Illinois- MCCC State Report 2014

Maria Villamil

At University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 3 graduate students are actively involved in cover crop research. Cover crop projects include “Agronomic and environmental assessment of cover crops in Illinois” which is funded by the Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council, “Keystone cover crop species: Understanding the relative contribution of individual species to soil health” which is funded by the CERES Trust, and “Alleviating soil compaction and improving weed suppression with multifunctional cover crops in organic grain production systems” which is also funded by the CERES trust. A previous study recently finished by a master’s student that was a Hatch Funded Project is “Improving the sustainability of Midwestern production systems: Alleviating soil compaction and improving nutrient cycling with multifunctional cover crops”. Dr. Villamil collective work on cover crops led to invitations to speak at local and regional venues, and (to date) at three international venues: a special session at the XXIV Argentinian Soil Science Congress; a commissioned symposium at the XX World Congress of Soil Science Congress in South Korea; and as a keynote speaker at a recent Agroecology symposium at the University of San Luis de Potosi, Mexico. Additionally, University of Illinois Extension has hosted several cover crop field days and outreach opportunities including demonstration plots and some small scale research on late-planted cover crops and the use of cover crops in no-till vegetable production throughout the state.

Publications

Peer-reviewed


Conferences and abstracts


**Extension Pubs:**


**Grants:**

Villamil MB. Improving the sustainability of Midwestern production systems: Alleviating soil compaction and improving nutrient cycling with multifunctional cover crops. Hatch Project $7,500.  

**Villamil MB, J Masiunas, and D Anderson. Alleviating soil compaction and improving weed suppression with multifunctional cover crops in organic grain production systems, 2011-2013. The CERES Trust. $175,693.**
