

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

2010 Spring Newsletter

Sign-up Period
June 21st - July 15th

Traditional Cover Crop Program

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

Commodity Cover Crop Program

- * Up to \$35.00/acre
- * No acreage cap
- * No invoices required
- * Seed testing cost-share available

Seed bags for seed testing available at SCD Office

2010/2011

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 21, 2010 and will end Thursday, July 15, 2010. 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). Applicant cannot apply for more acres than what is in their nutrient management plan.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ 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	\$25.00	8/15-9/15
Forage Radish		12	\$40.00	8/15-9/15
Spring Oats	3.00	96	\$40.00	8/15-10/01
Barley	2.50	120	\$40.00	8/15-10/15
Rye	2.00	112	\$40.00	8/15-11/05
Triticale	2.00	112	\$40.00	8/15-11/05
Wheat/Speltz	2.00	120	\$40.00	8/15-11/05
RyeGrass	0.83	20	\$40.00	8/15-10/01

*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 \$25.00

-Planting using Broadcast/Stalk Chopping (BCSC) method must be completed by October 15th.

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

- ⇒ No acreage cap or limit
- ⇒ Can harvest seed
- ⇒ Base rate of \$25.00/acre with \$10.00 bonus for planting rye.
- ⇒ Full payments will be made in the fall with **no** spring certification required.
- ⇒ No commercial nutrients may be applied prior to March 1, 2011.

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

- ⇒ No acreage cap or limit
- ⇒ Base rate increase to \$40.00/acre with incentives available for early planting, previous crop, type of cover crop planted, and planting method, for up to \$85.00/acre**. (See Payment Options chart below).
- ⇒ Partial payment of \$25.00 may be requested in the fall with the remainder of cost share funds being paid in the spring
- ⇒ Green chopping is allowed in the fall once cover crop is well established
- ⇒ No commercial nutrients may be applied prior to March 1, 2011, however on-farm generated animal waste may be used if certain conditions are met.
- ⇒ ***NEW DATE- Kill down cannot occur before March 15, 2011.**

Traditional Cover Crop Payment Options

Traditional Cover Crop Payment Options	No-Till	Conventional	Broadcast with Light, Minimum or Vertical Tillage	Aerial	Broadcast Stalk Chop/Aerial Ground
Base Payment	\$40/ac	\$40/ac	\$40/ac	\$40/ac	\$40/ac
Plant by October 1, add: or Plant by October 15, add:	\$20/ac \$10/ac	\$10/ac \$5/ac	\$10/ac \$5/ac	\$0/ac \$0/ac	\$0/ac \$0/ac
Plant fields where manure was used in fall, add: or Plant fields where manure was used in spring, add:	\$0/ac \$10/ac	\$5/ac \$10/ac	\$5/ac \$10/ac	\$0/ac \$10/ac	\$0/ac \$10/ac
Plant in field with previous corn, tobacco, or vegetable crop, add:	\$5/ac	\$5/ac	\$5/ac	\$5/ac	\$5/ac
Plant rye, add:	\$10/ac	\$10/ac	\$10/ac	\$10/ac	\$10/ac
Plant canola or rapeseed, subtract:	(\$15/ac)	(\$15/ac)	(\$15/ac)	(\$15/ac)	(\$15/ac)
Maximum Amount Payable **	\$85/ac	\$75/ac	\$85/ac	\$80/ac	\$75/ac

** For the 2010/2011 Winter Cover Crop Program, St. Mary's County does not have a priority watershed incentive payment.



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