

## ***2023-24 Cover Crop funding available through the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program in York County***

As fall is rapidly approaching, it is time to plan for planting cover crops. The York County Conservation District (YCCD) has cost-share funding available for planting cover crops. The Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) is a state funded program with the purpose of providing financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations. Cover crops are one of the many BMPs that are eligible for funding through the ACAP Program.

The ACAP flat-payment rates for cover crops are \$35 per acre for single species and \$50 per acre for multi-species mixes. Cover crops must be planted by November 1 and can not be terminated before March 15 (except for species that winter-kill in freezing temperatures). Cover crops funded through the ACAP program cannot be harvested for forage or grain. Seed tags or germination and purity tests are required. A current Ag Erosion & Sediment Control Plan or a Conservation Plan is required for participating farms. To ensure that applications have time to be approved before the planting deadline, **ACAP applications for 2023 cover crop seedings must be submitted to the Conservation District no later than September 15.** See the reverse side for other guidelines and specifications.

ACAP applications are now available, see website [www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org), or contact the District for an application. For more information or assistance, please contact Troy Zirkle ([tzirkle@yorkccd.org](mailto:tzirkle@yorkccd.org)) by email or call the York County Conservation District at (717) 840-7430.



*A multi-species mix of radishes and oats in late fall*



*Turnips planted after wheat (instead of double cropped beans)*

## **Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program**

### **Cover Crop Eligibility Criteria**

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

1. Cover Crop applications will be accepted for the 2023-24 growing season. Single year agreements.
2. Applicant must have Current Agriculture Erosion & Sedimentation/Conservation Plan for the farms/ acres to be funded.
3. No maximum amount of acres or dollars per applicant.
4. Maps including fields and acreage of where cover crops are to be planted must be supplied with application.
5. Single species cover crop will be paid a flat rate of \$35/acre, multi-species cover crop will be \$50/acre.
6. Cover Crops must be planted/established by November 1.
7. Cover Crops must be maintained until March 15.
8. Cover Crops that winter kill must provide at least 25% cover in order to be eligible for payment.
9. Cover Crops may not be used as forage or harvested for grain.
10. Field and maintenance verification will be performed by the conservation district staff before the final payment.
11. 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.
12. If manure or nutrients are applied onto the cover crop, it must be consistent with a current Nutrient Management Plan or Manure Management Plan.
13. Applications must be submitted by September 15. Final contracts approved by the October Board meeting. Applications and contracts can be approved by the District at the same meeting.