

# Plant Map 3D- a New Tool to Support Farm Decisions

## WILL YOU BE TERMINATING MULTI-SPECIES COVER CROPS THIS SPRING?

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW HOW TO TAILOR YOUR NITROGEN APPLICATION FOR NEXT SUMMER'S CORN?

IF SO, JOIN OUR PROJECT TO TRIAL PLANT MAP 3D - A NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT MAPS COVER CROP N CREDITS AND TAILORS YOUR SIDEDRESS N RATE TO MATCH

#### What are the requirements?

- Farm Bill Program eligibility - are you eligible for NRCS programs like EQIP and CSP?
- An established mixed species cover crop to be terminated in Spring of 2025
- Current Nutrient Management Plan for the acres you enroll

#### What are the risks?

Worry not! We will monitor economic returns and make up the difference if we fall short - up to \$50/ac!

#### What's in it for me?

1. Cost-share on custom use of Plant Map 3D through either GROWMARK FS or Willard Agri-Service (product not included).
2. Precise, variable rate maps for sidedress N on corn that account for cover crop N credits.
3. Potential cost-avoidance where less N than planned is necessary.
4. Lower input costs, higher income for the same yield.

For more information on participating in 2025, please contact

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**GROWMARK FS:** John Richman, [jrichman@growmarkfs.com](mailto:jrichman@growmarkfs.com), 609-579-6476

**The Nature Conservancy:** Amanda Bunn, [amanda.bunn@tnc.org](mailto:amanda.bunn@tnc.org), 610-314-0201





## Details

Farmer eligibility: This will be handled by your local FSA office

- Adjusted Gross Income not to exceed \$900,000, waivers considered on a case-by-case basis

Land eligibility: This will be handled by your local FSA and NRCS offices

- Highly Erodible Land compliance
- Wetland Conservation compliance
- NEPA Compliance

Eligible cover crops: This will be verified by the project team

- If not receiving state or federal cost-share, any cover crop mix can be mapped with the technology; preference will be given to mixes that include a legume.
- If receiving local, state, or federal cost-share, please refer to program requirements (e.g., Maryland Department of Agriculture's Cover Crop Program).

Nutrient Management Eligibility: This will be verified by the project team

- Farmers must have a current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on enrolled acres that meets or exceeds NRCS standard before participating in the project.
- Farmers in DE or MD: your state-approved nutrient management plan will fulfil this requirement.
- Farmers in PA: Act 38 NMP, Comprehensive NMP or equivalent plan will fulfill this requirement.

Additional Information:

- Farmers may participate for up to four corn growing seasons (2025 through 2028).
- Participants must work with either GROWMARK FS or Willard Agri-Service for contracted acres. These partners will have Plant Map 3D mounted on their sprayers for project use.
- The chosen agribusiness will map the cover crop at burndown, and the project team will generate a map of cover crop N credits as well as a variable rate N map for corn sidedress rate, based on the farm's nutrient management plan and available cover crop N credits.
- Participants will be required to reduce their N application according to the prescription generated by the project team, up to a maximum of 25 lbs/ac. If cover crop N credits are greater than 25 lbs N/ac, the farmer may reduce their rate by more but will not be required to do so.
- All fields will contain small reference strips reflecting baseline management as well as strips receiving the full N reduction (if in excess of 25 lbs N/ac). These strips will be used for comparing management, determining differences in economic returns between treatments, and demonstrating the full value of the technology.
- Project payments are available to offset cost of agribusiness partners completing work on behalf of farmers, not including herbicide, fertilizer, or other products applied.
- If farmers choose to apply their own variable rate sidedress N, they must have equipment available and be willing to apply the prescription as generated by the project team. In this case, the farmer is eligible for a payment of \$15/ac for that work.
- Data collected will be kept private within the research team to evaluate the economic and environmental outcomes of using this technology. Only aggregated data will be used in reporting.
- Participants must agree to participate in surveys and/or interviews with project staff to share their experiences with the technology. Farmers will be compensated for time spent on these evaluations.