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## AG PRODUCTION

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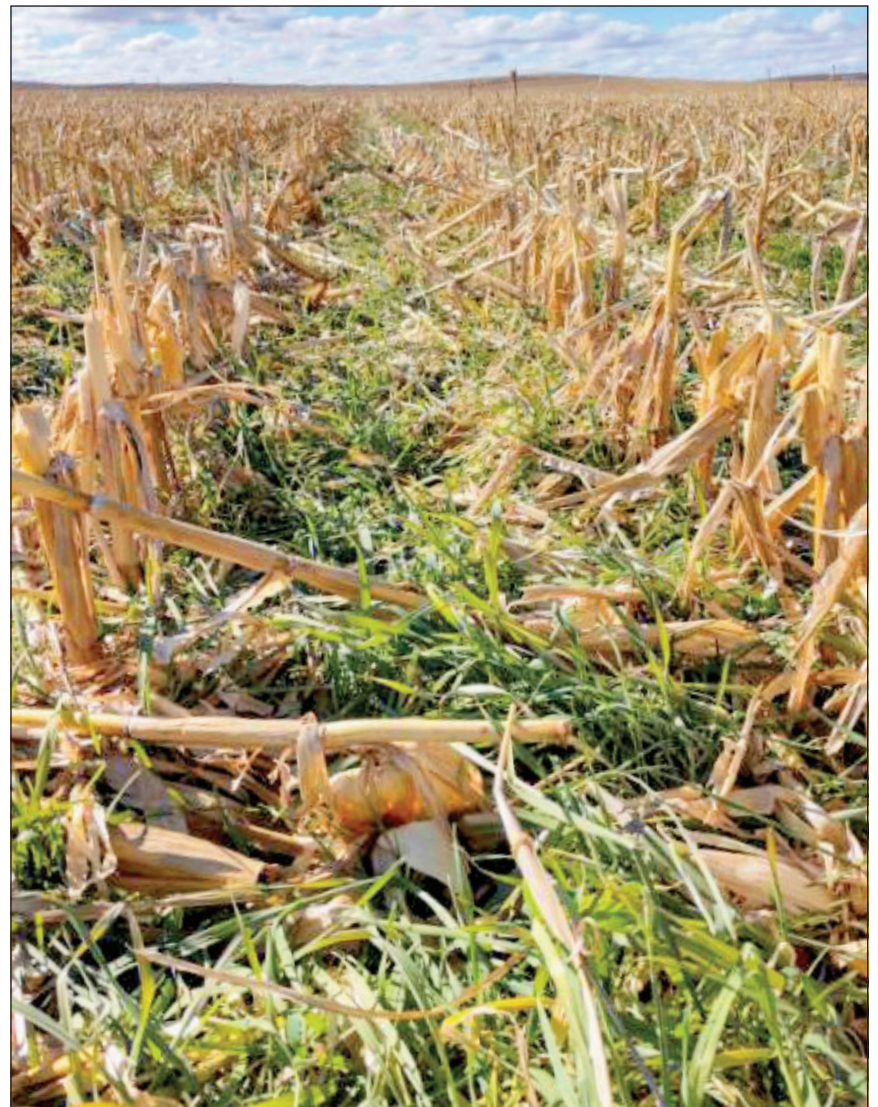
ernment having a tighter control on synthetics. Synthetics, in the simplest terms, are the chemical additives that improve the performance of plants vs natural processes such as fertilizing with manure.

"We haven't done anything to the biology of the soil," he said.

He added the chemical applications help nature be more selective, favoring the food plants. He talked of one application that blocks a protein that allows natural enemies of the plant to kill it.

Schrotberger said cover crops can be used as a companion crop, a plant put in the soil to keep the soil healthy. The cover crops are used to minimize evaporation and retain moisture as well, according to Schrotberger. Schrotberger said crops have specific moisture needs. For example, wheat will consume three-quarters to an inch of moisture in a 24-hour period when pollenating. Corn and soybeans have specific rates

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Cover crops are proven to reduce moisture loss.