

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



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

IDAHO ADDENDUM - 2010

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Additional guidance for Resource Conserving Crop Rotations:

Idaho Resource Conserving Crops

1. Perennial alfalfa (grown for forage or seed)
2. Clovers
3. Perennial grass or combination grass/legume mixture
4. Legumes grown as a green manure crop (e.g., Austrian winter peas)
5. Small grains ONLY when grown in combination with a green manure crop

For Option 5, the small grain residue shall not be harvested or grazed, nor will the cover crop be harvested or grazed.

For an existing RCCR, there is no option to improve the rotation to a higher level solely by adding an additional year of a high residue crop. Where the producer uses Option #2 to add diversity of crops grown, the added crop, 1) may NOT reduce the existing conservation level, and 2) it must address another resource concern or further enhance the objectives of the RCCR discussed on the first page of the job sheet. For example, substituting spring wheat for spring barley provides no conservation benefit, while adding spring barley to a rotation with fall-seeded small grains helps to break insect and weed cycles. A justification must be provided as to how the added crop meets the two criteria above.

ALL NEW AND MODIFIED EXISTING RCCRs MUST BE APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE ARC.

Criteria for Rotations and Contract Criteria must be followed (refer to first two pages).

**This activity may NOT be used with the following enhancements:
AIR03, AIR06, ANM12, ANM21, ANM22, SOE02, SQL06**

Duplicate practice: 328 – Conservation crop rotation