

**EASTERN SHORE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
NEW COST SHARE PROGRAM YEAR FY23:**

Cost Share Signup (1<sup>st</sup> round) **begins July 13<sup>th</sup> and ends August 17<sup>th</sup>**. Any sign-up received after August 17<sup>th</sup> will be ranked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of ranking if funding is still available.

- Scheduled Appointments with District Staff are required for sign-up.
- **NEW** \$300,000 per Participant Cap
- **NEW** Increased Cover Crop Rates
- **NEW** cover crop practice **SL-8M** Fall manure application

A current Nutrient Management Plan written by a VA Certified Nutrient Management Planner is required to be kept on file at the District to receive cost share funding for any practice. Cost Share payments are not permitted without a current NMP on file. It is the participant's responsibility to keep up with the dates of their NMP and to keep it current.

**COVER CROP BMPS**

**SL-8B: SMALL GRAIN & MIXED COVER CROP FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT & RESIDUE:**

*-Designed to establish vegetative cover on cropland, reduce erosion & nutrient losses as well as utilize the maximum amount of residual nitrogen from previous applications in the first 3ft of the soil profile.*

- Wheat, Barley, Oats, Winter Rye, Tetraploid Rye for example: Abruzzi Rye (bonus payment), Brassica, or tillage and other small grain mixtures permitted
- No nutrients allowed between harvest of previous crop & March 1<sup>st</sup> of following year
- 60% Cover must be obtained by December 15<sup>th</sup> and must be maintained through March 14<sup>th</sup>
- Harvesting is not permitted. Pasturing is permitted as long as 60% cover is maintained
- Planting Dates:
  - Standard Date- Must be planted by November 30<sup>th</sup> pays \$40/ acre
  - Early Date- Must be planted by November 10<sup>th</sup> pays extra \$30/ acre bonus in addition to Standard rate of \$40/ acre totaling \$70/ acre
  - Planting Tetraploid Rye- Pays \$20/ acre bonus in addition to standard rate and early rate if applicable. If planted early using tetraploid rye, eligible for \$90/ acre. If planted standard using Tetraploid Rye, eligible for \$60/ acre.
- Must be terminated by grazing, mechanically or chemically no earlier than March 15<sup>th</sup> and no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**SL-8H HARVESTABLE COVER CROP:**

- Wheat, Barley, Oats, Winter Rye, Tetraploid Rye, Brassica, or tillage and other small grain mixtures permitted
- Harvesting for hay, grain, straw, or seed is permitted after March 14<sup>th</sup>
- 60% cover must be maintained through March 14<sup>th</sup>
- Must be planted by November 10<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for \$20/ acre

**WQ-4- LEGUME BASED COVER CROP:**

*-Used as a natural source of Nitrogen to reduce applied soil amendments*

- Hairy Vetch, Crimson Clover, Austrian Winter Pea and Forage Radish mixture permitted
- Cover must be left on surface unincorporated to serve as mulch for no-till planting of crop.
- No grazing permitted
- Must be planted by October 26<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for \$45/ acre
- Crimson clover must be planted by October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**SL-8 PROTECTIVE COVER FOR SPECIALTY CROPS:**

*-Cost share provided to establish vegetative cover on specialty cropland and thereby reduce wind and water erosions, thus improving water quality.*

- Specialty Crops defined as vegetables, tobacco and small grains
- Wheat, Barley, Oats, Winter Rye, Triticale, Forage Radish, Brassica and other small grain mixtures permitted
- Seeding must be planted and certified by November 30<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for \$40/ acre
- Cover must be left in the ground for 90 days after certification

**SL-15A**

*-encourage the conversion of minimum till or conventional till systems to a high residue minimum soil disturbance tillage system and will maintain a minimum of 60% rain drop intercepting residue cover on the enrolled acres.*

- All acres enrolled in this practice must be converting from minimum till or conventional till systems to a high residue minimum soil disturbance system (no-till).
- All eligible fields must have a cropping history, including at least two crops of small grains in two out of the last five years. Permanent grass or hay land is not considered cropland for this practice.
- No harvest of small grain hay or straw is allowed.
- This is a five year practice subject to annual spot checks.
- Cost Share is a one-time \$70 / acre incentive payment paid on the first year of the contract.

**CCI - CNT LONG TERM CONTINUOUS NO-TILL PLANTING SYSTEMS:**

*-provide a financial incentive to assure that lands being managed under continuous no-till planting systems are reported to DCR. These no-till systems are required to be effective and functioning as designed throughout the life span of the practice.*

- Land currently managed in a continuous no-till planting system with a minimum of 60% residue cover present on all acres is eligible. Does not require converting from conventional tillage to no-till, must already be in no-till planting system.
- Acres currently enrolled in an active SL-15 No-Till contract are **not eligible** for this practice.
- All eligible fields must have a cropping history, including at least two crops of small grains in two out of the last five years. Permanent grass or hay land (pasture land) is not considered cropland for this practice.
- No bailing of small grain straw is allowed.
- This is a five year practice subject to annual spot checks.
- Cost Share is a one-time \$25 / acre incentive payment paid on the first year of the contract.



**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

**NM-4 LATE WINTER SPLIT APPLICATION OF NITROGEN ON SMALL GRAINS:**

- Applying Nitrogen during the late winter in two increments based on the progression of growth in the small grain crop to minimize the amount lost through leaching and run off.

