

# Upper Snake-Rock Watershed of Idaho

## FARM #27

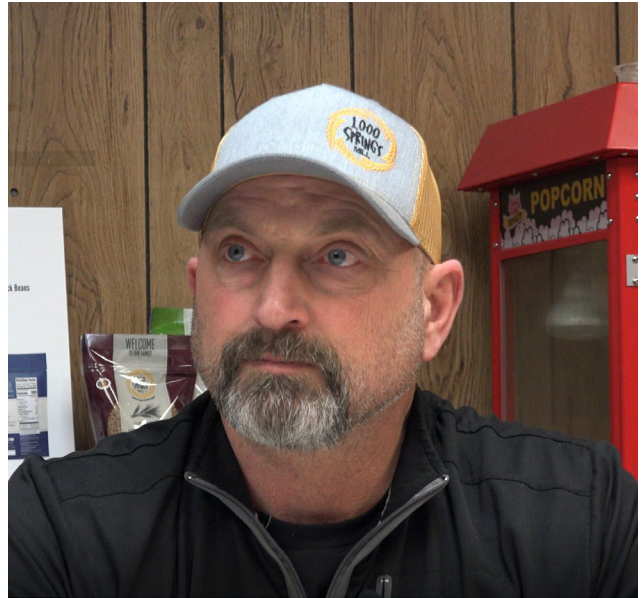
Tim Cornie has been farming in Buhl, Idaho, since 1990. “I’ve always loved it and had a passion for farming,” he said. Tim runs an organic operation of about 750 acres, where he grows spring wheat, dried beans and popcorn. He also purchases 200-300 stocker cattle each year to feed on his cover crops and sell for weight gain.

Tim began using cover crops in 1994 and has incrementally added acreage ever since. After a trip to Argentina in 2014, Tim was inspired to use a no-till drill to plant his cover crops and has seen a lot of success when using it to plant peas. “Sometimes I’ll plant a spring pea, and sometimes I’ll plant a winter pea [with the no-till drill],” he said. “Then, I’ll try to get it almost to flowering, and then I’ll either leave it for the cattle or I’ll turn it into green to feed the soil.” He also likes to include buckwheat and tillage radish with his peas as a cover.

His cover crops have provided numerous agronomic benefits, including a significant boost in worm activity. “You see the increase in worms, and when you’ve got worm growth, you’ve got soil health,” Tim said. He’s also seen a boost in his soil’s water holding capacity, as well as a decrease in erosion.

Tim says that most of these benefits are visual. “The shovel tells you everything. When you dig it in there and flip it over, you see all the worms in there, you see the roots, you see the carbon, you see the last year’s straw breaking down,” he said.

“Every farmer should be cover cropping,” Tim said. “I believe in cover cropping because of the soil biology, feeding the soil. We’re feeding the next plant with the root, a dead root, or a dead plant that feeds the next one.”



View Tim’s interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKzVCj--L8k>

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