

Minnesota State Report

During 2016 there were at least 11 shareholder groups in the MN that were directly involved in cover crop research, education, outreach, and demonstration. The University of Minnesota, and Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) were the most active during 2016, totaling 51% (Figure 1). There were 87 cover crop events in 2016, with 48% lead by the University of Minnesota, 24% lead by NRCS, and 4% lead by United States Department of Agriculture -Agricultural Research Services (USDA-ARS). Non-stated and federal agencies hosted 12% of the cover crop events in 2016. Total attendance was 4500 where 56% attended University of Minnesota educational events.

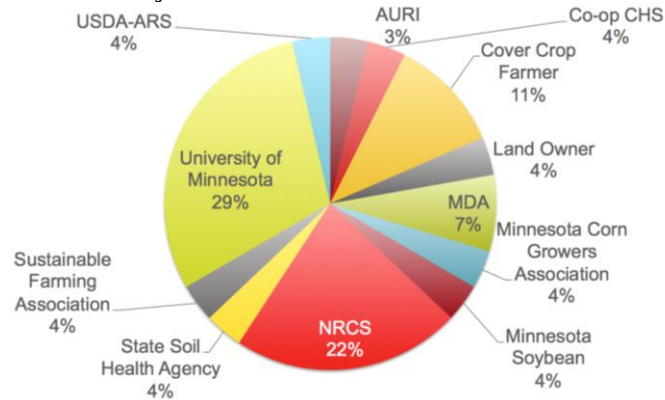


Figure 1. Intuitions and shareholder groups involved with cover crop activates in 2016. ($N=28$ respondents). Abbreviations: USDA-ARS, United States Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Services; NRCS, Natural Resource Conservation Services; MDA, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; AURI, Agriculture Utilization Research Institute.

In addition to hosting cover crop events across the state, there were eight papers presented at American Society of Agronomy Meetings, one peer review paper, one soil health educational manual for immigrant farmers, and three extension newsletters. There were five media events through out the year with one from, University of Minnesota, USDA-ARS, Sustainable Farmers of America, and two from NRCS. There were 22 new projects funded in 2016, directed associated with cover crop research, education, and outreach. Funding was divided between three sources; 18% from state commodities boards, 35% from state legislator, and 47% from federal funding pools with total funding for 2016 at \$3.97 million. The disciplines of Agronomy and Agroecology received the greatest level of support, 55% and 32% respectively (Figure 2).

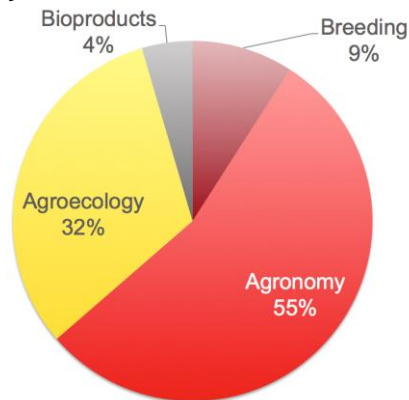


Figure 2. The scientific domains of newly funded cover crop projects in 2016.