

UCCE East Bay Crops

October 2021

Cover Cropping Opportunities Series

Some highlights of our Cover Cropping Videos:

Cover Cropping Methods and Considerations on a Small-scale, Mechanized Farm

with **Jim Leap**



Jim Leap describes in detail his methods for cover cropping, developed through many years of experience in farming and research on the central coast. He even provided the music!

Cover Cropping on a Large-scale, Organic, Row Crop Farm

with **Scott Park**



Scott Park is known for organic growing of processing tomatoes and other typical crops of the Sacramento valley on scale with typical farms in the region. He shares his methods and some hard-learned lessons.

Online videos offer a wealth of knowledge

Cover cropping season is here. Over the past year, the **UC East Bay Crops Program** joined with the **UC Bay Area Urban Agriculture Program** and **Contra Costa County Resource Conservation District** to produce a series of online webinars and virtual site visits showcasing various aspects of cover cropping. In addition to explaining what cover cropping is and its many benefits, these videos also address common barriers to adopting and experimenting with these important soil-building practices. Webinar recordings and virtual site visit videos are now available online through ucanr.edu/CoverCropsCoCo and on the **East Bay Crop Production YouTube channel**.

Cover cropping is a key practice for soil health that has historically played an important role in agriculture, but successful use of this soil conservation practice can be complex and may seem impractical or of limited benefit in many of today's farming operations. Yet, there are many practitioners who demonstrate that with know-how and a willingness to experiment, it can be effectively implemented in most cropping systems. The goal of this series is to bring to you expertise and insight on the wide range of approaches to cover cropping in different production contexts, highlighting opportunities for trying it or for improving your current practices.

Virtual Site Visits

The latest addition to our online videos are a series of "virtual site visits." These videos will take you on location with practitioners in a wide range of farming operations as they take us step by step through their approach to cover cropping, from seeding through termination. All together, they demonstrate and discuss various methods of planting, field preparation, and termination. They also offer trouble-shooting tips and highlight pitfalls to avoid from beginner to expert perspectives. See the list on the next page or visit the webpage directly (ucanr.edu/CoverCropsCoCo) to watch videos now.

More highlights of our Cover Cropping Videos:

A Cereal Cover Crop for Early Field Access
with **Mitch Bloomfield**



Mitch from Bloomfield Vineyards takes us step by step through their practice of planting a triticale cover crop for early season access to a field being planted to an almond orchard in Brentwood.

The videos offer cover cropping insights for row crop, orchard, and vineyard systems and a wide range of operation scales, using a variety of methods and equipment.

Cover Cropping on an Urban Farm with **Ray Harts**



Ray Harts, founder and director of Healthy Hearts Institute in Pittsburg, walks us through his approach to a first cover crop on their new urban farm. We revisit in the summer to see the wealth of produce they have grown on their urban plot.

Virtual Site Visit Videos

Cover Cropping Methods & Considerations on a Small-scale, Mechanized Farm with Jim Leap, Ag Educator on the Central Coast

Cover Cropping on a Large-Scale, Organic, Row Crop Farm with Scott Park, Sacramento Valley Grower

A Cereal Cover Crop for Early Field Access with Mitch Bloomfield, Delta Orchards and Vineyards Grower

Cover Cropping for Pollination & Soil Health in an Almond Orchard with Chris Rishwain, San Joaquin Valley Grower

Cover Cropping on an Urban Farm with Ray Harts, East Bay Urban Farmer

Cover Cropping on a Small, Diversified Farm with Alameda County Farmer, Matthew Sylvester (*coming soon*)

Terminating a Cover Crop with a Rotary Mower and Rototiller with Gary Pearson, Ag Educator in Davis

Webinar Recordings

Cover Cropping Principles, Practices, and Opportunities with Emphasis on Pollinator Benefits with Billy Synk, Seeds for Bees, *Project Apis m.*

Cover Cropping Planning & Establishment for Small to Medium-sized operations with Gary Pearson, Ag Educator

Cover Cropping on Small & Urban Farms with Kristyn Leach, Farmer

Cover Cropping in Annual Systems with Margaret Lloyd, UCCE Capitol Corridor Small Farms Advisor

Cover Cropping Benefits, Challenges, Methods, and Tips with Jim Leap, Ag Educator

Cover Cropping in Annual Cropping Systems with Sarah Light, UCCE Agronomy Advisor in the Sacramento Valley

Cover Cropping in Vineyards with Glenn McGourty, emeritus UCCE Viticulture Advisor on the North Coast

Cover Cropping in Orchards co-presented by UC Davis Agroecology Researcher, Vivian Wauters, Agroecology Professor, Amelie Gaudin, & UCCE Sacramento Valley Orchards Advisor, Katherine Jarvis-Shean

Cover Cropping on Urban Farms with Clare Riesman, Assistant Manager at Alan Chadwick Garden, UC Santa Cruz

Financial Help Opportunities for Cover Cropping with Ben Weise and Derek Emmons, Contra Costa RCD, and Brenda Phrakonekham, NRCS

There is a lot of information to glean from these collected recordings. The series includes webinars that draw on both experience and research to address the use of cover crops in row crops, orchards, and vineyards, and for operations ranging from small, diversified acreage, to large-scale, mechanized production. There is something for everyone.

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