



## CCR99 – Montana Supplement

### Resource Conserving Crop Rotation – (Supplemental payment activity)

#### Montana specifications

#### **A Resource Conserving Crop Rotation (RCCR) for Montana can be either;**

1. A perennial grass, legume or grass legume mix grown for a **minimum of two consecutive** years with at least one year of another crop in the rotation. The RCCR enhancement is not eligible on land that currently is used for long term hay or pasture. The grass or legume must be grown for a minimum of **two years but no more than 6 years**; total rotation can be no more than 7 years. This would involve converting existing cropland where annually planted crops are grown and planting a grass, legume or grass legume mix that is grown for a minimum of two years.

**OR**

2. Growing an annual legume as a green manure or a “cocktail mix” cover crop for soil health in a small grain rotation. Interseeding of green manure or “cocktail mix” with the cash crop or seeding after harvest is allowed only under irrigated conditions. **No grazing or removal of small grain residue or cover crops is allowed.**

#### **Modification of an existing RCCR to a higher conservation level:**

Existing crop rotation must meet RCCR criteria # 1, 2, 3 or 4 to qualify for modification to a higher level.

**Criteria # 1** -Add years of grass and/or legumes, Limited to those rotations with a current perennial grass and/or legumes of a least one year beyond the seeding year, but not more than 4 current years of perennial grass and/or legume. **Documentation for this must include current crop rotation showing legume or grass is grown for only 4 years before planting another crop.**

**Criteria # 2** -Add diversity of crops grown. Adding diversity to an existing resource conserving crop rotation involves adding different types of crops (i.e.) adding legumes to small grain rotation with a green manure crop or adding a warm season crop (corn, sunflower) to a cool season grass small grain rotation. Adding another small grain (barley) to a small grain (spring or winter wheat) with a green manure crop rotation does not add diversity to the rotation.

#### **Example :**

Current RCCR Rotation: One year winter wheat, one year peas as a green manure, one year spring wheat, one year barley (4-year rotation).

New Rotation: One year winter wheat, one year peas as a green manure, one year spring wheat, one year sunflower (4-year rotation).

**Criteria # 3** -Add annual crops with cover crops. **No grazing or harvesting of the small grain residue or cover crop is allowed.**

**Example:**

Current RCCR Rotation: One year barley, one year peas as a green manure planted in spring, one year spring wheat, one year barley (4-year rotation).

New Rotation: One year barley, one year of peas as a green manure planted in spring and terminated prior to maturity, one year Spring Wheat, one year of ‘Cocktail Mix’<sup>1/</sup> (4-year rotation)

<sup>1/</sup>**Cocktail mix:** A cover crop cocktail is a variety of broadleaf and grass species including those species listed in Montana Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Specification, Cover Crop (Code 340) listed for soil health (see table 1). Cocktail Mixes can be blended for a variety of purposes including soil nitrogen building, weed suppression, soil health, and wildlife enhancement. Mixtures can include warm or cool season grasses or broadleaf species and can be custom mixed depending on season of planting, objectives and species adaptation. The cover crop must be seeded in the spring or directly after harvest under irrigation. Cocktail mixes should be terminated by chemical, mechanical or other methods prior to seed set to prevent mix species from becoming weeds in subsequent crops. Depth of soil moisture should be considered when terminating cocktail mixes to conserve soil moisture for crops. Examples of these mixes can be found at [www.pulseusa.com](http://www.pulseusa.com), additional information on cover crops and suppliers (in South Dakota) can be found at: <http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/CoverCrops.html>.

**Table 1 -Cover Crop Species for Soil Health**

Cool Season Broadleaves	Warm Season Broadleaves	Cool Season Grasses	Warm Season Grasses
alfalfa beet camelina canola spring clover flax lentils peas, field radishes (deep rooted) sweet clover <sup>(1)</sup> turnip vetch <sup>(1)</sup>	beans, field buckwheat chickpea cowpeas safflower soybeans sunflower	barley, spring oats, spring triticale, spring triticale, winter wheat, spring wheat, winter	corn millet sorghum sudangrass <u>sorghum /</u> <u>sudangrass crosses</u> teff

(1) May become a weed in following crops.

**If a rotation consists mostly of small grains the cover crop mix must not contain more than 10% of small grains in mixture.**

**Montana Documentation Requirements**

Planned Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation(s):

List crop rotations(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: (for each year of the contract)**

- a. Crop rotation records by field including previous crops grown for current rotation
- b. Cover crops planted.
- c. Species, composition and planting rates of cover crops
- d. Method and date of termination of cover crops

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all that is required for the implementation of this CSP Enhancement Activity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contract participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date