- On fields that have organic sources of Nitrogen applied during the crop year or in previous years, or if high residual nitrogen levels are suspected from a previous crop, fall nitrogen rates should be determined by a nitrate test. Costs for soil nitrate test, if needed, may be reimbursed up to \$8.00 per sample.

- In lieu of tiller counts and tissue tests, nutrient management plan recommendations must be followed with the first application not to exceed 40 pounds of nitrogen and the second application, 30 days later, not to exceed 50 pounds of nitrogen.
- Two applications must be at least 30 days apart with the first application no earlier than growth stage 25
- Written verification of application (record keeping form provided by the District to be filled) must be submitted to the District within two weeks of the second application.
- Cost Share rate is 75% of the application charge up to a maximum amount of \$4.50/ acre for the second application. If only one late winter application is made, no cost share is provided. If application is hired, a copy of the work order or bill is also required.

### **NM-3C SIDEDRESS APPLICATION OF NITROGEN ON CORN AT THE 6-LEAF STAGE OR AT LEAST 15" IN HEIGHT:**

-Encourages the side dress application of Nitrogen on Corn

- On fields that have organic sources of Nitrogen applied during the crop year or in previous years, or if high residual nitrogen levels are suspected from a previous crop, fall nitrogen rates should be determined by a pre-side dress nitrate test (PSNT). Costs for PSNT, if needed, may be reimbursed up to \$12.00 per sample. PSNT must be done when the corn is approximately 12 inches in height and samples should represent a minimum of 7 acres on average and a maximum of 20 acres on average. Acres receiving zero application rate based on a PSNT result also qualify for a cost share payment, this is for manure only, bio - solids are not eligible for a payment.
- Total nitrogen applied to the cornfield must be consistent with the nutrient management plan OR determined by using a PSNT.
- Application of any side dress nitrogen must be made after the corn is at 6-leaf stage or at least 15" in height.
- Written verification of application (record keeping form provided by the District to be filled) must be submitted to the District within two weeks of the side dress application.
- Cost Share rate is 75% of the application charge up to a maximum amount of \$6.00/ acre for the side dress application. If application is hired, a copy of the work order or bill is also required.

### **NM-1A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN WRITING AND REVISIONS:**

-an incentive to annual revise plans to accurately reflect field conditions so that farmers can maintain eligibility for other cost share practices. Cost share available for the development of a new nutrient management plan (NMP) or the revision of a plan to help minimize the impact of nutrients used in crop, pasture, specialty crop and hay production to the environment.

- NMPs must be prepared and certified by a VA Certified Nutrient Management Planner
- Cost share available for either of the three scenarios:
  - New NMP: to write a NMP on acres that have never been planned or that were part of a previous plan that has been expired for over 18 months
  - Amended NMP: a current NMP that has been updated to accurately match current field crops and/or pasture management practices.
  - Revised NMP: a NMP that has expired within the last 18 months, and has been rewritten to accurately match actual field crops and management practices.
- Plans must be written on a soil analysis taken within a 3-yr period prior to the start date of the plan
- Participants may re-direct their cost share payment to their planner by signing a written statement to that effect

- NMPs must be verified for the previous planned period prior to the submittal of a new plan. This requires the planner and producer review the plan and both must sign a completed verification form stating that nutrients were applied during this period according to the NMP. For acres that have not had a NMP written for them within the last 12 months, this requirement is waived.
- If imported manure is part of the NMP recommendations, an Imported Manure Supplier Verification Form is required to be on file at the District.
- Cost Share rate is \$2/acre for acres that receive only commercial fertilizer or a combination of imported animal manure and commercial fertilizer.
- Cost Share rate is \$4/acre for acres that receive the participants mechanically applied on-farm generated animal manure, or a combination of that and commercial fertilizer.

**NM-5N PRECISION NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ON CROPLAND:**

-This cost share practice encourages the use of precision nutrient management components that support a higher intensity of nitrogen management in the field than existing standard nutrient management practices (NM-5N). This practice supports components such as (pre-side dress nitrate tests) PSNT, and all variable rate nitrogen application technologies. For more information on this practice, make an appointment to discuss further with District staff.

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**WHOLE FARM APPROACH (WFA-CC & WFA-NM)**

These practices encourage participants to consider a whole farm approach where cost share stacks upon which components are completed. The more practices implemented, the more cost share funding will be received. Practices are separated into a Cover Crop Bundle (WFA-CC) and a Nutrient Management Bundle (WFA-NM). This practice has no participant cap, and does not require ranking as funding is guaranteed. Both Chesapeake Bay and Seaside acres are eligible to participate in the WFA practices. A Core Nutrient Management Plan is required to be eligible for cost share payment. For more information on this program, make an appointment to discuss further with District staff.

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**CALL DISTRICT STAFF TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT FOR SIGNUP STARTING 7/13:**

- **Bill Savage**, Conservation Specialist, (757) 302-4437 or [bill.savage@esswcd.org](mailto:bill.savage@esswcd.org)
- **Carmie Savage**, District Manager, (757) 302-4431 or [carmie.savage@esswcd.org](mailto:carmie.savage@esswcd.org)