Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

Cover Crop Program

Purpose: Reduce erosion, increase soil organic matter, capture and recycle nutrients, increase biodiversity, suppress weeds, manage soil moisture, and minimize/reduce soil compaction by utilizing cover crops within selected areas of the LPSNRD.

Eligibility: Land shall be located in a Community Water System Protection Area, a Targeted Watershed, a Groundwater Management Phase II or III Area within LPSNRD (see Cover Crop Cost-Share Areas map), or fields where terrace systems are currently being installed in the NRD’s Summer Conservation Program. Cover crops may be established on Highly Erodible (HEL) and Non-Highly Erodible (NHEL) land that is currently in a continuous no-till cropping system. HEL fields where corn has been cut for silage are not eligible. Cover crops shall not be harvested, hayed or grazed. Each participant will enroll a total of 20 – 80 acres.

Procedure: Producer will contact their local NRCS Field Office to determine land eligibility and prepare an application prior to October 1st. Applications will be reviewed by NRD staff and approved by the General Manager.

How To Apply:
1. Contact your County NRCS Office
2. Meet with NRCS/NRD Personnel to complete application
3. Submit application to NRCS (NRCS will forward completed application to NRD).
4. Applicant may be the producer (either landowner or operator) with corresponding social security number or tax id number, but the application must have the signature of the landowner, or legal representative of the landowner.

Priority: Priority will be given based on the date of application. The earliest applications will be approved up to the District’s budgeted amount of the current fiscal year. Once the budgeted amount is reached, applications will not be approved.

Terms:
- Cover crop options include: #1 – rye only; #2 – rye/rape/radish; or #3 – “deluxe cocktail” mix (5 species minimum).
- Payment rate/acre: Single species $25/acre; multiple species $30/acre.
- Annual Payment Limit of $2,000 per farm/producer.
- All Cover Crops must be planted prior to October 1st for aerial application and November 1st for drilling.
- NRCS will certify successful completion to the NRD upon termination of cover crop per NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines, without inversion tillage. The NRD will make payment to the producer after certification by NRCS.
- The program will also comply with NRCS Code 340 - Cover Crop Conservation Practice Standards that may be found at https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
Cover Crop Cost-Share Areas

(Community Water System Protection Areas, Targeted Watershed, Groundwater Management
Phase II or III Area, or Fields where Terrace Systems are currently being installed
in the NRD's Summer Conservation Program)

Sources: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District; Nebraska Dept of Natural Resources; Nebraska Dept of Environmental Quality; Nebraska Department of Roads

June 2019
APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
Cover Crop Cost-Share Program
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District

Terms
- Cropland must be located in a Community Water System Protection Area, a Targeted Watershed Area, a Groundwater Management Phase II or III Area located within the LPSNRD, or fields where terrace systems are currently being installed in the NRD’s Summer Conservation Program.
- Cover crop options include: #1 rye only; #2 rye/rape/radish; or #3 “deluxe cocktail” mix (5 species minimum).
- Payment rate/acre: Single species $25/acre; multiple species $30/acre.
- Annual payment limit of $2,000 per farm/producer.
- Application deadline is October 1st
- Cover crops must be seeded prior to October 1st for aerial application and November 1st if planted with a drill. The producer is responsible for arranging seeding (either by aerial or ground application).
- The producer will obtain NE-CPA-7 Cover Crop Design Worksheet from NRCS prior to seeding cover crop for approved species, seeding rates, and seeding dates.
- The program will also comply with NRCS Code 340 - Cover Crop Conservation Practice Standards that may be found at https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/
- HEL fields where corn has been cut for silage are not eligible. Cover crops shall not be harvested, hayed or grazed.
- Producer will provide NRCS with completed NE-CPA-7, seed bills, and aerial/drill application bills prior to NRCS certification of cover crop.
- NRCS will certify successful completion to the NRD upon termination of cover crop per NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines, without inversion tillage. The NRD will make payment to the producer after NRCS certification.

Producer’s (applicant) Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________
        City:________________ State:_____ ZIP:_________
Phone: _________________________________________________________________
Email: _________________________________________________________________
Location of Cropland: ________, Sec. _____, T_____N, R_____E, _____________County
Number of Acres: ___________    Type of Application: _____ (aerial) ____ (ground)
Landowner: ________________________ Signature: ________________________ Date: ___________

The undersigned (applicant) agrees to the terms listed above and hereby applies for cost-share assistance.

Producer’s Signature:______________________________ Date: ____________

August 2019