



TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: Will Myers, Field Service Bureau Chief  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Division of Soil Conservation & Water Quality (IDALS-DSCWQ)

DATE: June 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Cover Crop Funding for Prevented Planting Acres

Due to the excessive amount of rainfall portions of the State have received, Districts have been getting inquiries from producers about the availability of cost share funding to plant cover crops on prevented planting acres. The following provides guidance relative to IDALS funding opportunities for use on these acres:

### **WQI Statewide Funding**

If producers asking about funding for cover crops on prevented planting acres are “first-time users of cover crops”, you may enter their application into FARMS as you would any other WQI Statewide first-time user application. When they apply, remind producers that fall termination of these cover crops is not allowed. Also, please advise them to check with their crop insurance agent to determine if any other restrictions may apply to their use of the cover crops on these acres. Once you are authorized to obligate funding to first-time user applications, you may inform the first-time users installing the cover crops on prevented planting acres that they may begin seeding these acres immediately.

For producers inquiring about cover crop funding on prevented planting acres who are “previous users of cover crops”, we anticipate following a similar time schedule as the last few years, with funding of these applications being made available toward the end of July (further information will be distributed on this). If you have previous cover crop users who want to seed cover crop on prevented planting acres before these funds become available, the \$5/acre Cover Crop-Crop Insurance program would be an option available to them. They may also want to explore other available programs which could work for their situation as well.

### **IFIP Cost Share Funding**

Districts may use their IFIP cost share funds to provide financial assistance to producers for cover crops on prevented planting acres at their discretion and to the extent they have the funding available. Applicants would need to meet the IFIP eligibility requirement of never having received IFIP cost share assistance for cover crops at any time since July 1, 2014 (per FARMS Account), in order to qualify.

Producers who intend to seed cover crops on prevented planting acres ahead of the “normal” cover crop seeding time period, should work with the local Field Office staff to determine the appropriate type(s) of cover crop seed to use. For early cover crop seeding mixtures, they will want to consider including “warmer season” types of cover crops (i.e. Sorghum, Sudan Grass, etc..) instead of only the normal “cool season” types of cover crops.

If you have any questions about the information provided here, please contact me, or Mike Franklin.

WFM/maf