

2017 AFRP Research Project Objectives

Identifying Factors to Optimize Establishment of Alfalfa Interseeded in Corn University of Wisconsin - Renz

Project Award: \$250,000

Objectives:

- The overall goal of this project is to identify management practices and environmental conditions that will ensure reliable establishment of interseeded alfalfa across Northern regions of the USA. Mixed-model and nonparametric analyses of data from research station and on-farm experiments conducted in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and Idaho will identify management factors (alfalfa variety, corn population, PGR, fungicide, insecticide, wheel traffic, manure, etc.) and environmental conditions (temperature, precipitation, soil type, soil fertility, etc.) that most impact establishment of interseeded alfalfa. The project has three objectives: Objective 1 - Conduct multistate research station studies to assess how corn seeding rate, wheel traffic, and application of PGR and fungicide/insecticide to hybrid and leafhopper-resistant varieties impacts establishment of interseeded alfalfa Objective 2 - Use data collected from multistate research station and on-farm studies to identify key weather, soil, and management factors determining the success of alfalfa establishment by interseeding into silage corn. Objective 3 - Formulate best management practices for establishing alfalfa by interseeding into corn silage and conduct outreach to producers, crop advisors, and key stakeholders in the Northern USA.