



Mountain Castles Soil & Water Conservation District
Serving Botetourt & Craig Counties since 1987
36 Executive Circle, Roanoke, VA 24012
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July 8, 2026

Dear Participant,

I am reaching out to let you know it is time to start planning your cover crops! If you would like to enroll fields for cost-share, please review the enclosed information, complete, and return the forms. You can send them to our office via postal mail, email a scanned copy, or if you like, schedule a visit where we can fill out the forms together. Please keep in mind:

- Participants must be implementing an active Nutrient Management Plan on all enrolled acreage to be eligible for any cover crop programs. **District staff will require that all participants have a copy of their nutrient management plan on file before any payment be made.** If you do not have one, or are not sure, please let me know and I can connect you with a DCR Nutrient Management Planning Specialist.
- **Cover crop species and seeding rates will need to be verified by receipts at planting.** See tables for approved species and seeding rates.
- Refer to the table below for planting date requirements for the most common practices.

Practice	Early Planting	Standard Planting
SL-8H	N/A	October 20
SL-8B	October 20	November 10
SL-8M	October 20	November 10
SL-8	N/A	November 30

- **All practices require an established vegetative cover of 60% by January 1 and maintained through March 14th.** District staff will perform field visits no later than January 31 to verify.
- **Participants interested in the flexibility of changing practice type within the cover crop season should consider enrolling via the Whole Farm Approach.** Please contact me for further information about this unique opportunity.
- To ensure your practice is approved, please have all forms and paperwork submitted by Friday, September 25th!

If you have any questions or would like to know more details about any specific practices, please reach out using the contact information listed above.

Sincerely,

Emily Williams

Emily Williams

Conservation Technician Assistant

Enclosures: Mountain Castles Cover Crop Form PY27
W-9
VACS Part I

Description of VACS Cover Crop Practices
Table of Approved Cover Crop Species
Self-addressed and stamped envelope