United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

Resource Conserving Crop Rotation (RCCR) – Supplemental payment activity – CCR99

Activity Description

Resource-conserving crop rotation means a crop rotation that:

1. Includes at least one resource conserving crop as determined by the State Conservationist;
2. Reduces erosion;
3. Improves soil fertility and tilth;
4. Interrupts pest cycles; and
5. In applicable areas, reduces depletion of soil moisture or otherwise reduces the need for irrigation.

Resource-conserving crop means a crop that is one of the following:

1. A perennial grass;
2. A legume grown for use as forage, seed for planting, or green manure;
3. A legume-grass mixture;
4. A small grain grown in combination with a grass or legume green manure crop whether inter-seeded or planted in rotation.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland (this does not include permanent hayland, orchards, or vineyards).

Criteria for Resource Conserving Crop Rotations:

The resource conserving crop rotation shall include at least one of the following resource-conserving crops:

1. A perennial grass grown at least 1 year after the seeding year with at least one other crop in the rotation.
2. A legume that is grown at least 1 year after the seeding year with at least one other crop in the rotation.
3. A legume-grass mixture that is grown at least 1 year after the seeding year with at least one other crop in the rotation,
4. A small grain grown in combination with a grass or legume that is used as a green manure, whether interseeded or planted after small grain harvest with at least two other crops in the rotation. Neither the small grain residue nor the cover crop shall be harvested or grazed.

This activity can apply to the modification of an existing RCCR to a higher conservation level by one of the following methods:

1. Add years of grass and/or legumes, (Limited to those rotations with a current perennial grass and/or legumes of at least one year beyond the seeding year, but not more than 4 current years of perennial grass and/or legume).
2. Add diversity of crops grown,
3. Add annual crops with cover crops (cover crops shall not be harvested or grazed).

Contract Criteria for Resource Conserving Crop Rotation

1. The rotation shall cover at least 3 fiscal years of the CSP contract.
2. The resource conserving crop rotation is considered adopted when the resource conserving crop is planted on at least 1/3 of the rotation acres. The resource conserving crop must be adopted by the third fiscal year of the contract and established or planted on all rotation acres prior to the final annual payment.

Documentation Requirements

Planned Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation(s):

List crop rotation(s), resource conserving crops, and cover crops that will follow the specific crops as applicable for each rotation to receive supplemental payment:

Rotation#1: _____Fields: _____Years_____
Resource Conserving Crop(s) to be used: _____

Rotation#2: _____Fields: _____Years_____
Resource Conserving Crop(s) to be used: _____

Rotation#3: _____Fields: _____Years_____
Resource Conserving Crop(s) to be used: _____

Records:

a. Crop rotation records by field
b. Cover crops planted

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WISCONSIN SUPPLEMENT

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(1) A perennial grass

The following is a list of perennial grasses that qualify as a resource conserving crop:

Big blustem, Canada wildrye, Festolium or tall fescue, Creeping or Chewings red fescue, Indiangrass, Kentucky bluegrass, Little bluestem, Meadow brome, Meadow fescue, Orchardgrass, Perennial ryegrass, Redtop, Side oats grama, Smooth bromegrass, Switchgrass, Timothy, Virginia wildrye

(2) A legume grown for use as forage, seed for planting, or green manure.

The following is a list of legumes that qualify as a resource conserving crop:

Alfalfa, Alsike clover, Birdsfoot trefoil, Improved white clover (Alice, Ladino), Kura clover, Ladino clover, Red clover

(3) A legume-grass mixture

Any combination of a least 1 perennial grass and at least 1 legume identified above.

(4) A small grain grown in combination with a grass or legume green manure crop whether inter-seeded or planted in rotation.

The small grain must have an associated grass and/or legume green manure cover crop. The cover crop may be planted at the same time as the small grain; or may be planted after the harvest of the small grain crop. The cover crop must be utilized as a green manure crop and is not to be harvested.

Eligible small grains: Oats, Barley, Wheat, Rye, Triticale

Eligible grass/legume green manure crops: Alfalfa, Alsike clover, Annual ryegrass, Austrian winterpea, Barley, Berseem clover, Brassicas (Forage Rape, Forage Turnips, Canola, Tillage Radish), Buckwheat, Cereal rye Chickling vetch ("Green Fix"), Cowpeas, Crimson clover, Field peas, Hairy vetch, Medium red clover, Oats Sorghum/sudangrass, Spring rye, Spring wheat, Triticale, Improved white clover (Alice, Ladino), Winter rye, Winter wheat

(1) Add years of grass and/or legumes, (Limited to those rotations with a current perennial grass and/or legumes of at least one year beyond the seeding year, but not more than 4 current years of perennial grass and/or legume).

Eligible Example:
Existing Rotation: Cg-Sb-4H
New Rotation: Cg-Sb-**5**H

(Cg = Corn Grain, Sb = Soybeans, H = Hay)

(2) Add diversity of crops grown

The addition of a new crop to a rotation (i.e. a crop not already included in the existing rotation) must not result in the new rotation exceeding tolerable soil loss limits as defined by NRCS. The addition of a crop species to an existing crop would not qualify (example: adding bromegrass to an alfalfa planting would not qualify).

Eligible Example:
Existing Rotation: Cg-Sb-3Hay
New Rotation: Cg-Sb-**WW**-3Hay

(Cg = Corn Grain, Sb = Soybeans, WW = Winter Wheat, H = Hay)

(3) Add annual crops with cover crops (cover crops shall not be harvested or grazed).

The intent of this scenario is to add a cover crop to an existing annual crop in the rotation or to a new annual crop added to the rotation as described in (2) above.

The following is a list of approved cover crop species:

Alfalfa, Alsike clover, Annual ryegrass, Austrian winterpea, Barley, Berseem clover, Brassicas (Forage Rape, Forage Turnips, Canola, Tillage Radish), Buckwheat, Cereal rye Chickling vetch ("Green Fix"), Cowpeas, Crimson clover, Field peas, Hairy vetch, Medium red clover, Oats Sorghum/sudangrass, Spring rye, Spring wheat, Triticale, Improved white clover (Alice, Ladino), Winter rye, Winter wheat

RCCR Definitions:

Reduces erosion = at or below tolerable soil loss limits as defined by NRCS
Improves soil fertility and tilth = positive Soil Conditioning Index (SCI)