

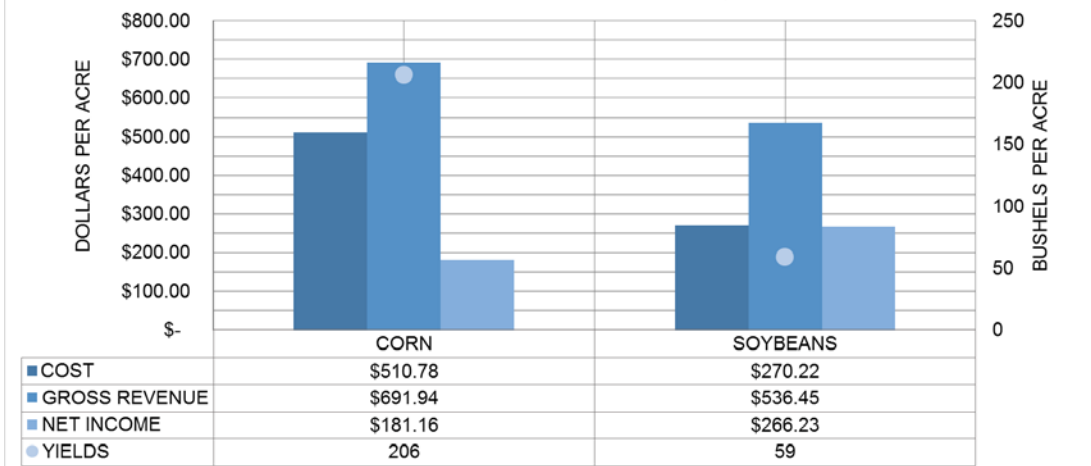
## THE ECONOMICS

### COVER CROPS ARE PROFITABLE

To help determine the economics of using cover crops, data was collected from cover crop fields in Nobles and Jackson Counties for three years. The following data was used to determine the net profit: average field yield, revenue per bushel, cost of crop seed, cost of fertilizer, cost of chemicals, crop insurance, cost of using machinery (fuel, custom farming, rentals, etc.), and cover crop seeding, application and termination cost. Below is a chart of the averages from corn and soybean fields from 2015-2017 in both Jackson and Nobles County.

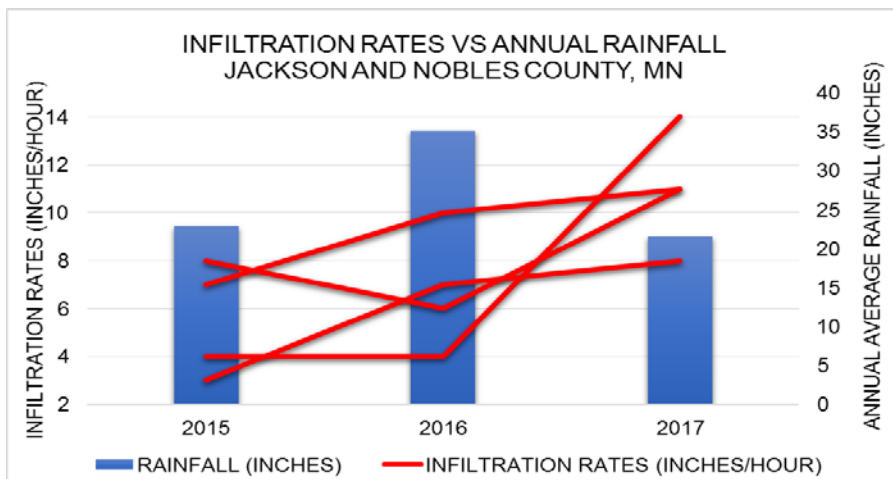


2015-2017 AVERAGE YIELD DATA IN COVER CROP FIELDS  
JACKSON AND NOBLES COUNTY, MN



### INCREASED INFILTRATION

Weather patterns are unpredictable in southwest Minnesota. Large rain events and drought conditions can happen in the same season. Farmers have been using cover crops to help manage water. Over the last three years, our research plots have shown increased water infiltration on cover crop fields. During rain events, better infiltration can help water move through the soil profile and help hold soil moisture during hot summer conditions.



## HIGHER YIELDS

Within the last three years, annual yield data has been collected in Jackson County and Nobles County, MN on cover crop field plots. The cover crop fields showed a higher yield a majority of the time. By using cover crops, landowners have reduced the number of tillage passes and increased yields. With these economics, farmers are still making a profit while improving soil quality, utilizing water storage, and decreasing erosion.



Yields, Soils, and Cover Crops

# Workshop

Friday, January 25, 2019

9:00 AM

Heron Lake Community Center

312 10th Street

Heron Lake, MN

## Workshop Agenda

**9:00 AM** Registration, Coffee, and Rolls

**9:30 AM** Jerry Hatfield, USDA-ARS "What's Really Happening in Our Soils?"

**10:30 AM** Break and Vendor Booths

**10:45 AM** Dan Perkins, Jasper SWCD "Interseeding Successes & Failures"

**11:45 AM** Questions

**12:00 PM** Lunch (Provided)

**12:15 PM-12:30** Jerry Ackermann, Local Farmer "The Economics'

**12:30** Free Raffle Drawing and Social

Come enjoy free food, a free raffle, and talking with other farmers!

Please RSVP by January 18th. Go to <https://soilhealthsvp.eventbrite.com> or call the Jackson SWCD at 507-662-6682 Ext 3.

Soil and Water Management CEU Credits Available

