Cover Crop Addendum to Montgomery County ACAP Application and Policy

How many acres of cover crops are you applying for?
Are you receiving any other funding for planting cover crops? Yes No
If so please explain and list number of acres:
ACAP can only fund cover crops on acres where no other funding is being received for planting cover crops
Have you used cover crops in the past? Yes No If yes, # of years
What is the planned planting method?
applicant must plant cover crops by methods approved by the conservation district
A plan map must be included with application with field names, acres, current crop and planned cover crop to be planted. Please reach out if you need assistance accessing aerial maps.

*Please keep in mind that all ACAP requirements apply, including for contracts applying exclusively for cover crops. This includes treatment of any animal heavy use areas under the applicant's control and having all necessary agricultural plans in place by the end of the project. These practices are also eligible for funding as necessary. *

- Planting rate and seeding dates must follow the attached NRCS Cover Crop Practice Guide Appendix. Winter small grain cover crops must be planted by October 31st. Cover crop mixes including legumes and/or brassicas must be planted by September 30th.
- Payment can be made upon verification of planting at proper rate and time. Cover Crops must be planted by outlined dates to guarantee payment, planting at a later date is subject to emergence verification before payment can be made.
- Cover crops funded through ACAP cannot be harvested for grain/seed. Cover crops may be grazed with adequate cover remaining on field.
- Cover crop payment rate:
 - \$64 per acre for single species
 - \$79 per acre for mixed species (which must include 2 or more different functional groups)
- Maximum of 200 acres per applicant per year eligible for ACAP funding
- Cover crop contracts can be up to two-year contract with annual payment on acres planted
- If manure or nutrients are applied to the cover crop it must be consistent with a current Nutrient Management Plan or Manure Management Plan.

Cover Crops must be seeded according to the seeding rate specifications from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) included below:



Addendum to Pennsylvania Cover Crop Practice Guide Appendix (2015)

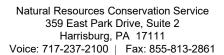
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Included in this guidance document:

- 1. Table 1A Pennsylvania base cover crop seeding rate specifications for Cover Crop standard (340),
- 2. Table 2A: Justifications for increasing and decreasing base seeding rate, and
- 3. Getting Started Developing Mixtures simplified guidance for developing cover crop mixtures.

The seeding rates listed in Table 1A provides the base seeding rates for monoculture cover crops sown with a grain drill within the recommended planting window.

Functional Group	Plant Species	Base Seeding Rate	
		(lb.ac.)	(bu.ac.)
	COOL SEASON GF	RASS	
CSG	Winter rye	84	1.5
CSG	Winter barley	72	1.5
CSG	Winter wheat	90	1.5
CSG	Winter triticale	75	1.5
CSG	Spring oats	80	2.5
CSG	Annual ryegrass	18	0.75
	WARM SEASON GRASS	& FORBS	
WSG	Sorghum x Sudangrass	20	
WSG	Pearl millet	15	
WSG	Japanese millet	20	
WSG	Teff	8	
WSB	Buckwheat	50	
WSB	Sunflower	5	
100000	LEGUMES		
WSB	Cowpea	30	
WSB	Sunn Hemp	10	
CSB	Berseem clover	15	
CSB	Red clover	10	
CSB	Crimson clover	15	
WSB	Yellow sweet clover	4	
CSB	Field & winter pea	50	
CSB	Hairy vetch	20	
	BRASSICAS		
CSB	Forage radish	5	
CSB	Rapeseed/canola	6	
CSB	Mustards	8	
CSB	Turnip	5	



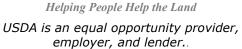






Table 2A: Justifications for				
increasing and decreasing base				
seeding rate				
Purpose /	Multiply base			
reason	rate by			
Erosion	1.0			
Weed Control	1.25			
Grazing/forage	1.25-1.5			
utilization				
Broadcast or	1.25-1.5			
aerial seeding				
Late planting	1.25-1.5			
Frequent	0.75			
Manure history				
Early planting	0.75			
(Sept)	300			
Planting green	0.5-0.75			

Getting Started Developing Mixtures

- To determine the appropriate seeding rates for each species in a mixture, start with the method described below, observe the results, compare to planned/desired outcome, then adjust as necessary.
- 2. Be aware that results will vary across fields, years, and climate zones.
- 3. As a starting point, divide the Base seeding rate of each species by the number of species in the mix. Then adjust based on the competitiveness.
- 4. Competitiveness forage radish, canola, oats, and sorghum-Sudangrass are y competitive in a mix. Seeding rates of these species must be reduced more to prevent them from dominating the mixture. Successful seeding rates for these species in 2-3 species mixtures are: 1-2 lbs./ac. forage radish, 3-4 lbs./ac. for canola, 15-20 lbs./ac for sorghum-Sudangrass, and 20-40 lbs./ac. oats.
- 5. Legume components of a mixture, which tend to be weak competitors, are more safely kept at the base seeding rates to ensure establishment in the stand.

Pennsylvania Field Office Technical Guide Section IV

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