



# Greening on Farm ITLUS Annual Conference 2014

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# Our Approach to Greening

- Cropping complies with 3 crop rule.
- Cover crops – Preceding spring crops.
- Protein Crop – Beans.
- Hedges / Drains / Buffer Strips.



# Rotation

- Winter + Spring Barley
- Winter + Spring Oats
  - Beans
- Winter or Spring Oil Seed Rape





# Beans



- **Strip drilled into sprayed off cover crop.**
- **Seed drilled 5-6" deep on 15" spacing's.**
- **Low cost one pass establishment**



# Establishment of Cover Crops



- **Carrier with Bio Drill.**
- **Light cultivation by discs, seed broadcast and rolled in by packer.**
- **Moisture conserved.**
- **Timely establishment.**



# The benefits of cover crops



**Radish + Vetch + Winter Peas**

**Improved soil structure**

**Healthier soil biology based on biodiversity, introduction of new species proven to perform**

**Improved infiltration and water holding capacity with better drainage**

**Can replace diesel, steel and chemistry**

**Increased earthworm numbers**





# Highly Aggressive Taproot of Tillage Radish Grows Through Compacted Soil

*Natural clay layer or from machinery traffic*



- Extracts nutrients from deep in the profile
- Opens permanent channels for crop roots to follow
- Improves water infiltration, water holding capacity and drainage
- O<sub>2</sub> for supporting microbial life

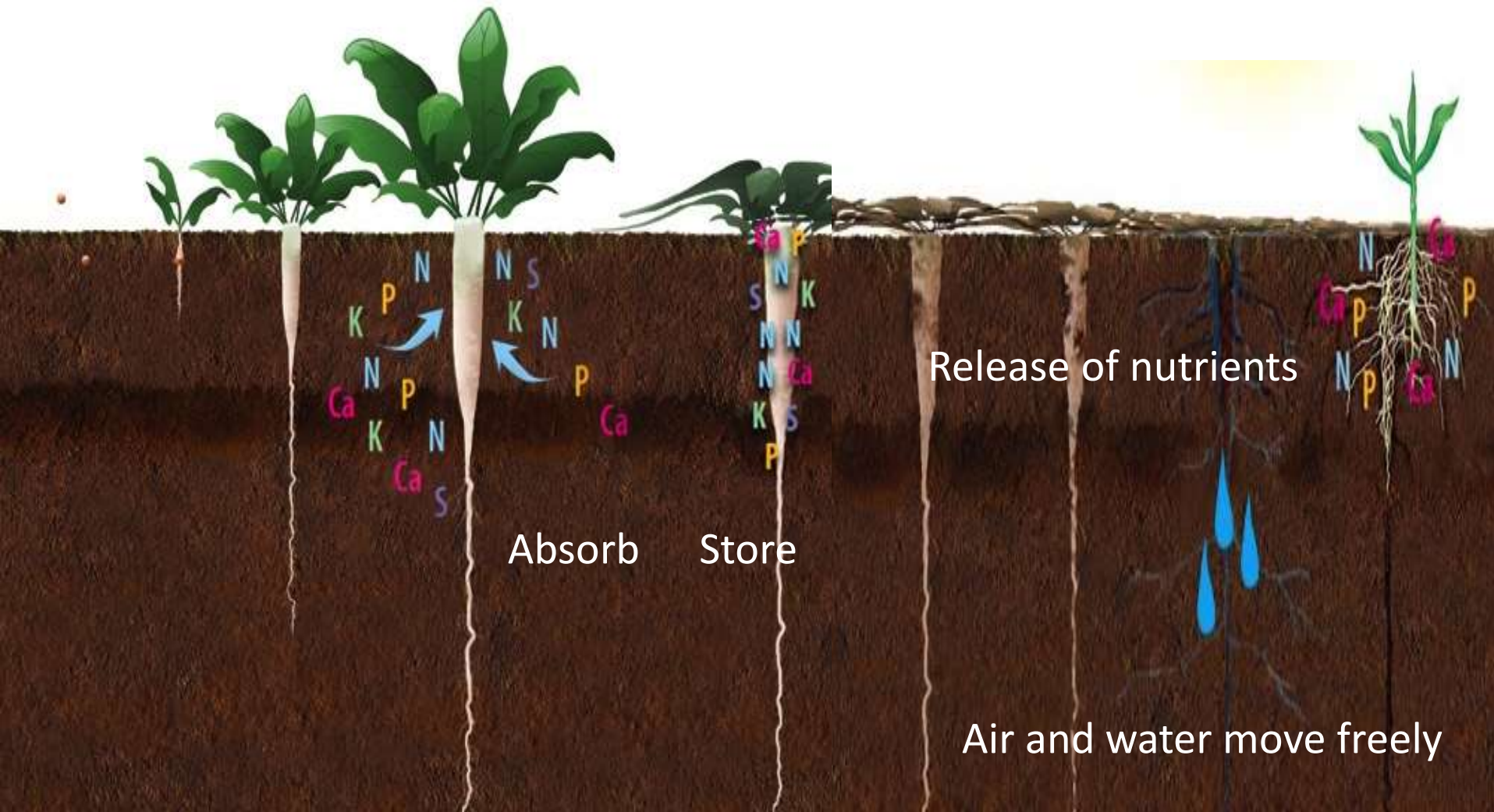


# Could Tillage Radish replace steel





# The Tillage Radish Life Cycle



# Summary: Cover Crops

- Improves water infiltration, water holding capacity and drainage.
- Reduces nutrient leaching; an environmental management tool
- Reduces erosion and soil loss with dense cover during winter.
- Absorbs remaining nutrients, N, P, K, S, more after harvest.
- Holds nutrients through the winter.
- Releases stored nutrients to spring crops.
- Enhanced water quality.
- Soils till easily and hold moisture for emerging crop.



