

Conservation Excellence Grant Program

Cover Crop Eligibility Criteria

In reviewing applications containing cover crops, the following criteria applies:

1. Current Agriculture Erosion & Sedimentation/Conservation Plan must be present and “on-schedule”.
2. Cover crop contracts can be up to two-year contracts paying annually on acres planted.
 - First year of two-year contracts will be for single species cover crop,
 - Second year will be for multi-species cover crop.
3. Maps including fields and acreage of where cover crops are to be planted must be supplied with application.
4. Maximum of **200** acres/year are eligible for cost share
 - Single Species cover crop will be paid a flat rate of \$30/acre,
 - Multi-species cover crop will be \$40/acre.
5. Fields must have **NO** prior cover crop history for single species cover crop applications.
6. Fields with prior single species cover crop history may apply for a multi-species cover crop contracts.
7. Fields that have already received CEG funding for single species cover crop will no longer be eligible to receive funding for single species cover crop. However those fields would still be eligible for multi-species cover crop.
8. Multi-species is defined to consist of at least one small grain/grass and one broadleaf species plant.
9. Cover Crops must be planted by November 1.
10. Cover Crops must be maintained until March 15
11. Cover Crops must be terminated (examples: burnt down, crimped, winter killed).
12. Cover Crops that winter kill must provide at least 25% cover in order to be eligible for payment.
13. Cover Crops may not be used as forage or harvested for grain.
14. Field and Maintenance Verification will be performed by the conservation district to make payment.
15. All seed purchased for cover crop must be tested and properly labeled in accordance with the PA Seed Law and regulations. If the grower elects to use home-grown seed, it must be tested for purity, germination, and absence of noxious weeds by a recognized seed laboratory prior to seeding.
16. If manure or nutrients are applied onto the cover crop, it must be consistent with a current Nutrient Management Plan or Manure Management Plan.