

Oklahoma Healthy Soils RCPP Project

Addressing Water Quality Issues

Partners:

- Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission
- Oklahoma Conservation Districts (TBD)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension
- Southern Plains Regional Climate Hub
- Lorenz's Seeds
- Green Cover Seeds
- Turner Seeds,
- The Nature Conservancy

The NRCS Soil Health Initiative has been gaining momentum as producers and landowners learn about the critical role of soil quality to everything from agriculture to environmental health.

The Oklahoma Healthy Soils RCPP project will build on this momentum by implementing soil health practices on cropland over a diversity of environmental conditions commonly encountered across the state.

The ultimate goal is to establish two demonstration farms in each of OACD's five regions of the state to serve as focal points for soil health education and outreach.

The project will implement cover crops on a larger, 10-80 ac

field scale. Demonstrating cover crop plantings at this scale, rather than traditional 'test plots', has the potential to deliver a more practical message of soil health benefits to producers.

Select project partners will conduct scientific research to document the effects of cover crops on soil health, crop yields, and overall farm economics.

The project will build upon ongoing research into practical concerns facing producers who may be considering the use of cover crops in their farming systems.



Figure 1. OCC Soil Scientist Greg Scott demonstrates effects of soil health on pollutants and moisture.

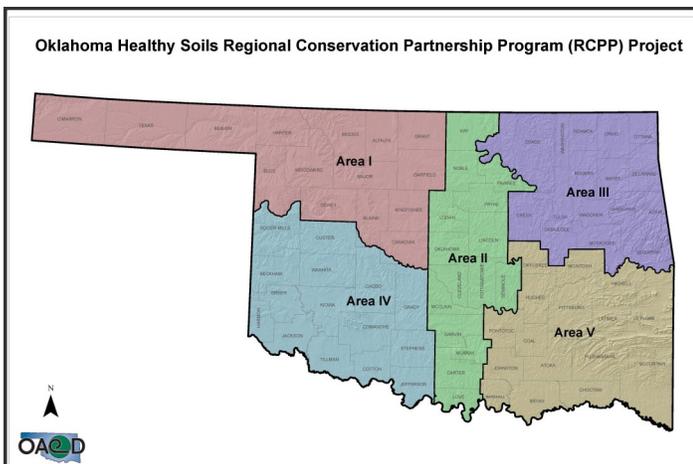


Figure 2. Oklahoma Healthy Soils RCPP Project Area.

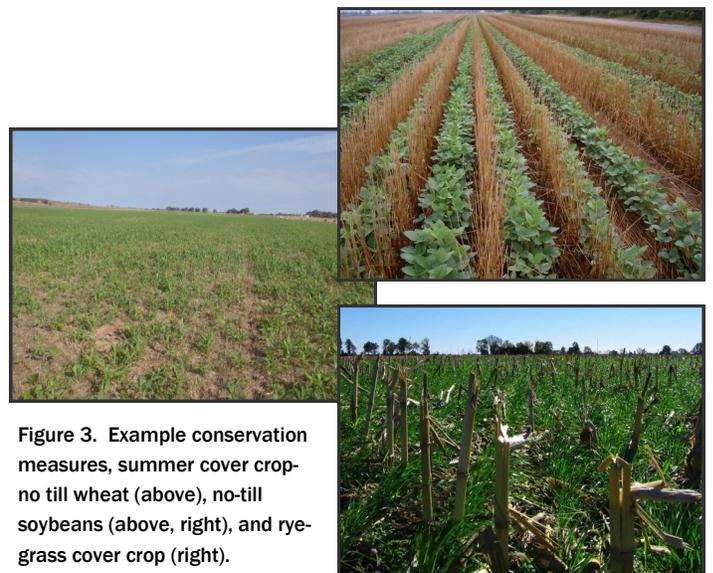


Figure 3. Example conservation measures, summer cover crop-no till wheat (above), no-till soybeans (above, right), and rye-grass cover crop (right).