

# MO 2017 EQIP-RCPP Cover Crops for Soil Health

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program Policy for the 2016 RCPP Project with Missouri Department of Agriculture

**October 21, 2016**

**This Policy is based on the Final Rule for EQIP, Federal Register 7 CFR Part 1466 published May 12, 2016.**

NRCS will verify Beginning Farmer, Limited Resource Farmer, and/or Veteran Farmer status prior to contract obligation. There is no verification process for participants who self certify as Socially Disadvantaged. All practices must meet the minimum criteria in the Conservation Practice Standard (see the Missouri eFOTG) and the criteria listed below.

If the applicant is a tenant, the applicant must obtain written evidence or assurance of control from the landowner prior to contract obligation. Control may be a written lease, other legal agreement, or letter signed by the landowner indicating the length of control. Zero payment share landowner signature on the contract document does not demonstrate control of land.

Payment Scenarios - Each conservation practice listed in this policy has one or more payment scenarios available. The scenario nomenclature is determined by NRCS at the regional or national level. Where the scenario name is not descriptive enough to cover all the State Conservationist and State Technical Committee approved uses of the scenario for Missouri, a footnote has been added directly below the scenario name to clarify its use in planning and contract development.

Management Practices - Management practice payments are only available on acres where the practice has not been previously applied (with or without financial assistance), or where the practice will result in a higher level of conservation benefit.

Maximum Payments - Maximum payments, where identified in this policy, are implemented at the contract item (CIN) Level in ProTracts by using the Cost Share Cap input box. The contract may have multiple CINs for a practice, however each CIN must be capped utilizing the Cost Share Cap input box at the Maximum Payment level identified in this policy.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 1/	Lifespan (Years)
340	<b>Cover Crop Management</b>	\$20,000	\$28,000	Acre			1
	<b>Cover Crop - Basic and organic/non-organic</b>			Acre	\$41.89	\$62.84	

- 1 Practice is authorized for up to three payments per acre within the contract period.
- 2 Payment is not authorized for crops harvested for grain, seed or hay.
- 3 See the (340) Cover Crop conservation practice standard.

### Footnotes and Acronym Information

- 1/ HU Payment Rate refers to the payment rate for Historically Underserved Farmers (Limited Resource Farmers, Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, and Veteran Farmers who also qualify as Beginning Farmers).

This Program Policy is approved for use in Missouri

J.R. Flores

Missouri State Conservationist

October 24, 2016

Date