

# Dane Demo Farms

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# Dane Demo Farms

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- What is Demo Farms?
- Who is involved?
- Current research projects and 1<sup>st</sup> year data
- How to stay loop





# Dane Demo Farms

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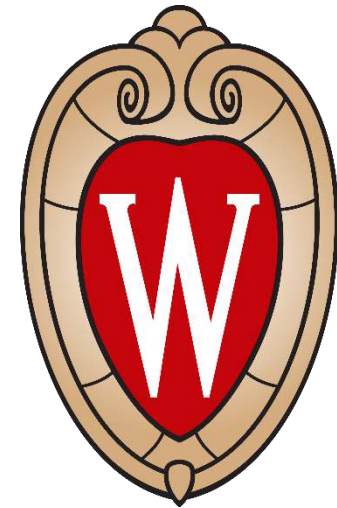
Farmer-led research with a focus on enhancing agricultural practices to promote water quality and soil health

- Identify and break down barriers to conservation implementation
- Get local, on farm answers to farmers conservation implementation questions



# Dane Demo Farms

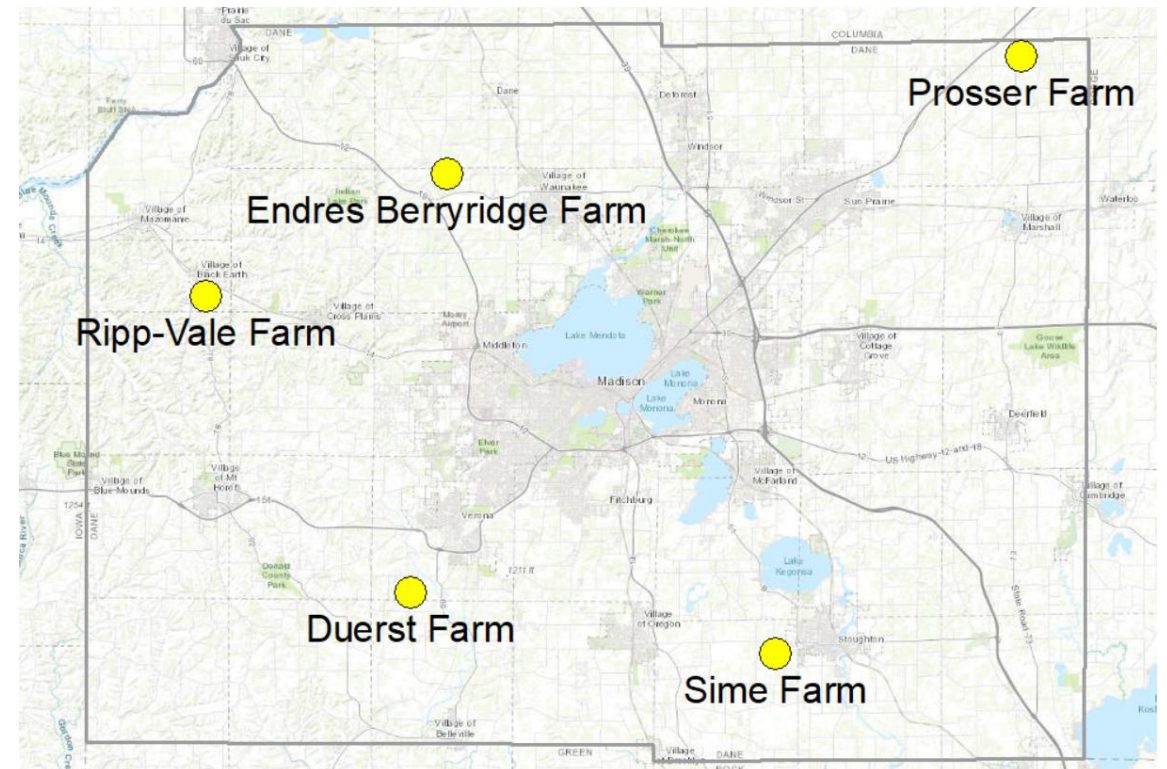
Dane County partnered with USDA-NRCS through a joint funding agreement to start the Dane Demo Farm network in 2023, in collaboration with the UW



# Dane Demo Farms

Five farms are part of the network:

