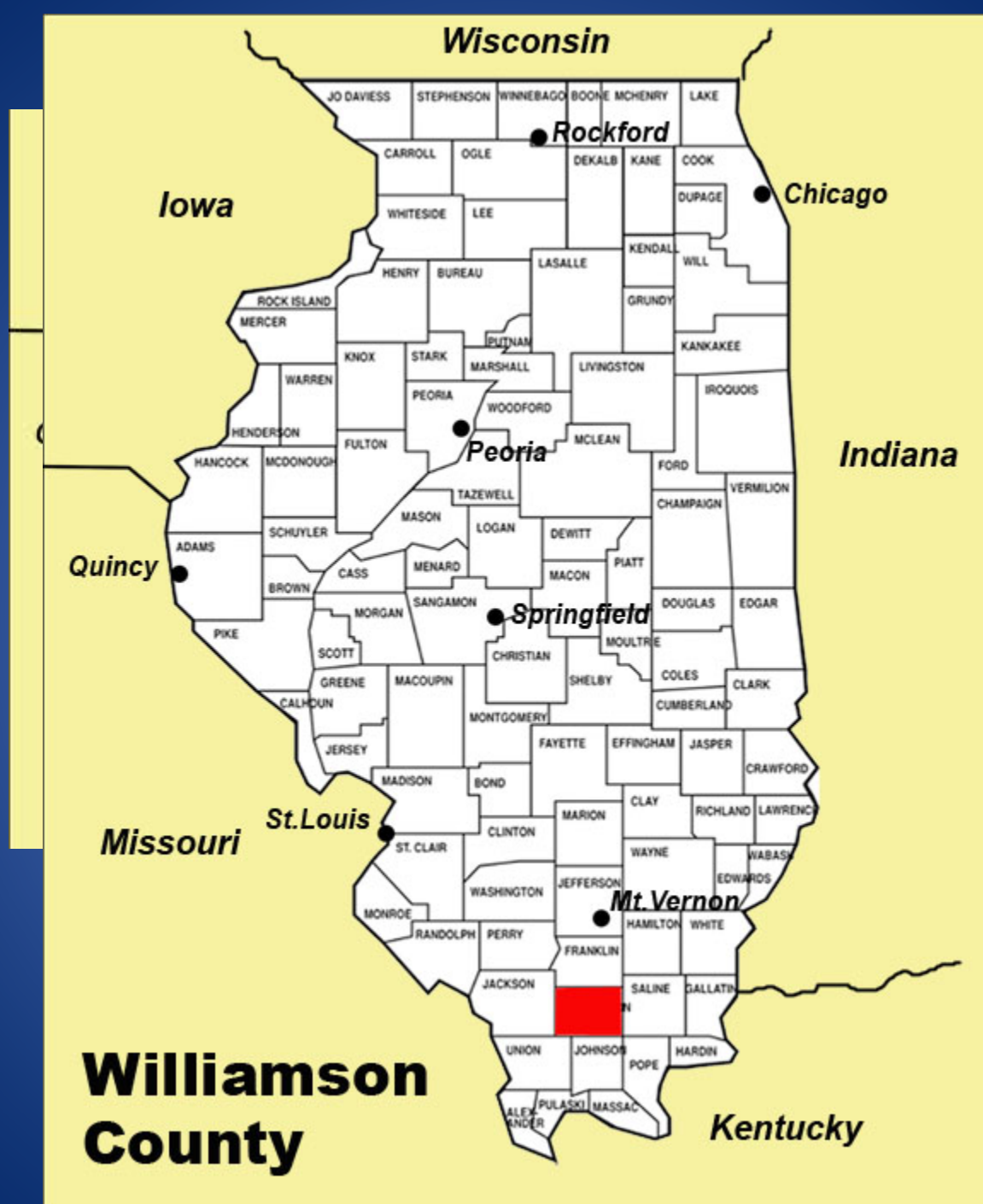


No-Till and Cover Crops in Southern Illinois

Adam Dahmer

Marion, IL



Williamson County, IL

- Average rainfall – 45.05 inches
- Rainfall peaks in May from June to Oct. about 3” per month
- Stay above 80 from mid May to Mid September
- Limited snow cover but still reach temperatures down to zero for short periods of time

Dahmer Farms, LLC

- Established in 1882
- 6th Generation
- Farm with Father Terry, Brother John
- No-Till since 1981
- Cover Crops consecutively since 1999/2000
- 100% acres covered since 2012

History presents opportunity for future



Realization

- Needed organic matter
- 1.5- 2%
- Cereal Rye
- About 12 years of 50% acres covered with cereal rye alone
- Increased O.M. to 3.5- 4%
- PROTECT OUR SOIL!!

Covers crops used

- Cereal Rye
- Hairy Vetch
- Annual Ryegrass
- Rapeseed
- Clovers
- Oats

Cereal Rye









Cereal Rye

- Maximum growth above and below soil surface
- 4.5'-5.5' growth, over 36" in depth
- Blanket the soil is a must for erosion and biological activity at soil surface
- Weed suppression is achieved when you blanket the soil
- Carry nitrogen forward 12-15 months
- Mulch helps keep soil temps cool for corn the following year
- Small roots start to die at 80 degrees





Annual Ryegrass

- Started in 2012
- Needed a cover crop ahead of corn
- Works great ahead of corn
- Establishment issues









Educational Experiences

- Pay attention to what your cover crops are telling you



Figure out what tools work best for you

- On farm testing is the only way to determine what will help you succeed







Know when enough is enough

- Too much growth can be achieved if fertility program is not taken into account



Cereal Rye and Hairy Vetch

- 70# Cereal Rye 6# Hairy Vetch Raw



Picture Perfect



Rapeseed stakes its place in our mixes



Too much of a good thing is a BAD THING!



Cereal Rye and Hairy Vetch

- 20# Cereal Rye, 18# Hairy Vetch

















Options



Buckwheat



For every action there is a reaction





Soil cores provide snap shots of soil profile

- 12 years after ripping and continuous no-till



Educational Experiences

- Pay attention to things that don't turn out like you thought they would.
- Work with knowledgeable trades people not sales people, everyone must be on board with your program
- Pay attention to how your equipment is set up
- Failure is only achieved when nothing is taken from the experience

HONESTY

- Your location in the United States
- Your farm system
- You can't replicate the exact program that speakers talk about and expect the same results
- Mindset is the only way to succeed



Thank You