



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation – Supplemental Payment Activity – CCR99



Definition - Resource-Conserving Crop

Resource conserving crops are defined as:

- a) a perennial grass, legume, or grass/legume grown for use as forage, seed for planting, or green manure,
- b) a high residue producing crop, or
- c) a cover crop following an annual crop.

Note: This enhancement can apply to either the adoption of a resource-conserving crop rotation (RCCR) or an existing rotation that meets the criteria for improving a resource-that meets the

criteria of an RCCR that is modified to a higher conservation level such as:

- a) more years of grass and/or legumes,
(Limited to those rotations with a current increment in perennial grass and/or legumes of two or three years)
- b) more crop diversity,
- c) more annual crops with cover crops, or
- d) more years of a high residue crops, etc.).
(Addition of high residue crops resulting in successive plantings of the same crop is not permissible.)

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on cropland (not applicable for orchards or permanent hayland)

Benefits

A resource-conserving crop rotation means a crop rotation that includes at least one resource conserving crop, and reduces wind and water erosion, increases soil organic matter, improves soil fertility and tilth, interrupts pest cycles, reduces depletion of soil moisture or reduce the need for irrigation in applicable areas, and may provide protection and habitat for pollinators.

Criteria for Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation

General Criteria:

1. The rotation shall cover at least 3 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 year of the contract and established or planted on all rotation acres by the fifth year of the contract.



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Cropping Criteria Options:

1. A minimum of two crops if one of the crops is a perennial lasting at least 2 years, OR;
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 residue removed from the system), this may include a summer fallow if seeded to a cover crop, OR;
3. A minimum of 3 crops, if no perennial, where at least 1/2 the rotation consists of high residue crops.

Documentation Requirements for *Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation*

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:

- Crop rotation records by field
- Cover crops planted



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IDAHO ADDENDUM 2009

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Additional guidance for Resource Conserving Crop Rotations:

Idaho Resource Conserving Crops

1. Alfalfa (perennial)
2. Clovers (perennial)
3. Perennial grass or combination grass/legume mixture
4. Mint
5. Small grains (wheat, barley, oats, triticale, flax) - No residue removed, no burning or baling
6. Grain corn (not silage corn)

Cover or Green Manure Crop

A crop that is not harvested, does not include a nurse crop, but is grown to maintain or improve soil quality and provide additional resource benefits. Grazing is allowed as long as it is consistent with these objectives and provides for even distribution of organic matter and readily available nutrients. A grazing management plan is required.

Legumes: Clovers, annual alfalfa, Austrian winter peas

Non-Legumes: Brassicas (mustard, rape, canola), buckwheat, turnips, oilseed radish, wheat, barley, oats, rye, triticale, milo, sorghum/sudangrass, millet

Examples of Common Resource Conserving Crop Rotations in Idaho

1. Small grains or grain corn, cover crop, row crops (e.g., potato, beet, onion)
2. Small grain or grain corn, alfalfa, row crops (e.g., onion or bean or beet or potato or vegetable).
3. Wheat, safflower, cover crop / chemical fallow planted after safflower harvest
4. Wheat, chemical fallow, safflower, cover crop / fallow, cover crop planted after safflower harvest
5. Bluegrass, small grain
6. Bluegrass, small grain, legume or canola
7. Barley, wheat, legume or canola
8. Alfalfa 2 years minimum, small grain or grain corn

General Criteria and Cropping Criteria Options must be followed (refer to first page).