On-Farm Experimentation Community Info No. 53

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On-Farm Experimentation Community (OFE-C)

International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA)

Guest editor of Nov. 2026

Thanks to my co-editor of the month, Dr. Elizabeth M. Seyler, Research Collaborator at the Northwest Crops and Soils Program, University of Vermont Extension, USA.

Cover Crop Interseeding on 30 Farms: What On-Farm Research Revealed

Establishing cover crops in northern U.S. climates is difficult because of the short growing window after corn silage harvest. In this article, Heather Darby and Jeff Sanders of the University of Vermont Extension share their experiences, challenges, and successes from on-farm research with 30 farms, each with trial and control fields. Results varied widely from farm to farm, largely with local soil moisture.

Farmers Collaborate with UVM to Inform Statewide Soil Health Programming

In 2022, University of Vermont Extension formed the **Farmer Soil Health Innovator Network** (FSHIN), a peer-learning network of farmers, researchers, and technical service providers in the Lake Champlain Basin. The network supported 15 farmers conducting on-farm trials based on their own questions, and met regularly from 2022 through 2025. This blog summarizes their findings, including a call for trend-based results over single test scores.

On-farm Research to Reduce Reliance on Neonicotinoids

Vermont's ban on most neonicotinoid uses, starting January 1, 2029, could significantly affect corn and soybean growers who rely on treated seed against early-season pests such as seedcorn maggot and wireworm. UVM Extension researchers are partnering with eight Vermont farms to compare corn grown with and without treated seed in real-world conditions. Because the farms differ in soils, weather, and management, the trials can show when neonicotinoids matter most and when farmers may be able to use other approaches. As lead researcher Heather Darby puts it, "Engaging directly with farmers will help us produce realistic results more quickly." Learn more in this this article.

AgConnect Streamlines Farmer-Researcher Collaboration

Are you a farmer curious about double-cropping? Or a researcher wanting to run on-farm experiments? UVM Extension's AgConnect is a free, open-data platform that **helps farmers and researchers collaborate to address farmers' questions**. Researchers can build experiments from those questions, recruit farmers, and collect, analyze, and share results in one place. The platform's consistent experimental design is meant to enable meta-analyses over time. Currently serving Vermont, it is designed for regional, national, and possibly international use.

Upcoming events

2027 National On Farm Research Summit

Join us for the 2027 National On Farm Research Summit **Feb. 16-18 in Lincoln, NE**. This event will bring together researchers, extension professionals, crop consultants, and most importantly farmers to discuss strategies, structure, funding sources, and data analysis among other topics.

2027 Frontiers in On-Farm Research Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for the annual Data-Intensive Farm Management NC-1210 Frontiers in On-Farm Research Annual Meeting, **January 7-8, 2027 in Galveston, TX**. Researchers with the NIMSS Multi-State Project titled, "Frontiers in On-Farm Experimentation" will be hosting their annual meeting to present current research developments and plan activities for the upcoming year.

2027 No-till and Cover Crop Conference

University of Vermont Extension and the Northeast Cover Crops Council will jointly host the 2027 No-till & Cover Crop Conference on **February 11 2027 in South Burlington, VT.** This annual event draws more than 100 farmers, technical advisers, consultants, and business and agency representatives. Guest speakers provide insights into no-till, cover cropping, soil health, nutrient management, seed production, and more. Details and registration information will soon be available at Conferences and Events.

This letter was prepared by Louis Longchamps, co-chair of the ISPA OFE Community
Should you have something to share with the Community or the Community leaders, let us know here.