- Endres Berryridge Farm, Waunakee
- Prosser Farm, Columbus
- Ripp-Vale Farm, Black Earth
- Sime Farm, Stoughton
- Tyler Duerst Farm, Verona





# Dane Demo Farms

## Research Projects:

- Cover Crop Termination Plots
  - Includes slug and beneficial insect monitoring
- Lime Stratification Plots
- Nutrient Stratification Plots
- Manure Nitrogen Management Plots
- Cover Crops for Low-Lying Acres
- Transition to No-Till
- Edge-of-Field Monitoring



# Research: Cover Crop Termination

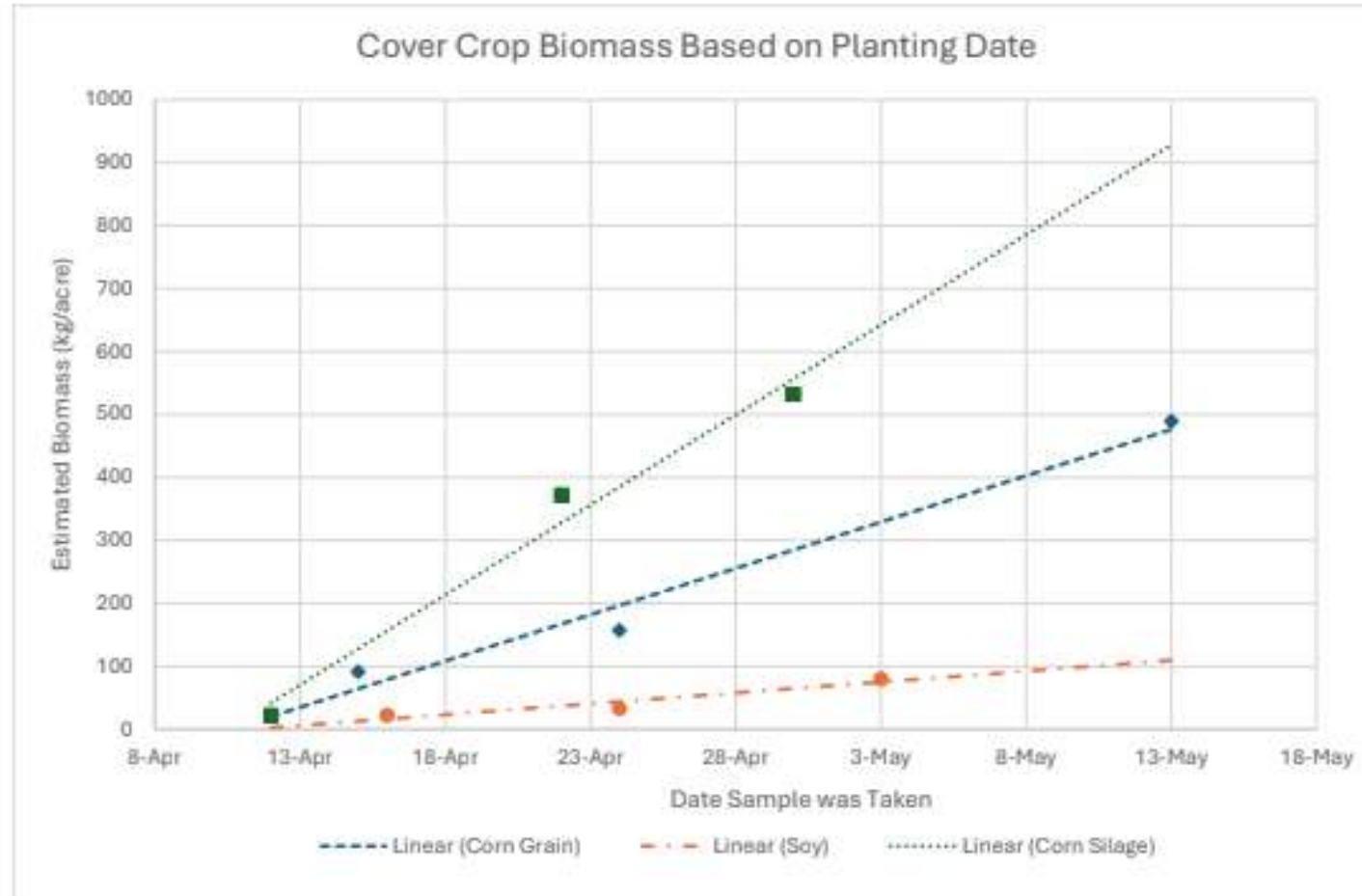
## Cover Crop Termination Plots

*When is the best time to terminate a cover crop to achieve goals and what are the tradeoffs?*

