

Cover Crop Field Days in McKean & Potter Counties

The McKean County Conservation District, in partnership with Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Potter County Conservation District, held several cover crop field days this fall. The project was made possible through a PACD mini-grant.

In July, the Districts contracted an interseeder through Penn State Extension to plant cover crops in standing corn. Different crops were tested including red clover, tillage radishes, and annual ryegrass. Cover crops still present a challenge in northern Pennsylvania counties due to a short growing season and frequent wet field conditions in spring and fall.



Field Days were scheduled in October in Kane and Port Allegany (McKean) and Harrison Valley and Ulysses (Potter) to show local farmers the results and potential of using cover crops in their operations. At the field day events in McKean County additional speakers provided presentations on soil health and interseeder specifics. Tim Elder from USDA NRCS spoke on soil health and as related to cover crops. Chris Houser from Penn State University spoke on cover crop interseeding and about the demonstration plots. At one Potter County demonstration site a technique was also demonstrated to plant cover crops after corn was harvested for high moisture shell corn.

Thirty-two people attended the field days. Productive discussions and questions were presented.



Tim Elder from NRCS provided farmers information about soil health and warm season grasses for forage.

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