1.) PROJECT ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. (Describe project progress specific to goals, objectives, and deliverables identified in your project proposal.)

The project is coming along very nicely so far. While nothing has been done in the field relative to the project (due to seeding in September), much of the background work is completed. I have selected one of the cover crop mixes which will include cereal rye, triticale, turnip, radish and rapeseed. I am still finalizing the second mix, containing mainly perennial legumes to benefit the 2018 corn crop. The custom built high clearance cover crop seeder is ready to go for seeding method #1 but I'm having trouble finding an airplane to fly on the other 15 acres for seeding method #2. The soybeans that were selected for this field are a 1.8 maturity, so I'm hoping that they start maturing earlier than normal to allow for more cover crop growth this fall.

2.) IDENTIFY ANY SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS AND RESULTS OF THE PROJECT TO DATE. (There may be none to report at some stages of the project)

No significant findings to date for this project, however, we did notice this spring that some of the species from last year's cover crop blend did overwinter, mainly rapeseed and a few plants of cereal rye. The rapeseed even escaped the spring burndown application of roundup! This raised some questions with me, after seeing the nice big root system from the rapeseed plant, I'm wondering that when interseeding cover crops into corn, if every species in the blend should be winter hardy to provide cover in the spring and help improve soil health and soil structure... Being that I'm testing out a strip till system on this field, there would be no concern about delayed planting in the spring from the cover crop.

3.) CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED. (Describe any challenges that you encountered related to project progress specific to goals, objectives, and deliverables identified in the project proposal.)

As I mentioned above, I'm having trouble finding an airplane to fly on the other 15 acres for
seeding method #2, I have one more place to check and then I'll have to go to plan B, which would be to rent a high clearance spinner spreader from the co-op and broadcast myself.

4.) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES. (Describe any opportunities to engage with farmers, influencers or the media about your project.)

So far the main outreach has been interviews for MNCGA radio ads with Mark Dornekamp, the Linder Farm Network and the Red River Farm Network! Also, since this plot was strip tilled last fall into standing corn stalks, there have been a few neighbors asking questions about that practice. Also, Marty Mogensen (project collaborator) and his father Dave have been out to look at the field and are intrigued with what they see. Furthermore, our local pioneer seed salesman has been out looking at the progress of the soybeans in a strip till system.

5.) HOW CAN WE HELP? (Please let us know how we can improve the experience or assist in your project if possible.)

The MN Corn Growers have been great to work with, I appreciate your interest with all the interviews for the radio ads with Mark Dornekamp, the Linder Farm Network and the Red River Farm Network!