

Row Crop Producers

Program Year: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Winter Cover Crop & Nutrient Management Practices

If you are interested in signing up for cover crop or nutrient management practices, call the Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District office at (434) 983-7923 or send an email to cody.smith@vaswcd.org or kelly.snoddy@vaswcd.org.

- Schedule an appointment with staff to review program specifications, aerial maps, crop reports, etc.
- All Board meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
 - Applications must be on file with District staff no later than the Wednesday before the next scheduled monthly Board meeting to be considered during that round.

A current Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is required to be on file with the District prior to payment.

If you do not have an NMP or need it to be updated, cost-share assistance is available for plans written by private plan writers.

Cost-Share Assistance Available through the Peter Francisco Soil & Water Conservation District *serving Buckingham and Cumberland Counties*

Available Cover Crop Practices Quick Reference Below

SL-8: Protective Cover for Specialty Crops

- Specialty crops are: vegetables, tobacco, etc.
- Planting must be certified by November 30th
- 60% cover MUST be reached by January 1st, for practice to receive payment
- Cover must be maintained at least 90 days after seeding certification, then may be incorporated or left on the land
- Flat rate per acre cost-share amount: \$40/acre one-time payment

SL-8H: Harvestable Cover Crop

- Cover crop may be harvested, rather than killed
- Planting deadline: October 25th
- NO nutrients of any source are allowed between harvesting of previous crop and March 1st of the next calendar year
- 60% cover MUST be maintained from January 1 – March 14, for practice to receive payment
- Harvesting is allowed after March 14th
- Cost-share amount: \$20/acre

SL-8B: Small Grain Cover Crop for Nutrient Management and Residue Management

- Early planting date October 25th
- Late planting date November 15th
- No N or P of any source are allowed between harvesting of previous crop and March 1st of the next calendar year. No N or P are allowed at planting.
- 60% cover MUST be maintained from January 1 – March 14, for practice to receive payment
- Cover crop MUST be killed (chemical, mechanical, or grazed) between March 15 - June 1
- Cost-share amount:
 - \$40/acre base payment, \$30/acre early planting bonus, \$20/acre for pure stands of rye, \$10/acre if killed between May 1 – June 1 “planting green”

SL-8M: Small Grain Cover Crop for Nutrient Management and Residue Management

- Cover crop MUST be killed (chemical, mechanical, or grazed) between March 15 - June 1
- Early planting date October 25th
- Late planting date November 15th
- Aerial seeding application is NOT allowed for this practice
- *Manure (with less than 40 lbs. N per acre tested) is allowed between the harvesting of the previous crop and March 1. No N or P are allowed at planting.
- 60% cover MUST be maintained from January 1 – March 14, for practice to receive payment
- Cost-share amount:
 - \$20/acre base payment, \$25/acre early planting bonus, \$10/acre for pure stands of rye, and \$10/acre if killed between May 1 – June 1 “planting green”

WQ-4: Legume Based Cover Crop

- Planting dates: Crimson Clover (September 28), Austrian Winter Pea/Hairy Vetch (October 26)
- Flat rate per acre cost-share amount: \$45/acre
- Legume cover crop must be left on the surface intact to serve as mulch
- Removal of the legume residue by baling is not allowed
- No N or P are allowed at planting
- 60% cover MUST be maintained from January 1 – March 14, for practice to receive payment

Available Nutrient Management Practices Quick References Below

NM-1A: Nutrient Management Plan Writing or Revision

- Development or revision of nutrient management plans
- Cost-share amount: \$2.00/acre for fields receiving only commercial fertilizer or a combination of imported animal manure and commercial fertilizer
- Cost-share amount: \$4.00/acre for fields receiving the participant’s on-farm generated animal manure or combination of the participant’s on-farm generated manure and commercial fertilizer

NM-3C – Sidedress Application of N on Corn

- Intended for sidedress application of N on corn
- Applications must be on file with the District prior to May 1
- All secondary or sidedress applications of N must be made after the corn is 15” to 24” tall
- Minimum of 20 lbs N/acre must be applied to be considered a sidedress application
- Cost-share amount:
 - \$6.00/acre for the sidedress application
 - PSNT sample collection and analysis by a lab, \$12.00/sample
- Acres enrolled may not be enrolled in NM4 or NM5N practices simultaneously

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NM-4 – Late Winter Split Application of Nitrogen on Small Grains

- Intended for applying nitrogen during late winter to small grains in two increments
- Minimum of 20lbs N/acre must be applied to be considered a split application
- Applications must be on file with the District prior to February 1
- Acres enrolled may not be enrolled in SL8H or NM3C or NM5N practices simultaneously
- Cost-share amount:
 - \$6.00/acre for the second application of N
 - If only 1 application is made, no reimbursement is to be provided
 - \$12.00/sample for Soil Nitrate test sample collection and analysis by lab

NM-5N – Precision Nutrient Management on Cropland – Nitrogen Application

- Intended for precision nutrient management components (row crops, small grains)
- Soil pre-sidedress nitrate tests (PSNT) and all variable rate N application technologies
 - PSNT or fall soil nitrate test samples
 - Variable rate N applications or zone application of N based on supporting documentation
 - 3 or more split applications of N on small grains
 - 2 or more split sidedress applications of N on corn or cotton
 - Injection at sidedress
- Applications must be on file prior to May 1
- Minimum of 20lbs N/acre must be applied to be considered a split application
- Does not apply to late winter split application of N on small grains
- Cost-share amount:
 - \$8.00/acre
 - \$12.00/sample for PSNT or fall soil nitrate test sample collection and analysis by lab, up to 1 PSNT per field (not per sample)
- Acres enrolled may not be enrolled in NM3C or NM4 simultaneously

NM-5P – Precision Nutrient Management on Cropland – Phosphorous Application

- Intended for row crops, small grains, grain sorghum/milo, canola, specialty crops
- Applications must be on file prior to April 1
- Based on zone or grid soil fertility samples
- Cost-share amount: \$8.00/acre for acres receiving variable rate zone or grid application of P

NM-6 Manure Injection

- Manure injection on pasture and cropland, consistent with NMP recommendations
- Cost-share amount: \$45/acre