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## Water quality enhancements in corn cropping systems through optimization of cover crop establishment technologies

*Principal Investigator:* M. Scott Wells

*Organization:* University of Minnesota, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics

*Sponsor:* Clean Water Fund

*Award Amount:* \$243,910

*Start Date:* 4/29/2014 | *End Date:* 6/30/2017

*Project Manager:* Heidi Peterson ([Heidi.Peterson@state.mn.us](mailto:Heidi.Peterson@state.mn.us))

### Project Summary

The objectives of this project are to 1) assess potential groundwater quality improvements resulting from advanced cover crop establishment using a calibrated model (NLEAP) and estimate reductions in soil erosion associated with increased ground cover (i.e., cover crops) using Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) and 2) evaluate cover crop establishment methods and cover crop species/mixture in a continuous corn cropping system. Three establishment techniques, direct broadcast via highboy seeder with and without soil disturbance and interseeder drill, will be evaluated. An educational program to share research findings and demonstrate cover crop establishment technologies will be conducted. This program will target farmers and agricultural professionals. The study will take place at the University of Minnesota's Research and Outreach Centers in Lamberton and Waseca.

More information about this project will be available during the summer of 2014. Please contact Heidi Peterson if you have any questions.

### MDA Contact

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