

December 2019

Cover Crop Insects and Tile Seminar

Sampling in commercial fields

- Sampled 44 soybean fields in 2019
 - 23 following a rye cover crop, paired with 21 that had no cover crop
- Sampled approximately weekly
 - Target: 3 weeks before & 3 weeks after planting
 - Actual: as many as 9 weeks before planting
- Compare pest and beneficial populations, damage to crop
 - Armyworm
 - Cutworm
 - Slugs
 - Stink bugs
 - Ground beetles
 - Lady beetles
 - Etc.



Dr. Nick Seiter, Extension Entomologist, and Lowell Gentry, Principle Research Scientist from University of Illinois, presented information on aspects of using cover crops at a seminar held at the Morgan County Extension office.

First year results of a two year field study examining both beneficial and pest insect populations were discussed by Dr. Seiter. Study locations includes several sites in Morgan County, with the work done by Ken Johnson and Duane Friend. Results to date indicate minimal pest populations in rye before soybean.

Lowell Gentry's research on nitrate loadings in tile have showed significant decreases in tile nitrate loading when a rye cover crop following corn is used , with no significant change in soybean yield (after rye).