1) No cover crop*	2) Early termination of cover crop (first chance in spring)*	3) Termination 2 weeks to 10 days before planting*	4) Termination at planting*	5) Termination 10 days after planting	6) Crimp at planting	7) Winter-kill cover crop
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# Research: Cover Crop Termination

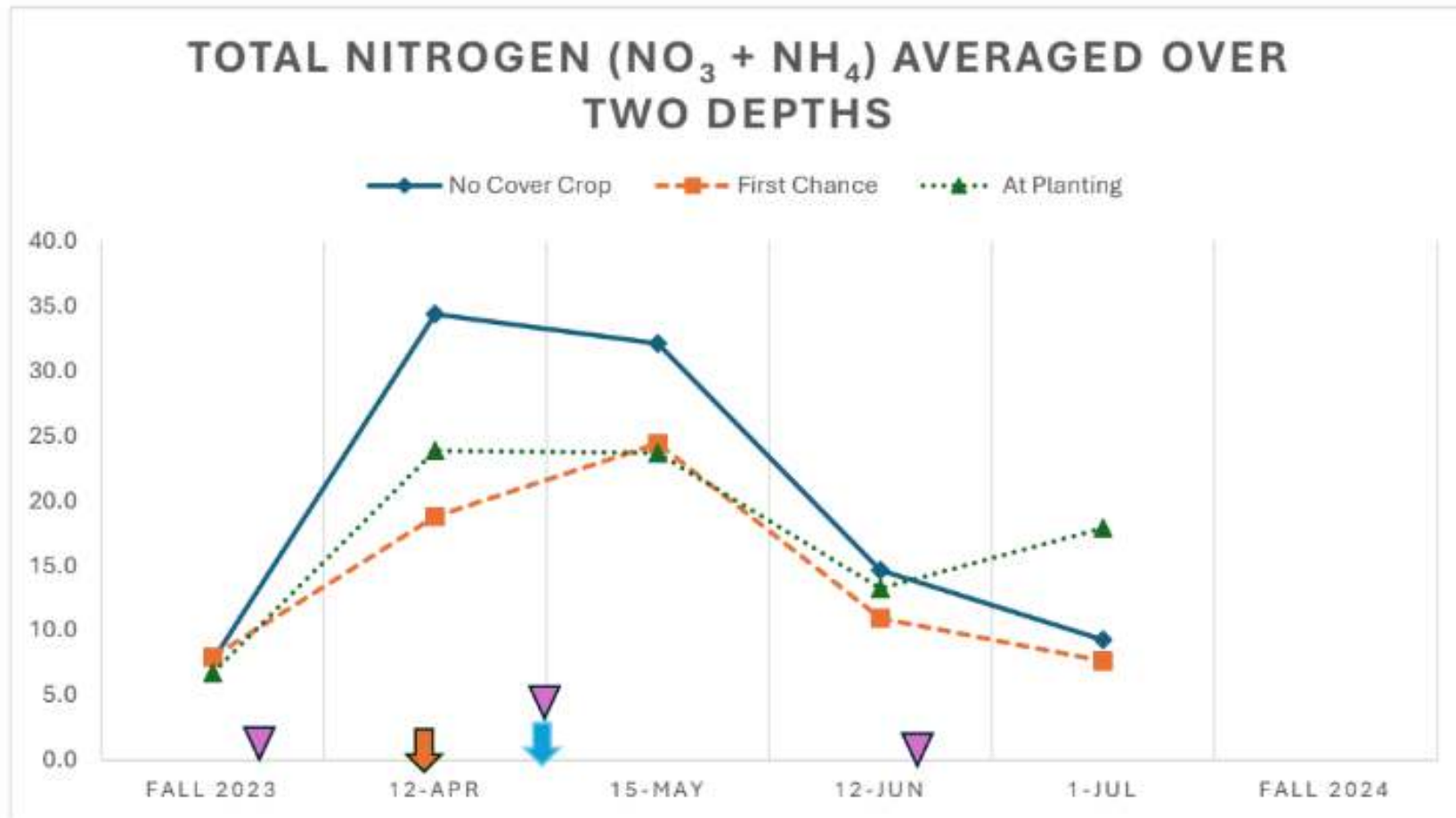


