



5a. Conservation Crop Rotation – Small Grains

Purpose

1. Encourage agriculture producers to establish a soil conserving small grain crop in a crop rotation
2. Reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion
3. Reduce water quality degradation due to excess nutrients
4. Increase cropping system diversity

Applicability

Applies to cropland acres in the 14-county program area. Acres receiving a payment under any other county, state or federal program (CSP, EQIP, WL Small Grain, etc.) are not eligible. Practice is limited to no more than one third of the applicants total cropland acres.

Specifications:

1. Small grains are winter annuals (wheat, barley, rye, etc.)
2. Crop must be harvested as a grain, crop cannot be harvested as a forage
3. A cover crop or double crop is required to be planted following the harvest of the small grain crop
 - a. Cover crops or double crop must be planted by October 15
 - b. Seeding rates and dates for cover crops shall follow NRCS Appendix A (11-19-19) seeding table
 - c. If an overwintering cover crop is used, the producer may also be eligible for the Overwintering Cover Crop practice
4. All nutrients must be applied in accordance with approved VNMP
 - a. No manure shall be applied following the seeding of the cover crop nor prior to March 15
 - b. Fertilizer may be placed a minimum of two inches below the soil surface with a placement tool or by strip tillage providing cover crop residue is maintained outside the placement area
 - c. No broadcast fertilizer applications are allowed during the time period the cover crop or double crop is required to be maintained
5. Crop residue must be maintained until March 15, no fall or winter full width tillage is allowed
6. Producers may apply for up for three years of funding for this practice

Technical Responsibilities

Producer Responsibilities

1. Provide VNMP to SWCD
2. Provide acres and field maps where small grain and subsequent cover crop or double crops are established
3. Provide seed tags (including: % purity, % germ., % weed seed , Ohio noxious weed content) and bills for the cover crop or double crop

SWCD Responsibilities

1. Receive application from the producer and complete agreement
2. Determine eligibility, excluding any existing acres where a small grains are already established, document plan on BMP Worksheet
3. Enter all required information into Beehive
4. Verify small grain is established and harvested as a grain
5. Verify that a subsequent cover crop or double crop is established, and residue maintained until March 15.
6. Process payment to producer

Participant Payments

Participants will receive \$35/ac payment after completion of all program requirements are met. Funding for 2022 and 2023 is contingent on future funding of the program.



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Adapted from NRCS Appendix A - Seeding Tables. 11-19-19 – See Appendix A for additional guidance on establishment, maintenance, termination

Species	Overwintering ¹	Seeding Rates in Pounds PLS (Percentage of Mix)					Seeding depth (in)	North
		100%	75%	50%	33%	25%		
Winter Rye	Yes	50	38	25	17	13	1	8-1 to 10-15*
Winter Barley	Yes	59	44	29	19	15	1	8-15 to 10-10
Winter Wheat	Yes	64	48	32	21	16	1	9-22 to 10-15*
Winter Triticale	Yes	60	45	30	20	15	1	8-1 to 10-15*
Spelt	Yes	64	48	32	21	16	1	9-22 to 10-15*
Annual Ryegrass	Yes	18	13	9	6	4	0.5	8-1 to 9-20
Oats	No	40	30	20	14	10	1	8-1 to 9-20
Oilseed Radish	No	NR	NR	NR	2	1.5	0.5	8-1 to 9-15
Rapeseed/Canola/Kale ³	Yes	4	3	2	1.5	1	0.5	8-1 to 9-15
Mustards	No	4	3	2	1.5	1	0.5	8-1 to 9-15
Turnip	No	2.5	2	1	0.75	0.5	0.25	7-20 to 9-15
Alfalfa ⁴	Yes	16	12	8	6	4	0.25	8-1 to 8-15
Red Clover	Yes	9	7	5	3	2	0.25	7-20 to 8-30
Yellow Sweet Clover	Yes	8	6	4	3	2	0.25	7-20 to 8-30
Crimson Clover	Yes	12	9	6	4	3	0.25	6-15 to 9-15
Winter Pea	No	40	30	20	14	10	1.25	8-1 to 9-15
Hairy Vetch	Yes	16	12	8	5	4	1	8-1 to 9-20
Sorghum-Sudangrass	No	24	18	12	8	6	1	5-15 to 8-1
Sudangrass	No	20	15	10	7	5	1	5-15 to 8-1
Pearl Millet	No	12	9	6	4	3	0.75	5-15 to 8-1
Japanese Millet	No	14	11	7	5	4	0.75	5-15 to 8-1
Buckwheat	No	NR	NR	12	8	6	1	6-15 to 8-15
Sunflower	No	NR	NR	NR	4	3	2	5-15 to 8-1
Cowpea	No	60	45	30	20	15	0.75	6-15 to 8-1
Sunn Hemp	No	12	9	6	4	3	1	6-15 to 8-1
Berseem Clover	No	11	8	5	3	2	0.25	5-15 to 8-15
Soybean	No	54	40	27	18	13	1.5	6-15 to 8-15

* Dates adapted to meet program seeding requirements

1. Overwintering only when planted during the fall dates and establishment. Winter kill may occur
2. Do not plant until after the Hessian fly free date; dates varies from Sept 22 in northern Ohio to Oct 5 in southern Ohio. Wheat and spelt cover crops can be planted up to 20 days past the fly free date. See the Ohio Agronomy Guide for specific county dates.
3. Fall planted varieties planted in the fall are “non-winter killed”; spring planted varieties planted in the fall or spring are winter killed.
4. In order to meet the intent and definition of cover crops (seasonal vegetative cover) alfalfa must be terminated and managed as an annual. Alfalfa planted to provide forage for Conservation Crop Rotation – Forages must be maintained for a minimum of 2 years and meet guidelines for that program.