Dan Coffman

Nicollet, MN

Farm Background

- **Who**
- **Location**
  - NW of Mankato, MN (Nicollet & St. Peter Area)
- **Size** - 2,000 Acres
- **Soil Health, Sustainability & Regeneration**
- **Enterprises – Crop & Livestock**
  - Corn, Soybean, Corn Silage, Sweet Corn & Cover Crops
  - Custom Work
    - Strip Tillage, Sidedressing Nitrogen, Cover Crop Seeding
  - Grass Fed Beef
    - Just beginning...

Organic Transition

- Starting the Journey!
- Preparations
- **2019**
  - 25 ac CRP
  - Year 1 Transition
    - 40 Ac Corn
    - 60 Ac Soybean
- Ready to go “all in”

Crops

- **Cash Crops**
  - Corn
  - Soybean
  - Corn Silage
  - Sweet Corn

- **Cover Crops**
  - Corn to Soybean
  - Soybean to Corn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cover Crops Corn to Soybean</th>
<th>Cover Crops Soybean to Corn</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cereal Rye</td>
<td>Winter Wheat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turnip</td>
<td>Cereal Rye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radish</td>
<td>Oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapeseed</td>
<td>Radish</td>
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<tr>
<td>*annual rye</td>
<td>Winter Canola</td>
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<tr>
<td>*proso millet</td>
<td>Hairy Vetch</td>
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<tr>
<td>*buckwheat</td>
<td>*alfalfa</td>
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<tr>
<td>*flax</td>
<td>*phacelia</td>
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<tr>
<td>*balansa clover</td>
<td>*winter peas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*phacelia</td>
<td>*sunflower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*new species ideas</td>
<td>for 2019</td>
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</tbody>
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Crop Rotation Change

Non-Organic Fields
• Stuck in a rut
• Corn/Soybean
• Little diversity besides Cover crops

Organic/Transition Fields
• Endless options
• Corn/Soybean/Small Grain/Cover Crop
  – Small grain
  – Alfalfa
  – Edible beans
  – Pasture-hay
  – sunflowers
  – Grazing cattle
  – Full season cover crop
• High Diversity!

Challenges

• Organic Certification Process
  – Certifier
  – Paperwork, Paperwork!
• Weed Control
  – Organic no till/Strip Till?????????
• Mindset change
  – Thinking Cap
  – No “easy” button to push

Questions???????