

**Conservation Crop Rotation**

Code: 328

Reporting Unit: Acre

**Definition:**

Growing crops in a recurring sequence on the same field.

**Purpose:**

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following:

- Reduce sheet and rill erosion
- Reduce soil erosion from wind
- Maintain or improve soil organic matter content
- Manage the balance of plant nutrients
- Improve water use efficiency
- Manage saline seeps
- Manage plant pests (weeds, insects, and diseases)
- Provide food for domestic livestock
- Provide food and cover for wildlife

**Conditions Where Practice Applies:**

This practice applies to all land where crops are grown, except this standard does not apply to pastureland, hay land, or other land uses where crops are grown occasionally only to facilitate renovation or re-establishment of perennial vegetation.

**Payment Schedule:**

Activity Description	Payment Unit	Payment Rate	
		General	HU
Basic Rotation Organic and Non-Organic This practice payment is provided to the producer for the time needed to plan and implement the logistic of changing the rotation to effectively implement a conservation crop rotation on a typical 200 cropland farm. No foregone income. Cost represents typical situations for conventional and organic producers.	ac	\$4.30	\$5.15

**Limitations:**

1. This practice will be implemented a minimum of three (3) years. Payment will be made upon annual implementation of the practice.
2. Payment will not exceed \$30,000 per contract for this practice except where irrigated cropland is being converted to dryland cropland.

**Documentation:**

Producer self-certification permitted.

**Maintenance:**

Practice will be maintained for a lifespan of one year following installation.

# Cover Crop

Code: 340

Reporting Unit: Acre

## Definition:

Grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover and conservation purposes.

## Purpose:

- Reduce erosion from wind and water
- Increase soil organic matter content
- Capture and recycle or redistribute nutrients in the soil profile
- Promote biological nitrogen fixation
- Increase biodiversity
- Suppress weeds
- Provide supplemental forage
- Manage soil moisture
- Reduce particulate emissions into the atmosphere
- Minimize and reduce soil compaction

## Conditions Where Practice Applies:

On all lands requiring vegetative cover for natural resource protection.

## Payment Schedule:

Activity Description	Payment Unit	Payment Rate	
		General	HU
Cover Crop - Basic and organic/non-organic Typically a small grain or legume (may also use forage sorghum, radishes, turnips, buckwheat, etc.) will be planted as a cover crop immediately after harvest of a row crop, and will be followed by a row crop that will utilize the residue as a mulch. This scenario assumes that seed will be planted with a drill. The cover crop should be allowed to generate as much biomass as possible, without delaying planting of the following crop. The cover crop will be terminated using an approved herbicide prior to planting the subsequent crop.	ac	\$62.66	\$75.19
Cover Crop Multiple Species Organic and Non-Organic Typically the multi-species cover crop (two or more species) mix includes a small grain, a legume, and may include other species such as forage sorghum, radishes, turnips, buckwheat, etc.). This mix will address all the purposes of the Cover Crop (340) standard. Typically the cover crop is seeded immediately after harvest of a row crop, but may be inter-seeded into a row crop using a broadcast seeder, drill, or similar device. The cover crop will be followed by another row crop and will utilize the residue as a mulch. The cover crop should be allowed to generate as much biomass as possible without delaying planting of the following crop. The cover crop will be terminated using an approved herbicide or tillage prior to planting the subsequent crop and terminated per the NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines.	ac	\$73.47	\$88.17

## Limitations:

1. Payment will not exceed \$30,000 per contract for this practice.
2. When this practice is used as cover between cash crops in a rotation, payments are limited to a maximum of three (3) separate payments during the term of the contract; however, when the practice is used to support establishment of permanent vegetative cover, payments are limited to one (1) payment during the term of the contract.

## Documentation:

Form KS-ECS-6, Cover Crop Seeding, and/or Form KS-ECS-4, Grass Seeding.

## Maintenance:

Practice will be maintained for a lifespan of one year following installation.