Summary of Comments

Rural Investment to Protect Our Environment

- Better data on and understanding of costs of practice adoption are necessary
- Complexity of application processes, eligibility, and lack of flexibility limit enrollment in addition to inadequate payment rates

National Corn Growers Association

- Encourages consultation of technical and programming experts in addition to growers
- Suggests inclusion of multiple data sources on cover crop adoption

IL Corn Growers Association

- Suggest consideration of the following issues when finalizing questionnaire and sampling strategy:
    - Land ownership, as tenant farmers may face challenges if contracts require the landowner to be a signatory
    - Crop rotation, since cover crop management can be very different depending on the cash crop that follows
    - Program usage, as eligibility standards and other application related burdens decrease interest in programs
    - Technical assistance, particularly the role of the private sector in providing technical assistance in areas with limited local resources
    - Encourage inclusion of all farmers in the study, not only program participants to ensure multiple perspectives

Midwest Cover Crops Council

- Research into motivation of cover crop adoption and assessment of barriers would aid organizations in reaching non-adopters
- Recommend looking at a range of federal programs, including models of incentives similar to the Pandemic Cover Crop Program offered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA)
- Suggest assessing barriers through crop insurance as well as farmer preferences for incentives such as premium reductions and subsidies

AGree Coalition

- Encourage gathering information on the following topics:
    - Incentive payment structure, including payment amounts, ease of applying, and payment providers
    - Maintenance of practices after program participation, such as crop insurance premium reductions, flexibility related to haying/grazing for forage and availability of technical assistance

    - Farmer perceptions of crop insurance policy and interactions with adoption of conservation practices
    - Ease of application to programs
    - Requirements for seeding mixes, rates, and timing restrictions

Center for Rural Affairs

- Suggest distributing the survey outside the planting season
- Asking farmers about non-federal programs and localized models may provide useful information about cover crop adoption
- Recommend asking farmers about the Pandemic Cover Crop Program and other crop insurance programs
- Consider factors beyond costs and technical assistance that may motivate adoption

American Farmland Trust, National Wildlife Federation, and Natural Resources Defense Council

- Recommendations:
    - Asking farmers' knowledge and use of the Pandemic Cover Crop Program and perceptions related to interactions between crop insurance and conservation programs
    - Explore personal experience and attitude related barriers as well as financial/technical barriers to adoption
    - Include questions about a variety of programs, including state programs
    - Include questions about technical assistance
    - Ensure utility of all survey questions
    - Consider the use of an incentive for completion of the survey