

Diverse Species Cover Crop Mixes Provide Multiple Soil Health Benefits

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Corn No-tilled into rolled cover, with an inter-seed cover crop

Contact US

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Columbia County Conservation District

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Diverse Species Cover Crop Incentive Program

Improving soil health by incorporating diverse species cover crop mixes into a systems approach to regenerating soils and profits on farms.



Sponsored by Columbia County
Conservation District
Funded Through DEP Growing Greener
Grant





The Columbia, Montour, & Northumberland County Conservation Districts are offering a Diverse Cover Crop Incentive Program. The goal of the program is to demonstrate the successful use of cover crops as a means to improve soil health on local farms while reducing production costs and improving water quality and infiltration. Soil health will be improved through a systems approach including No-Till and diverse species cover cropping.

Diverse Species Cover Crop Mixes

- Enhanced weed suppression/control
- Reduced production costs
- Improved soil health
- Enhanced nutrient cycling
- Soil armor (erosion protection)
- Improved soil moisture holding capacity
- Improved soil structure (Increased infiltration)
- Enhanced habitat for beneficial insects

Guidelines for the Incentive Program:

- Acreage applied for must be located in Columbia, Montour, or Northumberland Counties.
- To be eligible, you must be planting cover crops for the first time. OR if you have previously planted cover crops you must be willing to plant multi species cover crops in this program rather than a single species cover.
- Cover must be established via No-Till.
- Cover crops planted in this program cannot be harvested for grain.
- Utilize the “Haney Soil Test” / Soil Health Tool on a minimum of two fields.
- Attendance to the Conservation District’s 2016 Spring Soil Health Conference is required.
- There is a 50 acre cap per operator.
- Single species can be used however, a higher priority will be placed on diverse mixes in the ranking process.
- Diverse mixes must include a minimum of 3 species.
- Incentive rates will vary from \$30/acre to \$55/acre depending on the Management Enhancements chosen.
- All seed must be certified. Bin run seed must be cleaned and tested for germination and noxious weeds.
- Seed tags must be submitted for practice completion and payment certification.
- Incentive payments will be reimbursable. Payments may take up to 6 months after planting of cover crops. This is due to the funding source.

Examples of diverse species cover crop mixes will be available to choose from for different scenarios OR a custom mix can be developed when working with CD or NRCS

Sign Up for the Incentive Program Today!

Complete the form below and submit to your County Conservation District. Deadline to submit an application: **Friday May 29, 2015**

Landowner _____	Operator _____
Street Address _____	Street Address _____
Phone Number _____	Phone Number _____
Project location _____	County reside in _____
County project is in _____	



Check the category of participants you fall into (check all that apply)

Producers Choice

Never Used Cover Crops	
Used Single Species	
Farm is located in a DEP Ag. Impaired Watershed (office use only)	
Base Incentive Rates - What do you intend to plant, check one	
Single Species	
Diverse Mix (minimum of 3 species)	
Management Enhancements: (Choose up to 2 Enhancements)	
Utilize Short Season Crop Varieties 102 day corn or less or 3.2 or less soybeans	
Adding a Small Grain to the Crop Rotation (Rye, Oats, Wheat, Barley - prior to corn)	
Rolling Cover Crops Prior to Planting	
Interseeding into a Standing Crop	
*Ranking Preference Given to Participants in Ag. Impaired Watersheds	
** Consult with crop insurance guidelines about interseeding into a standing crop	
*** Consult with seed company about short season varieties	