

Mountain Castles SWCD Cover Crop Form PY27

1. Contact Information

Name: _____ Farm Name (if applicable): _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Farm address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

2. Phone Number

Home:

Mobile:

3. Have you participated in previous years?

☐

Yes, I am a returning participant

☐

No, I am a new participant

4. Do you have an active Nutrient Management Plan on ALL fields you are enrolling in a cover crop practice?

Note: District staff will need a copy on file before payment can be made. Please contact your nutrient management planner.

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

I have an active nutrient management plan, but it does not include all the fields

5. Are you interested in enrolling via the Whole Farm Approach?

☐

Yes

☐

No

6. Please complete the table on the following page for the fields you are enrolling in a cover crop practice.

Note that:

- Practices offered are listed on Page 3. Information on Whole Farm Approach is on Page 4.
- Eligible cover crop species and seeding rates are listed on Page 4.
- Eligible planting methods are
 - Drill
 - Aerial* (not an eligible planting method for SL-8M practices).
 - Broadcast
- If planting multiple fields with the same Farm and Tract Number, list them in the same box to save room (e.g. Farm 100, Tract 25, Fields 1, 2, & 3, Total acres: 24.56).
- **Please call district staff, if you need help.**

Farm #: Tract #: Field #(s): Total Acres: Practice: Preceding row crop: Cover crop species: Planting method:	Farm #: Tract #: Field #(s): Total Acres: Practice: Preceding row crop: Cover crop species: Planting method:
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VACS Cover Crop Practice Descriptions

Legume Based Cover Crop (WQ-4)

State cost-share payment rate of **\$45** per acre is available. No nutrients from any source are allowed between the harvesting of the previous crop and March 1 of the next calendar year. The amount of nitrogen application must be reduced following a mixed species legume cover crop according to the recommendations of a Nutrient Management Plan. A split application of nitrogen based upon the results of a PSNT may be applied as well. Removal of the legume residue by baling or by any other means is not allowed. Grazing is not permitted for this practice. Legume cover crop must be left on surface intact to serve as mulch for the no-till planting of grain crops. Coordinate with district staff for additional requirements.

Protective Cover for Specialty Crops (SL-8)

Specialty crops are defined as vegetables, tree crops, perennial vine crops, ornamentals, horticultural crops, tobacco, hemp, turn, small grains, etc., A state cost-share payment rate of **\$40** per acre is available. Seed must be planted by Nov 30th. No nutrients from any sources are allowed between harvesting the previous crop and March 14th. Pasturing consistent with good management is permitted. Cover crop may not be harvested for seed or hay. Residue may be left on the field or tilled under after termination.

Standard Small Grain and Mixed Cover Crop (SL-8B)

State cost share payment rate of **\$40** per acre is available. A **\$30** per acre early planting bonus is payable for cover crops planted on or before the early planting date. A **\$20** per acre bonus payment is available for stands of pure rye, or a **\$10** per acre bonus payment is available for pure triticale. Check with us for a list of approved cultivars and seeding rates. Harvesting not permitted. Pasturing consistent with good management is permitted if a 60% cover is maintained through March 14. No nutrients from any source are allowed between the harvesting of the previous crop and March 1 of the next calendar year. Cover crops that are killed using mechanical, chemical, or grazing after May 1 but before June 1 may receive a **\$10** bonus payment. Planting summer crops directly into the growing cover crop before termination, or “planting green,” is allowed.

Harvestable Cover Crop (SL-8H)

State cost-share payment rate of **\$20** per acre is available for cover crop that is harvested for seed/grain and straw. State cost-share payment rate of **\$30** per acre is available for cover crop that is harvested for seed/grain ONLY (straw may not be baled and must remain on the ground). Seeds must be planted by October 20th. Harvesting for hay, haylage, silage, grain, or seed is permitted after March 14. Pasturing consistent with good management is permitted if 60% cover is maintained through March 14. No nutrients from any source are allowed between the harvesting of the previous crop and March 1 of the next calendar year, except that use of manure (with less than 40 lbs. N per acre tested) on up to 300 acres is permitted if all the following conditions are met:

- i. Animals are raised as part of the applicant's operation;
- ii. Inadequate manure storage is available for the winter;
- iii. There are no other vegetated acres available to safely utilize the manure;
- iv. Manure is applied in accordance with a Nutrient Management Plan prepared by a Virginia certified Nutrient Management Planner.

Standard Small Grain and Mixed Cover Crop with Fall Manure Application (SL-8M)

State cost share payment rate of **\$20** per acre is available. A **\$25** per acre early planting bonus is payable for cover crops planted on or before the early planting date. A **\$10** per acre bonus payment is available for all applicants that plant pure stands of rye, and a **\$5** bonus for pure triticale. Check with us for a list of approved cultivars and seeding rates. Harvesting is not permitted. Pasturing consistent with good management is permitted if a 60% cover is maintained through March 14. Cover crops that are killed using mechanical, chemical, or grazing after May 1 but before June 1 may receive a **\$10** bonus payment. No nutrients from any source are allowed between the harvesting of the previous crop and March 1 of the next calendar year, except that use of manure (with less than 40 lbs. N per acre tested) is permitted if all the following conditions are met:

- i. Inadequate manure storage is available for the winter at the source.
- ii. Manure is applied in accordance with a Nutrient Management Plan prepared by a Virginia certified Nutrient Management Planner.

Whole Farm Approach (WFA)

The Whole Farm Approach is a holistic approach to conservation planning that allows farmers to submit just one cost-share application for their choice of nutrient management and cover crop practices, allowing for wider adoption of BMPs while greatly simplifying the application process. To enroll in WFA there are two practices: Whole Farm Approach Cover Crop (WFA-CC) and Whole Farm Approach Nutrient Management (WFA-NM). Farmers are encouraged to enroll based on current plans, but have ability to change practices (i.e. non-harvestable to harvestable). WFA-NM gives farmers opportunity to receive cost-share for implementing a NMP and expands opportunities to implement other nutrient management practices (manure injection and pre-sidedress nitrate testing). Farmers are required to enroll in WFA-NM to enroll in WFA-CC. To find out more, contact district staff.

Approved Cover Crop Species and Seeding Rates for PY27

Species	bu./acre
Cereal Rye	2 bu./acre
Winter Triticale	2 bu./acre
Winter Barley	2 bu./acre
Winter Hardy Oats	2 bu./acre
Winter Wheat	2 bu./acre
Winter Annual ryegrass	20 lbs./acre
Small grain mixtures with	1 bu./acre
a) legume† or	10 lbs./acre
b) Daikon (forage or tillage) radish or	2 lb./ acre
c) canola or rape	4 lbs./acre
Daikon (forage or tillage) Radish	6-8 lbs./acre°
mixture with annual rye grass	10 lbs./acre
Winter-hardy <i>Brassica</i> (canola/rape)	5 -7 lbs./acre°
mixture with annual rye grass	10 lbs./acre

† - legume = Crimson Clover, Austrian Winter Pea or Hairy Vetch

°Use higher seeding rates for pure stands and lower seeding rates for mixed species plantings

Higher seeding rates are recommended for aerial seeding and non-incorporation seeding methods.