

RCPP Project

Cover Crops on Acres with Manure Application

Definition

Grasses, legumes, and forbs planted to provide cover after cash crop harvest. The cover crop can be seeded before, with, or after manure application.

Purpose

This practice is applied to support one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce erosion from wind and water.
- Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content.
- Reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excessive soil nutrients.
- Improve soil moisture use efficiency.
- Minimize soil compaction.

Financial Incentive Rates (FY18 rate)

Cover Crop: **\$63.40/ac**

Notes

The cover crop may be grazed in the spring. The cover crop must meet the seeding date specified in the seeding plan. Herbicide use may restrict grazing options for cover crops. The cover crop can be harvested for feed in the spring but cannot be harvested for seed according to RMA guidelines. A \$6000 per contract dollar limit has been set for cover crops. If you reach \$6000 in one contract, you may apply again in another contract year.

Using No-till in Conjunction with Manure Application and Cover Crops

Definition

Limiting soil disturbance to manage the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and plant residue on the soil surface year-round. Combining no-till with cover crops and manure application will have a greater impact on improving soil health.

Purpose

- Reduce sheet, rill and wind erosion and excessive sediment in surface waters.
- Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content.

Financial Incentive (FY18 rate)

Residue and tillage management, no-till: **\$15.22/ac**

Notes

A \$1500 per contract dollar limit has been set for no-till. If you reach \$1500 in one contract, you may apply again in another contract year. All aspects of the system, including manure application and cover crop planting must be considered no-till (low disturbance). Manure application must be broadcast or low-disturbance injected. Cover crop can be no-till drilled or broadcast at appropriate rates.

December 2017