Application for FBM Soil Health Scholarship

**For current FBM participants**

Scholarships are limited. Applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Applicants will be notified of approval beginning January 15, 2020. Return this form, signed, via email to mosh@umn.edu or to Anna Cates, 439 Borlaug, 1991 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Soil health management systems (e.g. reduced tillage and cover crops) are thought to improve the financial position of an operation, but we have little data to understand the conditions when these systems are profitable, and on what timeline. To address this, the Minnesota Office for Soil Health (MOSH) is offering scholarships to encourage existing reduced tillage and cover crop farmers to participate in the Farm Business Management (FBM) program and contribute real farm operation data to the FINBIN database. The resulting data will be analyzed and compared to conventional soil management systems to understand the impact of soil management choices on enterprise budgets. Further information about FBM and FINBIN are at <https://agcentric.org/what-we-do/education-training/farm-business-management/>

If your application is accepted, your FBM registration fee will be reduced by 5% and the Minnesota Office for Soil Health will pay the balance directly to the FBM institution for up to two years.

Answer the following questions to describe your recent soil health management practices. Scholarship recipients are required to have a history of successfully growing cover crops, preferably for at least 3 years. Reduced tillage is preferred, but not required.

We are interested in learning about the economics of soil health management systems, so economic and management data must be specific to the enterprise or fields that have been in soil health management, separate from any areas of the farm not in soil health management.

* In the past ten years, which years have you planted cover crops? Check all that apply.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2010 |  | 2015 |
|  | 2011 |  | 2016 |
|  | 2012 |  | 2017 |
|  | 2013 |  | 2018 |
|  | 2014 |  | 2019 |

* How many acres do you farm (average 2016-present)?
* How many acres in cover crops (average 2016-present)?
* Briefly describe the 2016-2019 crop rotation that you plant cover crops into
* Briefly describe the tillage regime on the acres where you plant cover crops
* Do you graze livestock on row crop land? Y/N
* Do you use manure as a replacement for commercial fertilizer? Y/N

**By signing this application, I understand and agree to the following:**

* I intend to participate in the Farm Business Management program for the next two years.
* As part of the standard FBM agronomic and financial information, I will provide information specific to my crop enterprise or field where soil health management is being practiced, separate from any areas of the farm not in soil health management.
* In addition to the standard FBM agronomic and financial information, I will complete a short questionnaire annually detailing my cover crop management and tillage practices.
* I understand that my FBM/FINBIN account information and the supplemental management information will be linked and stored by the Center for Farm Financial Management (CFFM). All data will be stored on CFFM secure servers to ensure data confidentiality and security. The combined dataset will be used for research purposes to analyze how the incorporation of cover crops and reduced tillage into a cropping system impacts farm financial performance. All research results will be reported in summary format only. No individual farm data will be published or made available in any form. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Farm Business Management Education (FBM) and/or Southwest Minnesota FBM Association will be acknowledged in all reports generated.
* The researchers utilizing the data will not have access to this agreement, therefore the identity of participants will remain anonymous. All signed agreements will be stored securely.
* FBM instructors will provide participants with access to summary results to provide benchmark analysis as it relates to cover crop management decisions and overall farm profitability.

FBM Farm ID number: \_ FBM Institution (college name): \_

Tech ID (student ID) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

FBM Instructor name:

FBM Instructor email:

FBM Instructor phone:

Farmer Signature: Date:

Return this form, signed, via email to mosh@umn.edu or to Anna Cates, 439 Borlaug, 1991 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108.