

## **Conservation Stewardship Program – 2009/2010 Resource Conserving Crops and Rotations**

### **Resource Conserving Crops for Washington - Definitions**

- (1) A perennial grass, legume, or grass/legume mix grown for use as forage, seed, green manure or other conservation purposes.
- (2) A high residue producing crop. High residue crops include:
  - All annual, cool season small grains and grass crops where residue following harvest is not removed. This includes cool season spring and winter varieties of Wheat, Triticale, Rye, Barley, Oats.
  - All annual, warm season grass crops where residue following harvest is not removed. This includes millet, sorghum, sudan, field corn, and sweet corn.
- (3) A cover crop following an annual crop. The cover crop must be planted in a timely manner. Cover crops must be establishment prior to the critical erosion period or time period when the cover crop can function for its intended purposes, such as recovering nutrients or erosion protection. Examples include: annual small grains and grasses, legumes, turnips, radishes, brassicae crops.

\*Note: Weeds (especially noxious/invasive weeds) or volunteer plants are not considered resource conserving crops.

### **Resource Conserving Crop Rotations - Cropping Criteria Options**

- (1) A minimum of two crops if one of the crops is a perennial lasting at least 2 years,  
Example: Winter Wheat – Alfalfa
- (2) A minimum of 2 crops, if no perennial, with a cover crop (not harvested) following one of the crop years. No silage or crop residues can be removed from the system. This may include a summer fallow if seeded to a cover crop.  
Example: Onions – Triticale cover crop – Field Corn
- (3) A minimum of 3 crops, if no perennial, where at least 1/2 the rotation consists of high residue crops.  
Example: 3 year: Winter Wheat-Spring Wheat – Canola  
Example: 4 year: Winter Wheat – Pinto Beans – Field Corn – Canola