To achieve weed suppression, 5,000 lbs/ac of biomass is needed





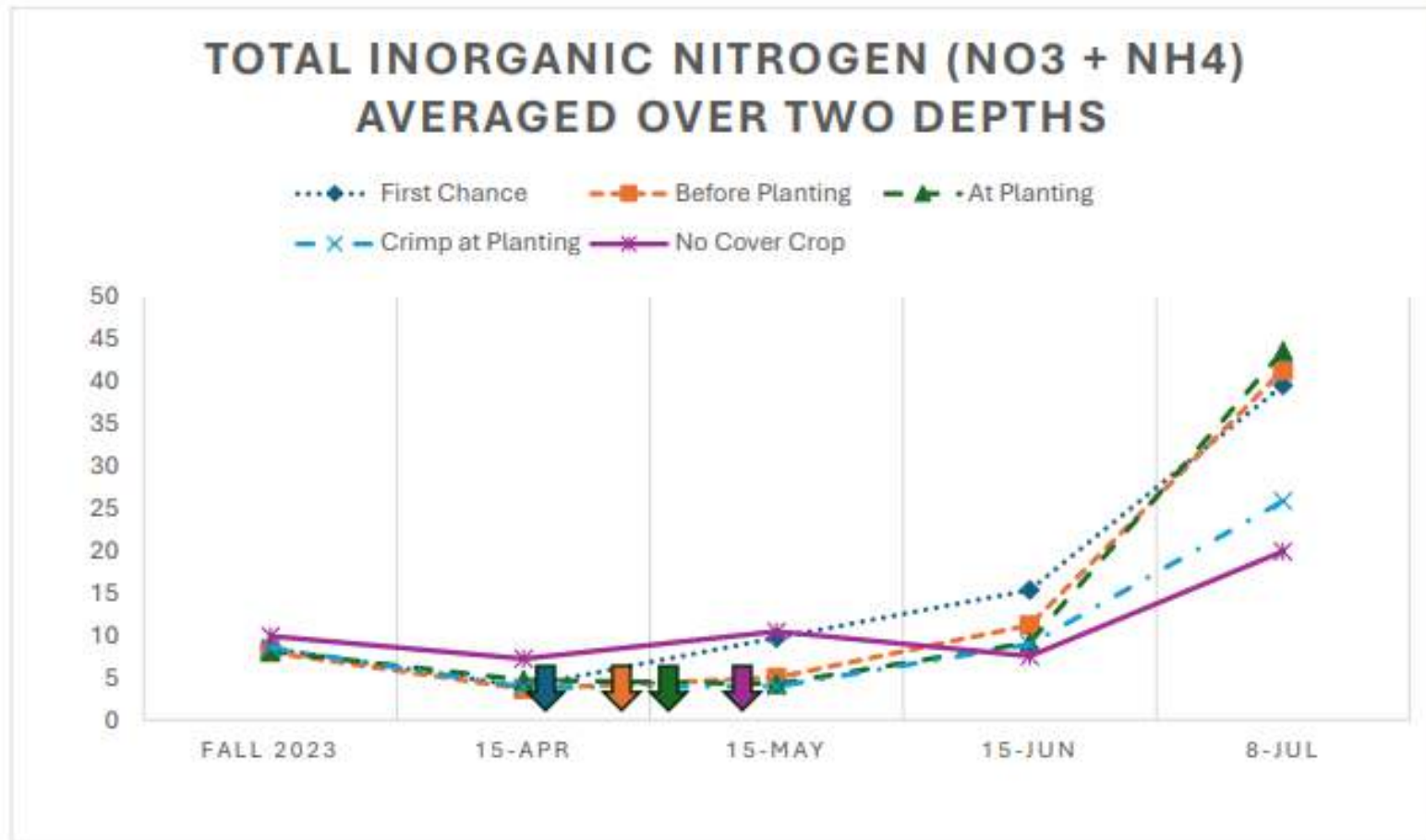
# Research: Cover Crop Termination



## Cover Crop Management

- Wheat/barley drilled 9/24/23
- Fall Sample taken 10/2/23
- Manure applied 11/20/23
- First Chance termination 4/12
- 10-14 days before planting termination 4/30
- Corn planted 4/30/24
- 4/30/24 applied UAN
- Side-dressed 6/13/24
- Harvest 9/10/24

