

# Montgomery County Conservation District Holds Interseeding Demonstration Field Day

*By Jessica Moldofsky, Agriculture Conservation Specialist, Montgomery County Conservation District*



*Interseeding cover crops into standing corn allows mature cover crop establishment at time of corn harvest. Photo provided by Montgomery County Conservation District.*

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, the Montgomery County Conservation District in conjunction with Penn State Extension, held a cover crop interseeding demonstration field day. The demonstration was held on the Frankenfield farm in Franconia.

This event showcased a new piece of equipment that the Montgomery County Conservation District purchased through a NRCS Conservation Innovation grant. The three-year grant project includes several demonstration field days as well as establishment of an equipment rental program, for use by farmers in Montgomery County free of charge, for the purpose of interseeding cover crops, no-till planting, and pasture renovation.

The equipment, a modified Esch 5505 no-till drill with built in sprayer, has the potential to improve conservation practices on the farm, to improve soil and water quality through improved soil cover on cropland and improved pasture forage cover. The drill can also plant meadow/pollinator habitat to increase beneficial insects and pollinators on the farm. The equipment will reduce soil erosion through no-till

planting opposed to conventional tillage, as well as through use of cover crops to protect the soil over winter.

The next demonstration field day is a pasture renovation demonstration on a horse farm in Gilbertsville, on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00-8:00 pm.



*Montgomery County Conservation District purchased this no-till drill. Photo provided by Montgomery County Conservation District.*



*Farmers and agency folks alike learn about the benefits of cover crops and interseeding from Andrew Frankenfield with Penn State Extension (in blue) during the Montgomery County Conservation District's field day.*

The equipment is currently available for use by farmers in Montgomery County. This program has been made possible through a grant by the USDA NRCS as well as partnership with Penn State Extension and King's AgriSeeds Inc.

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