

Using Cover Crop Residues as a Biofuel Feedstock: Willingness of Farmers to Trade Improved Soil Conservation for Profit

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Summary: Harvesting crop residues biomass and/or cover crop biomass for bioenergy production could provide an additional source of income to farmers to offset higher input prices and reduced crop prices in the market. The purpose of this study is to assess farmers' willingness to produce cover crops as a bio-energy feedstock in the Southeast. A survey was administered to Alabama farmers in the fall of 2007 assessing cover crop usage and willingness to produce. Analysis of survey data indicates that at the "right" price farmers may be willing to trade the soil conserving benefits of cover crops for biofuel production.