

MN RCPP Program Specs

Cover Crop

Description: Cover crops have added benefits to the soil when implemented in a crop rotation. In the Red River Valley wind erosion is prevalent and keeping the soil covered is becoming a necessity. Having flexibility to apply cover crops in a way that works for the farmer is one way we can incentive this much needed change in agriculture. Soils can change multiple times in a single field so adding cover crops into a farming operation is not a one size fits all practice. For this reason, we have received a variance from MN NRCS to allow producers to adopt cover crops at a lower rate and outside the seeding date guidelines. Staff at the Conservation Districts will have JAA to help assist producers with their cover crop needs.

Details:

- All grass species drilled/planted in rows are to be planted at a rate no lower than 10lbs per acre.
- Any cover crop species established after October 20th must be an overwintering species.
- No planting deadline date for overwintering species, but cannot be applied on frozen soil, if planted after Nov. 1st cannot kill off cover crop before May 15th.
- Once the cover crop has been applied no full field tillage is allowed.

Data requirements:

- Seed Tag that shows germ and purity to show PLS, bin run needs germ test, and purity from accredited institute.
- Total amount of seed purchased – scale tag or purchase amount.
- Cover Crop Worksheet (second page for check out & verification)
- Map of location
- Spot checks with photos after the covers have been applied. Photo documentation verifying installation.

Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till

Description: No-Till limits the soil disturbance while increasing soil organic matter. Switching over to a no-till operation is a risk most producers are not willing or ready to take. By incentivizing this practice, we would ease that risk and help support the mindset of the producer ready to apply this practice.

Additional Notes:

- We will hold producers to a stir value of twenty or less.
- No tillage would be allowed from harvest to harvest of the following year for the length of the contract.

Data requirements:

- Document benchmark, so existing crop rotation with tillage, and your current and future management plan.
- STIR value no greater than 20 and no full field tillage.
- Record or document acres applied on a map.

- RUSLE2 or WEPS
- Record field visits.
- Payments will be made after planting, which is after the true no till on spring and fall. Photo documentation

Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till

Description: Reduced tillage, like cover crops, has many benefits to a producer's operation. Making this change in tillage can be scary and risky when it comes to farming thick clay soils. We would like to incentivize producers to manage their residue by keeping tillage to a minimum disturbance. By using NRCS RUSLE2/WEPS we can sit down with farmers and look at what equipment they could use to meet these requirements.

Additional Notes:

- We will hold producers to a stir value of eighty or less.

Data requirements:

- Document benchmark, so exiting crop rotation with tillage, and your current and future management plan.
- STIR value no greater than 80 on any given cropping year
- Record or document acres applied on a map.
- RUSLE2 or WEPS
- Record field visits
- Payments will be made in July after planting along with photo documentation

Crop Rotation

Description: Having multiple crops in your crop rotation can assist with pest management and soil erosion if they are high residue crops such as corn and wheat. It can also provide habitat for wildlife later into the season.

Additional Notes:

- We will require them to have a minimum of three species in their past five-year crop rotation or in their future three-year crop rotation.

Data requirements:

- Field check will be performed.
- FSA proving past crop history or planned future crop rotation.
- RUSLE2/WEPS
- Majority of crop must be a resource conserving, aka high residue, crop species. Ex. Corn, small grains

No Fall Tillage

Description: We are encouraging farmers to get rid of fall tillage. This will help prevent erosion and

Additional Notes:

- No tillage would be allowed after harvest until spring.

Data requirements:

- Field check will be performed in the winter or as soon as fields are visible in the spring.
- Record or document acres applied on a map.

General Requirement forms to be completed for all sign-ups.

- FSA CCC-941 AGI eligibility
- 902 farm operating plan – shows who is operating and at what percent.
- CP52 – each county NRCS sign off on their county's forms.
- RUSLE2 or WEPS
- Freedom of Information Act – form allowing us to check for current 1026, allow us to work with NRCS or FSA to view client records as allowed for eligibility.
- EFOTG – each practice has a IR sheet that will need to be filled out per practice. Can use this form as JAA or to certify (Develop canned copies) Use for verification.