# Research: Cover Crop Termination



## Cover Crop Management

- Winter rye drilled 10/12/23
- Fall Sample taken 10/23
- ➡ • First chance termination 4/16
- ➡ • Before planting termination 4/25
- ➡ • At planting termination 5/8
- ➡ • Crimp at planting 5/13
- Spray crimped plot 5/15
- Corn planted, N applied 5/15
- Side dress 6/15
- Harvest 10/17
- Fall sample taken 10/18/24
- Winter Rye drilled 10/21/2024



# Research: Cover Crop Termination

**New for 2025:** slug and beneficial insect monitoring – started at planting (early May), continues for 8 weeks





# Research: Nutrient Stratification

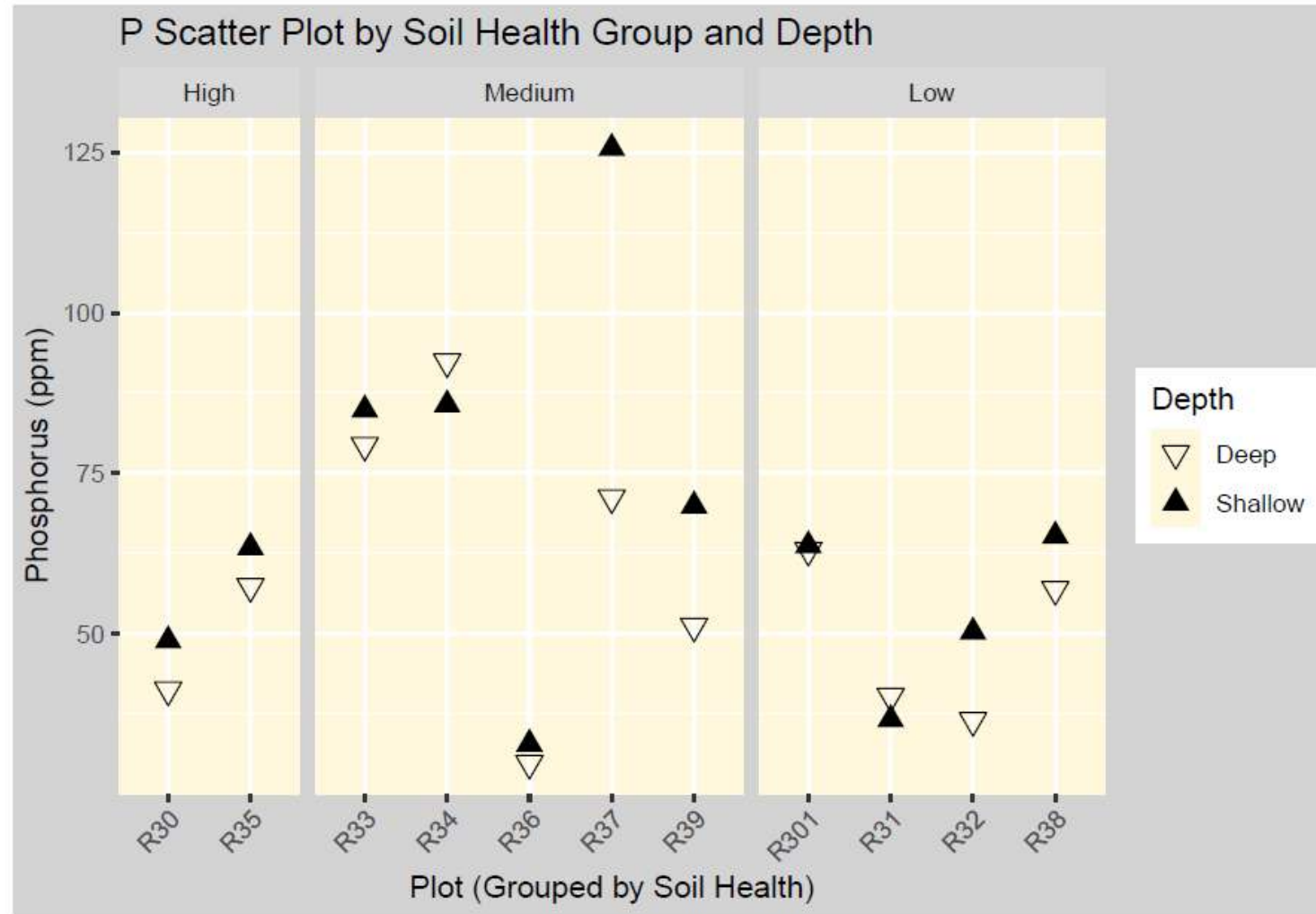
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## Nutrient Stratification

