

5b. Conservation Crop Rotation – Forages

Purpose

1. Encourage agriculture producers to establish a soil conserving forage crop in their crop rotation
2. Reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion
3. Reduce water quality degradation due to excess nutrients
4. Increase cropping system diversity

Applicability

Applies to cropland acres in the 14-county project area. Existing cropland acres where forage crops are established is not eligible for payment. Acres receiving a payment under any other county, state or federal program for (CSP, EQIP, WL Buffer, etc.) are not eligible.

Specifications:

1. Perennial forages must be established in the rotation
2. Seeding rates for forages shall follow NRCS Appendix A seeding table or OSU Agronomy Guide, 15th ed.
3. Manure and/or fertilizer applications, following the approved VNMP, are permitted between March 15 and October 15
4. Practice must be maintained a minimum of two years from the date of practice installation.
5. Residual forage height must be a minimum of four inches height by October 15 each year
6. Residual forage must be maintained during the non-growing season
7. Grazing according to a Grazing Management Plan between March 15 and October 15 is permitted
8. Producer may enroll for a minimum of two years and no more than four years of funding for this practice

Technical Responsibilities

Producer Responsibilities

1. Provide VNMP to SWCD
2. Provide acres and field maps of forage established
3. Provide seed tags (including: % purity, % germ., % weed seed , Ohio noxious weed content) for forages

SWCD Responsibilities

1. Receive application from the producer and complete agreement
2. Determine eligibility, excluding any existing acres where a forage crop is already established, document plan on BMP Worksheet
3. Enter all required information into Beehive
4. Verify overwintering forage crop is established and maintained, annually for the life of the practice
5. Process payment to producer

Participant Payments

Participants will receive \$35/ac payment annually, for up to four years when verification of all program requirements are met .

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Adapted from NRCS Appendix A - Seeding Tables. 11-19-19 – See Appendix A for additional guidance on establishment, maintenance, termination

Species	Overwintering ¹	Seeding Rates in Pounds PLS (Percentage of Mix)					Seeding depth (in)	North
		100%	75%	50%	33%	25%		
Winter Rye	Yes	50	38	25	17	13	1	8-1 to 10-15*
Winter Barley	Yes	59	44	29	19	15	1	8-15 to 10-10
Winter Wheat	Yes	64	48	32	21	16	1	9-22 to 10-15*
Winter Triticale	Yes	60	45	30	20	15	1	8-1 to 10-15*
Spelt	Yes	64	48	32	21	16	1	9-22 to 10-15*
Annual Ryegrass	Yes	18	13	9	6	4	0.5	8-1 to 9-20
Oats	No	40	30	20	14	10	1	8-1 to 9-20
Oilseed Radish	No	NR	NR	NR	2	1.5	0.5	8-1 to 9-15
Rapeseed/Canola/Kale ³	Yes	4	3	2	1.5	1	0.5	8-1 to 9-15
Mustards	No	4	3	2	1.5	1	0.5	8-1 to 9-15
Turnip	No	2.5	2	1	0.75	0.5	0.25	7-20 to 9-15
Alfalfa ⁴	Yes	16	12	8	6	4	0.25	8-1 to 8-15
Red Clover	Yes	9	7	5	3	2	0.25	7-20 to 8-30
Yellow Sweet Clover	Yes	8	6	4	3	2	0.25	7-20 to 8-30
Crimson Clover	Yes	12	9	6	4	3	0.25	6-15 to 9-15
Winter Pea	No	40	30	20	14	10	1.25	8-1 to 9-15
Hairy Vetch	Yes	16	12	8	5	4	1	8-1 to 9-20
Sorghum-Sudangrass	No	24	18	12	8	6	1	5-15 to 7-5
Sudangrass	No	20	15	10	7	5	1	5-15 to 7-20
Pearl Millet	No	12	9	6	4	3	0.75	5-15 to 7-20
Japanese Millet	No	14	11	7	5	4	0.75	5-15 to 7-20
Buckwheat	No	NR	NR	12	8	6	1	6-15 to 8-15
Sunflower	No	NR	NR	NR	4	3	2	5-15 to 7-20
Cowpea	No	60	45	30	20	15	0.75	6-15 to 8-1
Sunn Hemp	No	12	9	6	4	3	1	6-15 to 8-1
Berseem Clover	No	11	8	5	3	2	0.25	5-15 to 8-15
Soybean	No	54	40	27	18	13	1.5	6-15 to 8-15

* Dates adapted to meet program seeding requirements

1. Overwintering only when planted during the fall dates and establishment. Winter kill may occur
2. Do not plant until after the Hessian fly free date; dates varies from Sept 22 in northern Ohio to Oct 5 in southern Ohio. Wheat and spelt cover crops can be planted up to 20 days past the fly free date. See the Ohio Agronomy Guide for specific county dates.
3. Fall planted varieties planted in the fall are “non-winter killed”; spring planted varieties planted in the fall or spring are winter killed.
4. In order to meet the intent and definition of cover crops (seasonal vegetative cover) alfalfa must be terminated and managed as an annual. Alfalfa planted to provide forage for Conservation Crop Rotation – Forages must be maintained for a minimum of 2 years and meet guidelines for that program.