

UVM Extension Fact Sheet: Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team

No-Till for Cover Crops, Pasture Improvement & New Seedings

Reducing Soil and Phosphorus Loss Using a No-Till Grain Drill. 2012 Ecosystem Restoration Program grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources for purchase of two no-till grain drills for farmers to use.

Project Goal:

Reduce soil and nutrient loss by increasing the use of No-till seedings of hay crops and grain cover crops on Clay soils, Floodplain soils & Highly Erodible soils. Farmers can use the drills to plant Winter Rye cover crops after corn silage harvest, re-establish hay crops on flood damaged fields, convert annual crop land to hay, improve pastures and grass hay with added legumes or plant cereal grain or soybeans without primary tillage. We would like to have at least 1,000 acres planted this year by 20 participating farmers.

- Who is eligible:** All Farmers in the Champlain Valley region of Addison and Rutland counties.
- Equipment Available:** 2 - Haybuster No Till Grain Drill (10') Model #107 with added Legume seed box.
- Cost:** No rental fee, seed provided for field strip trials, soil test and forage analysis.
- Sign-up to use Drills:** We will coordinate drills and farmers will provide transportation and maintenance.

Repair Flood Damaged Hay Fields:

Seed hay mixture of grasses and legume seed at 16 to 20 lb/acre in bare soil.
Emergency feed with BMR Sudan Grass, Spring Forage Oats, Italian Ryegrass and Red Clover

Winter Rye Cover Crop after Corn Silage Harvest:

Prevent erosion and capture N in organic form before denitrification losses.
100 lb/acre Winter Rye Seed or Winter Wheat. Seeding by October 15th for FAP program (\$30/ac)
Seed by October 1st to save even more nutrients for next year crop.

Add Legumes to Pasture:


A thick sod keeps soil in place and recycles livestock waste nutrients to prevent losses.
Seed 8 to 14 lb/ac to improve forage quality with mixed grasses, legumes and forbs.

Mix and Match Seed for Your Specific Soil Conditions

Sample Mix to No-Till:
8 lb grass + 4 lb Clover + 2 lb Chicory

	lb/ac		lb/ac
Orchard Grass		Ladino Clover	
Brome grass		Alsike Clover	
Meadow Fescue		Red Clover	
Perennial Ryegrass		Birdsfoot Trefoil	
Italian Ryegrass		Chicory	

For more information, please contact the UVM Extension Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team

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