*Does adding cover crops into a no-till system reduce or eliminate nutrient stratification in the soil profile?*



# Research: Nutrient Stratification



# Research: Manure Nitrogen Mgmt

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## Manure Nitrogen Management Plots

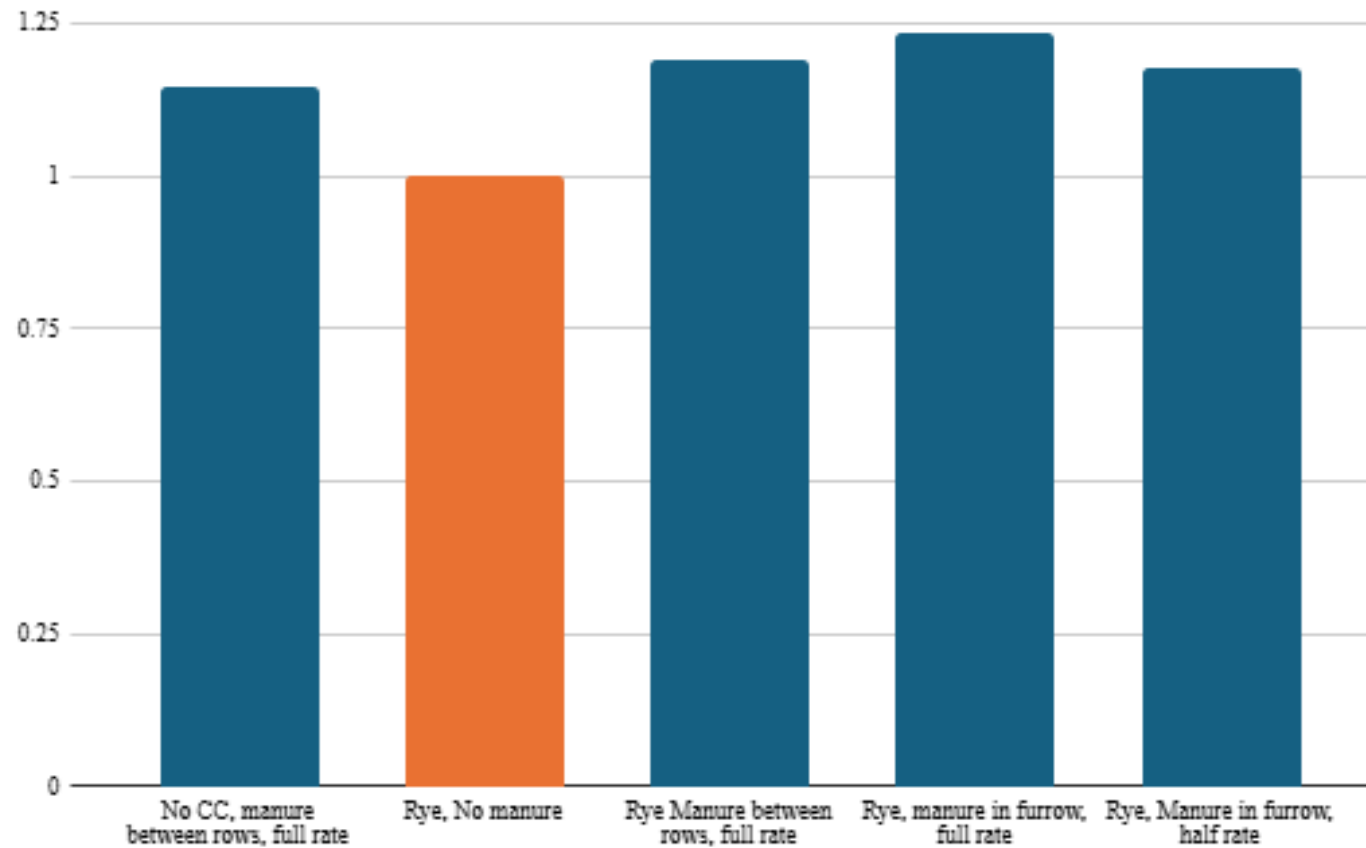
*What is the best placement of nitrogen fertilizer to avoid tie-up by cover crops?*





