

## **Cover Crop Champions Field Day November 13, 2013**

As part of their *Roadmap for Increased Cover Crop Adoption*, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) sought farmers who use cover crops and agricultural professionals who are full-time employees of a farm-related organization to provide region-specific information and farming knowledge to farmers and crop advisors.

The HLWD is always seeking landowners and operators to install water quality improvement practices on their property. Providing first-hand information about practice effectiveness in the watershed is one of the best avenues to secure participation.

With those goals in mind, HLWD staff drafted and submitted an application to the NWF. In this effort, the HLWD partnered with Jerry and Nancy Ackermann and Jerry and Terry Perkins to promote their involvement with cover crops as a means to distribute conservation technology to other agriculture producers and the community.

The HLWD and partners were awarded \$7,300 through this grant. The culmination of the work was a Cover Crop Field Day held on November 13, 2013 at the Jerry and Nancy Ackermann residence.

Jan Voit welcomed the attendees and provided background on the grant. Jerry Ackermann and Jerry Perkins spoke about their personal experiences with cover crops and their goals of preserving nutrients, reducing compaction, increasing yield, weed suppression, and soil health. Andy Nesseth, Extended Ag Services, Inc. provided information about soil grid sampling and soil test results. Jill Sackett, University of Minnesota, spoke about management of cover crops. Stephanie McLain, Nobles Natural Resources Conservation District gave a soil health demonstration. Following the presentations, attendees had the opportunity to view cover crops in the field. There were 45 people in attendance.



