Sampled on 10-20-2014