# Research: Manure Nitrogen Mgmt

Yields of Different Manure Applications Compared to Unfertilized Control

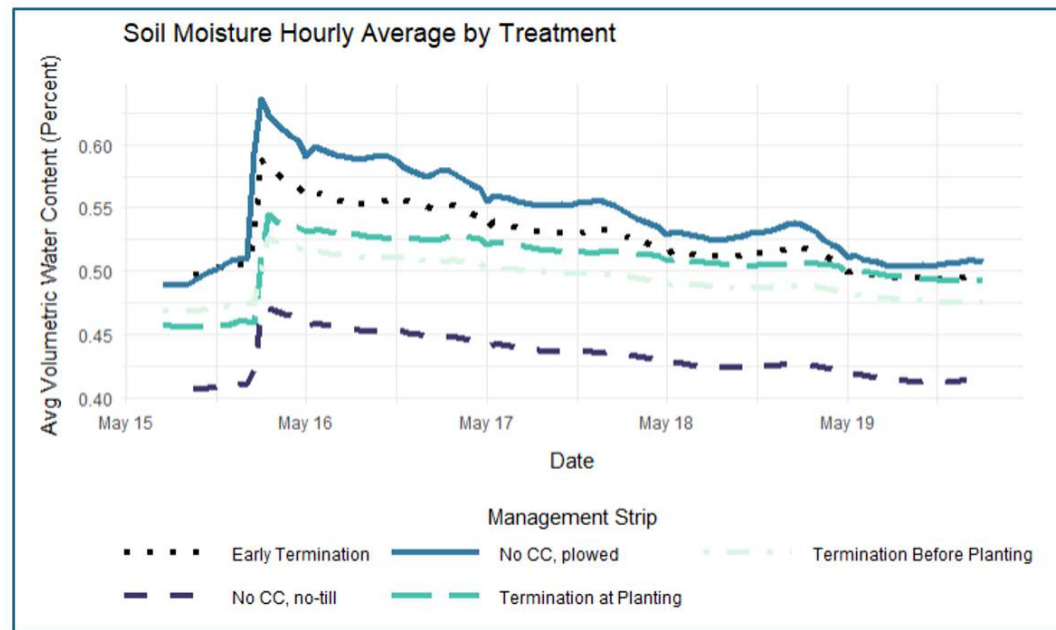


# Research: Transition to No-Till

## No Till Transition Plots

*How does crop yield, soil moisture, temperature, and nitrogen cycling respond when transitioning a field to no-till*

Five Management Strips	
No Cover Crop	Rye Cover Crop
(1) No till	(3) Terminate at planting
(2) Tilled soil	(4) Terminate 10-14 days before planting
	(5) Terminate early (first chance in spring)



# Research

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## Edge-of-Field Monitoring: Paired site near Verona



**August 19:** Press Event and Field Day for the public – more details coming

*Support the efforts by becoming a sponsor!*

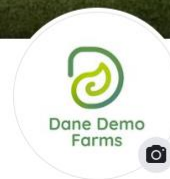




# Dane Demo Farms

How to stay in the loop?

- Sign up for our newsletter at [www.demofarms.danecounty.gov/Newsletter](http://www.demofarms.danecounty.gov/Newsletter)
- Follow us on Facebook!



**Dane Demo Farms**

19 likes • 43 followers





# THANK YOU



LAND & WATER  
RESOURCES  
DEPARTMENT



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