



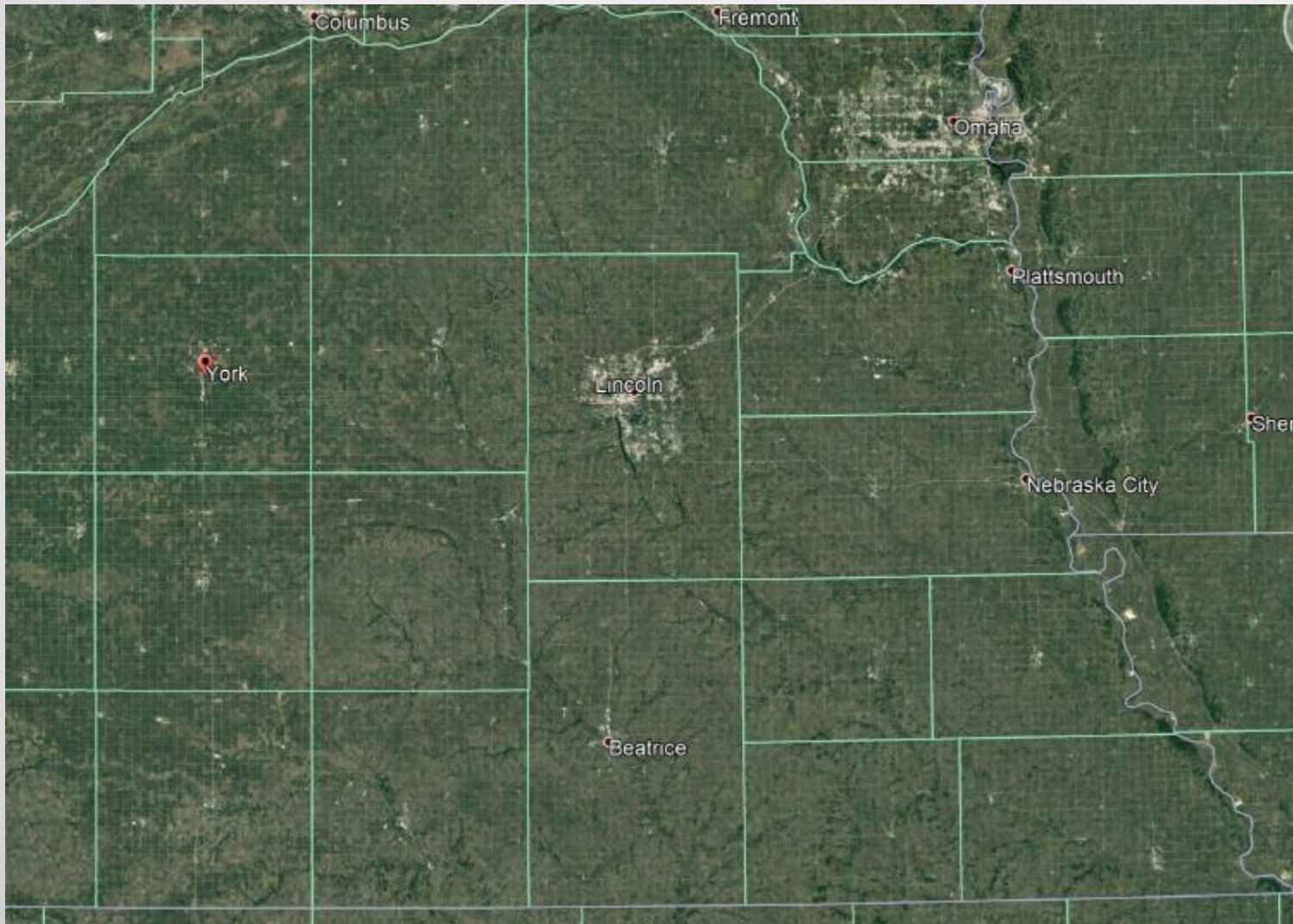
Project GROW

(Growing Rotational crops On Wellfields)

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Where we are located



- Junction of US Highway 81 and Interstate 80.
- 45 Miles west of Lincoln

Our Partners



Objectives

- Establish an effective model for groundwater quality protection at a wellfield.
- Increase York citizen's awareness and understanding of cover crops' ability to improve soil health and the quality of the groundwater they are drinking.
- The project will influence other cities to seek and apply similar cover cropping practices at their wellfields.
- Valuable experience of the wellfield conservation and environmental education through this project will empower York to influence municipalities across the state of Nebraska.





Goals

- Improve soil health
- Increase soil carbon
- Control erosion
- Manage nitrogen leaching
- Increase soil's water holding capacity
- Provide pollinator habitat
- Offer community garden space



Community Garden

- Space for up to 100 garden spots.
- Is surrounded by a 120 ft native grass buffer to protect gardens from surrounding farming practices.
- Offers a berry shrub and orchard.
 - Fundraising opportunities for youth groups to harvest and sell the produce.



Pollinator Habitat

- 70% of the world's crops depend on pollination.
- 80% of flowering plants rely on animals for pollination.
- Pollinator declines due to
 - Habitat loss
 - Less floral diversity
 - Urbanization
 - No natural areas adjacent to crops



Lady in Black Aster
- blooms in the fall
- moderate water use
- native to Nebraska



Milkweed
- blooms early to late summer
- low to moderate water use
- native to Nebraska



Roundhead Lespedeza
- blooms late summer to early fall
- low to moderate water use
- native to Nebraska



Soil Health

- “Cover crops are plants that are grown in between regular periods of cash cropping. They protect and improve the soil health.” *(From an article written by Keith Berns for the Upper Big Blue NRD – BluePrint Newsletter)*



Cover Crop Benefits

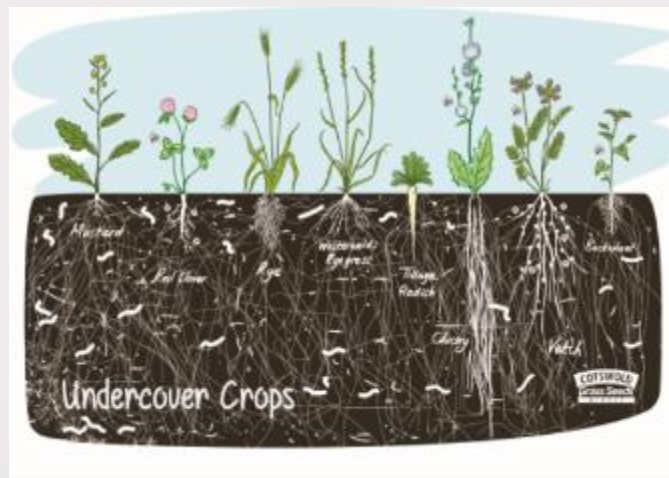
- Erosion Prevention



- Weed Prevention



- Increase Soil Biology



2018 In Review

- 11 Active Gardeners
- Pollinator Habitat
 - Seeded to cover crops in Fall 2017.
 - Second cover crop planted in July 2018.
 - Pollinator habitat will be seeded Fall 2018.
- Soil Health Acres
 - Triticale was planted in Fall 2017 and harvested in July 2018
 - Triticale was harvested for seed in cover crop mixes.
 - Yielded 35 bu/acre.
 - Cattle Manure was applied after harvest before seeding of cover crops.
 - These cover crops will be intensely grazed from early September to mid October.
 - A second cover crop will be seeded after grazing.

