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# St. Mary's Soil Conservation District 2008 Fall Newsletter

September 25, 2008

## 2008-2009 Cover Crop Program - Fall Certification

Changes were made to this year's cover crop program, to tier payments, based on scientific principles to maximize nutrient uptake. Incentives include early planting dates, No-Till, planting rye, and behind corn. Because of the incentive based tiered approach, it will be very important for producers to keep good planting records. When you fall report your acres, you will be asked how the cover crop was planted (ie. No-Till, Broadcast w/Light Tillage, Conventional), what crop it followed (must be corn, soybeans, vegetables, or tobacco), the date planted, and what farm fields. For those producers that farm significant acres, we suggest you obtain copies of your farm maps to record your information. With sufficient notification, we can print your maps out for you to pick-up. The charts on the back of this page should help you prioritize your planting schedule to help maximize your incentive payments. And as always, please contact someone in the District office if you have any questions.



### Don't Forget:

- ⇒ To keep good planting records
- ⇒ Use Maryland certified seed or have homegrown seed tested
- ⇒ Plant early and use No-Till to maximize payment incentives
- ⇒ Report planted acres to SCD no later than November 11<sup>th</sup>
- ⇒ Cover Crops are one of the best ways to protect water quality and prevent erosion

## Cover Crop Seed Tests

All seed test planted for the cover crop program must be free of prohibited noxious weed seed, have a minimum germination rate of 80%, and have no more than 16 restricted noxious weed seeds per pound. You may purchase commercial seed that has been tested and properly labeled in accordance with the Maryland Seed Law and Regulations, or you may use home grown seed that has been tested by a recognized seed testing lab. If you use home grown seed, and wish to have it tested by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Turf and Seed Section, a minimum two (2) pound representative sample of seed must be provided to the lab.

When you receive your seed test results from the lab, please verify that it was tested for the cover crop program. At the bottom left hand corner under remarks, the word "cover crop" should be listed. If it is not listed, then your sample was not tested for all three (3) requirements and a new sample will be required. All seed must be tested and approved prior to planting.

### Sample Planting Scenarios

<u>Planting Method</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payment Scenarios</u>
No-Till	By Oct 1	\$45.00(base) + \$20.00(early planting bonus) = \$65.00
	By Oct 15	\$45.00(base) + \$10.00(early planting bonus) = \$55.00
	By Nov 5	\$45.00(base) + No early planting bonus = \$45.00
Conventional	By Oct 1	\$45.00(base) + \$10.00(early planting bonus) = \$55.00
	By Oct 15	\$45.00(base) + \$10.00(early planting bonus) = \$55.00
	By Nov 5	\$45.00(base) + No early planting bonus = \$45.00
Broadcast w/Light Tillage	By Oct 1	\$45.00(base) + \$10.00(early planting bonus) = \$55.00
	By Oct 15	\$45.00(base) + \$10.00(early planting bonus) = \$55.00
	By Nov 5	\$45.00(base) + No early planting bonus = \$45.00

- ⇒ Additional \$5.00 bonus for planting rye
- ⇒ Additional \$5.00 bonus for planting behind corn or vegetables
- ⇒ Broadcast/Stalk Chopping is NOT eligible for early planting incentives and MUST be planted by Oct 15

<b>Commodity Cover Crop (For Harvest)</b>			
<b>Cover Crop</b>	<b>Seeding Rate</b>	<b>Base Payment</b>	<b>Planting Period</b>
<b>Spring Oats</b>	3 bu/ac	\$30.00	8/1-10/1
<b>Barley</b>	2.5 bu/ac	\$30.00	8/15-10/15
<b>Rye</b>	2 bu/ac	\$35.00	8/15-11/5
<b>Wheat</b>	2 bu/ac	\$30.00	8/15-11/5

<b>Traditional Cover Crop</b>			
<b>Cover Crop</b>	<b>Seeding Rate</b>	<b>Base Payment</b>	<b>Planting Period</b>
<b>Spring Oats</b>	3 bu/ac	\$45.00	8/1-10/1
<b>Barley</b>	2.5 bu/ac	\$45.00	8/15-10/15
<b>Rye</b>	2 bu/ac	\$50.00	8/15-11/5
<b>Wheat</b>	2 bu/ac	\$45.00	8/15-11/5



**TO:**

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