

# St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

## 2008 Spring Newsletter

Sign-up Period  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> - July 8<sup>th</sup>

### Traditional Cover Crop Program

- \* Up to \$85.00/acre
- \* No acreage limit
- \* No invoices required
- \* Seed testing cost-share available

### Commodity Cover Crop Program

- \* Up to \$30.00/acre
- \* 300 acre limit
- \* No invoices required
- \* Seed testing cost-share available

2008-2009

## Winter Cover Crop Program

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has released this years guidelines for the cover crop cost share program. Sign up will begin Monday, June 23, 2008 and will end Tuesday, July 8, 2008. Similar to last year, farmers have the option to sign-up for the Traditional Cover Crop Program which does not allow for harvest, or the Commodity Program for farmers interested in harvesting their cover crops. Below are some of the requirements and highlights for both of the programs.

- ⇒ All applicants **must** come to the District office to complete application paperwork.
- ⇒ Applicants must be in good standing with the MDA cost share program and have a **current** nutrient management plan and annual implementation report (AIR).
- ⇒ Cover Crops may follow a corn, soybean, sorghum, tobacco, or vegetable harvest.
- ⇒ All seed used must be tested for purity, noxious weeds, and germination.
- ⇒ Cost share for seed testing is available at 50% or up to \$15.00.
- ⇒ New early planting dates, see chart below.
- ⇒ No invoices required at fall certification.
- ⇒ Minimum of 5 acres per application.

### PLANTING RATES AND DATES

Cover Crop	Seeding Rate Per Acre*		Base Payment**	Statewide Planting Period
	Bushels	Pounds		
Canola/Rape(Brassica)	0.16	8	<b>\$30.00±</b>	08/01-09/15
Spring Oats	3.00	96	\$45.00	08/01-10/01
Barley	2.50	120	\$45.00	08/15-10/15
Rye	2.00	112	\$50.00	08/15-11/05
Triticale	2.00	112	\$45.00	08/15-11/05
Wheat/Speltz	2.00	120	\$45.00	08/15-11/05
RyeGrass	0.83	20	\$45.00	07/15-10/01

\*Aerial applications require a 25% increase in seeding rates listed above and must be planted by October 1st

\*\*If planting commodity acres base payment is \$30.00

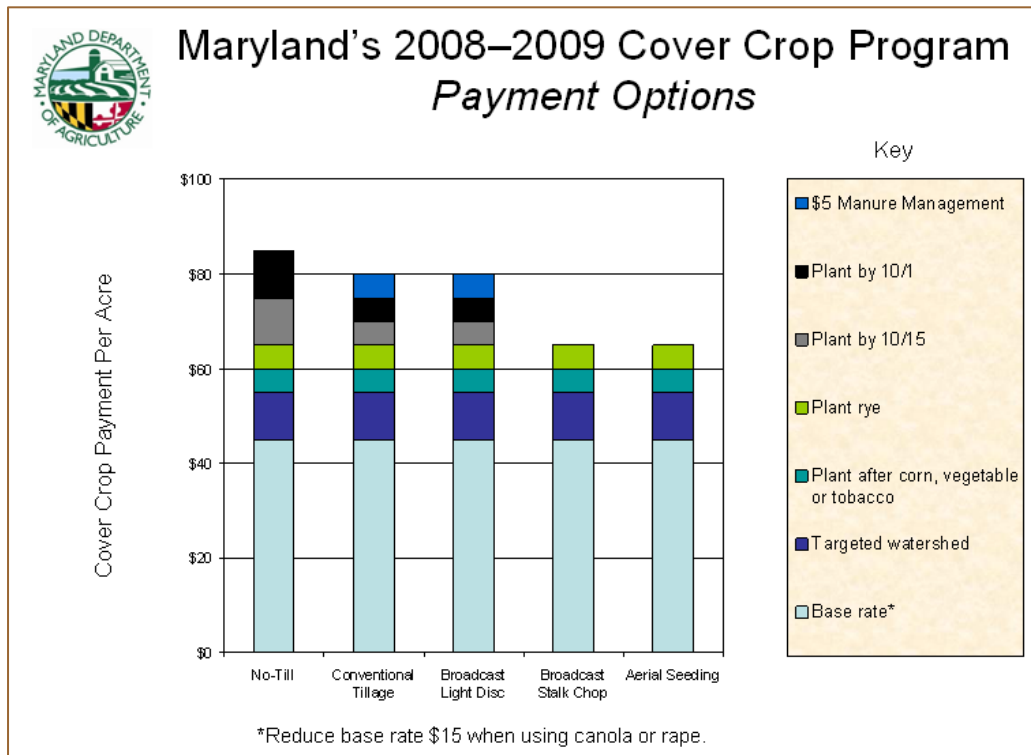
\*\*\*Planting using Broadcast/Stalk Chopping (BCSC) method must be completed by October 15th and is NOT eligible for the early planting incentives.

Additional highlights for this years **Commodity** Cover Crop program are:

- ⇒ 300 acre cap or limit with stand by acreage accepted
- ⇒ Can harvest seed
- ⇒ Base rate increase to \$30.00/acre with \$5.00 bonus for planting rye.
- ⇒ Full payments will be made in the fall and NO spring certification is required.
- ⇒ No commercial nutrients may be applied prior to March 1, 2009.

Overview of the **Traditional** Cover Crop program:

- ⇒ No acreage cap or limit
- ⇒ Base rate increase to \$45.00/acre with incentives available for early planting, previous crop, type of cover crop planted, planting method, and farm location for up to \$85.00/acre. (See Payment Options diagram below).
- ⇒ Full payments will be made in the spring. There will be NO partial payments in the fall.
- ⇒ Green chopping is allowed once cover crop is well established
- ⇒ No commercial nutrients may be applied prior to March 1, 2009, however animal waste may be used if certain conditions are met.



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