



How to apply for a FBM Soil Health Scholarship 2020-2021

The Minnesota Office for Soil Health is offering Farm Business Management Soil Health Scholarships to farmers who have experience growing cover crops.

Scholarships are limited. Applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

Background

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 describing 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/>. More background about the MOSH program is at z.umn.edu/MOSH-FBM.

How much is the scholarship?

If your application is accepted, your FBM registration fee will be reduced by 5% to acknowledge the extra time to provide us with supplemental information about your cover crop practices. If this is your first time participating in FBM, your registration fee will be reduced by 50%. MOSH will reimburse the remainder of your registration for up to two years.

What is required?

Scholarship recipients are expected to:

- Have a history of successfully growing cover crops, preferably for at least 3 of the past 10 years. Reduced tillage is preferred, but not required.
- Submit supplemental details about their cover crop management such as planting dates and termination method. You will be sent a link to provide this supplemental information. This is in addition to the financial information provided as part of the regular FBM activities.
- Submit your financial data specific to the enterprise or fields that have been in cover crops, using the FBM cover crop check box, separate from any areas of the farm not using cover crops. This allows the CFFM researchers to analyze the financial impact of cover crop systems.

How do I apply?

Applicants who were accepted last year are automatically accepted for this year. Look for a confirmation email from Anna Cates.

If you didn't receive a scholarship last year, **apply by completing the form at <https://z.umn.edu/FBM-sh-scholarship>**

The form will ask for general information about your cover crop management, including which years you planted them, how many acres, and as part of what crop and tillage system.

You will be asked for the name of the FBM institution you plan to enroll in, or if you previously enrolled, for your FBM farm ID number and instructor's name.

You will be asked to certify that you agree with 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.
- 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.

For more information, contact Anna Cates at mosh@umn.edu.