



# FY 2011 Sussex Conservation District Cover Crop Program Fact Sheet

## Cost-Share Rate and Planting Dates

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Planting Rates</u>	<u>By Oct. 31</u>	<u>By Oct. 1</u>
Rye	120 lbs./acre	\$30 per acre	\$40 per acre
Rape*	8 lbs./acre	\$30 per acre	\$40 per acre
Triticale	105 lbs./acre	\$30 per acre	\$40 per acre
Clover	20 lbs./acre	\$30 per acre	\$40 per acre
Vetch	25 lbs./acre	\$30 per acre	\$40 per acre
Wheat	120 lbs./acre	\$30 per acre	\$40 per acre
Annual Rye Grass	20 lbs./acre	\$30 per acre	\$40 per acre
Barley	140 lbs./acre	\$30 per acre	\$40 per acre
Oats*	100 lbs./acre	\$30 per acre	\$40 per acre

\* (Planting dates are Sept. 1 and Sept. 30)

### Conditions

- Application of commercial fertilizers or animal manures (N and P) are not allowed on a field that is intended to receive or is receiving cover crop incentive payments. In the case of a hardship, manure may be allowed to be applied to enrolled land in the fall only after receiving approval from the Sussex Conservation District Board of Supervisors or their designee. If the cover crop has not already been planted, it must be planted within 7 days of manure application. Examples of hardships might include heavy rains that fill to capacity or overflow a liquid manure storage structure or diseased poultry litter that must be removed from the house immediately. The poultry integrator must provide certification of diseased litter. The Board of Supervisors has the right to approve or disapprove such requests.
- Payment will be split with 50% being paid by December 31, after the written certification provision is met, and 50% being paid after the participant certifies **in writing** that the crop has been disposed of in an approved manner.
- Participants will self-certify in writing that the fall planting program provisions have been met prior to receiving payment. Each program participant must provide written certification listing the tracts/fields planted by October 6, 2010 for \$40/acre or November 5, 2010 for \$30/acre. Failure to do this will result in no cost-share payment and withdrawal from the program.
- Program participants must certify in writing that the cover crops are destroyed between March 15 - June 1, 2011 in accordance with step #2 before receiving the final payment. Failure to certify by June 1, 2011 will result in nonpayment, and may result in a partial or full refund of the first payment.
- Participants will be permitted to harvest their cover crop in the spring of 2011. All nutrient restrictions for the regular program apply. The first payment will be processed after certification is made by the deadlines listed above. In the spring, if the participant decides to harvest the cover crop, then they will notify the District office in writing with the tract/field number and acres to be harvested by June 1, 2011. The participant harvesting the crop may apply manure/fertilizer on or after March 1, 2011. A second payment will not be made on harvested acres, however, the participant will not be required to repay the first payment received in December.
- Methods for end-of-winter management include killing by a "burn-down" herbicide, by plowing the crop under, or green chop (for on-farm use only), before planting to the new crop.
- Aerial seeding must be completed by the listed dates and at the required rates.
- Grazing on District cost-share cover crops is allowed with the following conditions: 1) Participant must notify the District **in writing** two weeks prior to grazing livestock identifying number and type of animals and fields to be grazed, 2) Cover crop must be well established. Under optimal conditions, grazing can commence 6 to 8 weeks after planting and after two week written notification, 3) The District reserves the right to deny a grazing request based on poor crop establishment, too many animals per acre, or other conditions that may apply.

## Ranking Criteria (if demand exceeds funds available)

Where water quality is the goal, the University of Delaware recommends that the use of winter cover crops be targeted to the following situations:

1. Watersheds in close proximity to sensitive surface waters and/or those most susceptible to groundwater contamination by nitrogen and phosphorus.
2. Soils most likely to experience erosion that are in close proximity to surface waters sensitive to eutrophication by nitrogen and phosphorus.
3. Artificially drained soils where shallow groundwater discharges rapidly into surface waters.
4. Cropping systems that are most likely to have significant amounts of residual nitrates-N in the upper portions of the soil profile in the early fall ("upper portion" is defined at <1 foot for loamy sand and sandy loam soils as <2 feet for silt loam soils). In general, winter cover crops should be targeted to previous cash crops that had below normal yields in the following priority order:
  - Dryland corn that received animal wastes and commercial fertilizer N.
  - Dryland corn that received only commercial fertilizer.
  - All other corn that received fertilizer or animal wastes.
  - Any other crop (e.g. commercial vegetables) that received fertilizer or animal wastes N.
  - Soybeans that received animal wastes, alone or in rotation with small grain.
  - Soybeans that received no supplemental N.
  - Grain sorghum.

### SPECIAL NOTICES

- **Participants are limited to \$5,000 in cover crop assistance. In the event enrollment in the program exceeds available funding, the Sussex Conservation District reserves the right to reduce the maximum payment amount per participant.**
- **In order for land to be eligible for cover crop cost-share assistance, it must follow an annual crop (row crops/vegetables). Perennial crops, pasture and hayland are not eligible.**