

Membership-Phase 6 Cover Crop Panel

Name	Affiliation	Role
Ken Staver	University of Maryland	Panel Chair
Charlie White	Penn State University	Panel Member
Jack Meisinger	USDA – Agriculture Research Service	Panel Member
Paul Salon	USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service	Panel Member
Wade Thomason	Virginia Tech	Panel Member
<i>Jason Keppler</i>	<i>Maryland Department of Agriculture</i>	<i>Watershed Technical Workgroup representative</i>
<i>David Wood</i>	<i>Chesapeake Bay Program Office</i>	<i>Modeling Team representative</i>
<i>Mark Dubin</i>	<i>University of Maryland</i>	<i>AgWG Coordinator</i>
<i>Lindsey Gordon</i>	<i>Chesapeake Research Consortium</i>	<i>Staff</i>

Expert Panel Scope of Work

- Transition and translate all current cover crop reduction efficiencies from the P5.3.2 to the P6.0 model.
- Review and update the definitions and reduction efficiencies of cover crops that are eligible for commodity cover crop status.
- Panel will collaborate with the P6.0 conservation tillage Panel to address credits for winter cover crops that receive fall nutrients.
- The following two items are recommended for consideration if time allows, or if necessary within the context of addressing charges 1 and 2:
 - Create a late-summer planting system for cover crops that are planted in mid- to late-August after a silage removal or short-season crop (e.g., vegetable).
 - Consider a change from the current approach that uses average frost date for setting planting dates to one that uses heat units.

Timeline and Deliverables

- September/October 2015 – The Panel will present a provisional report to the AgWG, WTWG, and WQGIT for informational purposes, and for initial Partnership comments on the proposed direction of the Panel's evaluation. The paper will not represent a full recommendation report, and the Partnership will not be asked for formal approval at this time.
- February 2016 – Target date for Panel to release draft report to the Partnership.
- April 11, 2016 – Target date for full Partnership approval of the panel report.

The general direction (Dec 2015)

- Use past work with additions where there is support – mostly leaching
- Commodity cover crops ?????(yes)
- Manure happens and cover crops make a difference. (NM panel)
- Erosion issues? Modeling only option
- Quantifying 30 year change difficult
- Heat units appealing, looking forward

December 21, 2015 call

- Staying with 5.3.2 values for traditional cover crops except for updating values for mixtures and possibly summer fallow cover crops.
- Commodity cover crops – big question is how will winter cereals for production be simulated in p6.0?
- Commodity cover crops – deal with as a coefficient BMP or adjust N applications and simulate results?
- Developed questions for modeling team

January 4, 2016 call with modeling team

- Focus on commodity cover crops.
- Commodity cover crops – BMP or adjusted N applications? Panel to make a recommendation
- Baseline condition is winter cereals without nutrient management, which is evolving.
- Standard practices have changed – higher yields, less tillage, more N applications
- Main challenge – capturing historical management so as to accurately estimate changes?

Some Issues

- P6 N applications still in early phase
- Fall establishment of winter cereals currently not represented in P6 land uses
 - tillage and nutrients?
- Erosion and P benefits will need to be done with modeling or very thin literature/bsj combo
- Tricky to avoid double counting of NM and commodity cover crop
- Historical management?

Status

- Next meeting scheduled
- C. White and W.Thomason looking at mixtures
- Received first round of P6 N applications
- Watershed modeling effort has some temperature data that may be useful for heat unit approach
- MD AIRs may help on fall N applications
- Seriously behind schedule