



FY 2020 Sussex Conservation District Cover Crop Program Fact Sheet

Cost-Share Rate and Planting Dates

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Planting Rates</u>	<u>By Oct. 1*</u>	<u>By Oct. 31</u>
Annual Rye Grass	15 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre	\$40 per acre
Winter Barley	100 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre	\$40 per acre
Winter Cereal Rye	100 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre	\$40 per acre
Winter Wheat	100 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre	\$40 per acre
Triticale	100 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre	\$40 per acre
Crimson Clover	15 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre	\$40 per acre
Common Vetch	60 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre	\$40 per acre
Hairy Vetch	20 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre	\$40 per acre
Kale	8 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre	\$40 per acre

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Planting Rates</u>	<u>By Oct. 1*</u>
Spring Oats	90 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre
Austrian Winter Peas	50 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre
Winter Rape	8 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre
Forage/Oilseed Radishes	8 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre
Forage Turnip	5 lbs./acre	\$50 per acre

*** NO EARLY PLANTING EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED**

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.
- Multi species (2 or more species) mixes are encouraged but not required (mixes that consist of only oats, peas, rape, radishes, & turnips must be planted by October 1).
- A single payment will be made in the spring after all program provisions have been met.
- Participants will self-certify in writing that the fall planting program provisions have been met. Each program participant must certify in writing by:
 - October 8, 2019 that fields were planted by October 1, 2019 for \$50/acre.
 - November 8, 2019 to certify the fields were planted by October 31, 2019 for \$40/acre.

Failure to do this will result in no payment and withdrawal from the program.
- Program participants must certify in writing that the cover crops are destroyed between March 15 - June 1, 2020 in accordance with step #3 before receiving payment. Failure to certify by June 1, 2020 will result in nonpayment.
- Harvesting of cover crops is not permitted with the exception of on-farm use only.**
- Killdown or suppression of acreage managed as cover crops must occur on or after March 15, with the exception of early spring crops (i.e. peas, etc.), which may occur no earlier than March 1 and no later than June 1, 2020. **A one-time extension may be granted by the District Coordinator for soil health purposes (destroyed after June 1 but not harvested to build organic matter).**
- Methods for end-of-winter management include killing by a "burn-down" herbicide, by plowing the crop under, greenchop (for on-farm use only) or roller crimper.
- Failure to notify the District of a change in crop may jeopardize cost-share assistance.
- Unincorporated broadcast and aerial seeding must be completed by the listed dates and at the required rates of 30% more seed than listed above. Aerial application require receipts.

The Sussex Conservation District Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reduce the maximum level of funding that any individual and/or entity may receive. This adjustment will be based on if enrollment in the program exceeds funding availability. The Sussex Conservation District will notify applicants of the change in the maximum level of funding through a written letter at time of Cost-Share Program approval after the August 27, 2019 Board of Supervisors Meeting.

11. Grazing on District cost-shared cover crops is allowed with the following conditions:
 - a. Participant must notify the District in writing two weeks before they plan to graze livestock. They must indicate in their letter the field(s) to be grazed and the number and type of animals.
 - b. Prior to grazing, the cover crop must be well established. Under optimal conditions, grazing can commence 6 to 8 weeks after planting, and after the two week written notification has been submitted.
 - c. 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 \$75,000 in cover crop assistance. (In the event enrollment in the program exceeds available funding, the Sussex Conservation District Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reduce the maximum level of funding that any individual and/or entity may receive).**
- **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 perennial hayland are not eligible.**