

# Kent Conservation District

## COVER CROP PROGRAM FY 2024 GUIDELINES

*The purpose of this practice is to reduce the pollution of ground and/or surface water.*

### Cost-Share Rates and Planting Dates

| Grasses:<br>Crop      | Planting Rates         | Planted By Sept. 29 | Reported By Oct. 4 | Planted By Oct. 27 | Reported By Nov. 1 |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Annual Rye Grass      | 15 lbs. /acre          | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| Cereal Rye/Triticale  | 100 lbs. /acre         | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| Barley                | 100 lbs. /acre         | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| Spring Oats           | 90 lbs. /acre          | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| Wheat/Speltz          | 100 lbs. /acre         | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| <b>Legume:</b>        |                        |                     |                    |                    |                    |
| Common Vetch          | 60 lbs. /acre          | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| Hairy Vetch           | 20 lbs. /acre          | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| Crimson Clover        | 15 lbs. /acre          | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| Winter Peas           | 50 lbs. /acre          | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| <b>Brassica:</b>      |                        |                     |                    |                    |                    |
| Winter Rape           | 8 lbs. /acre           | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| Forage/Oilseed Radish | 8 lbs. /acre           | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| Forage Turnip         | 5 lbs. /acre           | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |
| Radish/Pea Mix        | 6 lbs. / 30 lbs. /acre | \$60 per acre       | \$60 per acre      | \$50 per acre      | \$50 per acre      |

**\*For specific mixes, please contact a Conservation Planner for approval and planting rates**

**\*Aerial application of crop(s) will require a 25% increase in seeding rate and will result in a \$5 increase in payment per acre**

### CONDITIONS

- To remain in compliance with State regulations, application of commercial fertilizers or animal manures (N and P) are not allowed on a field that is intended to receive or is receiving cover crop incentive payments prior to February 15th.** In the case of a hardship, manure may be allowed to be applied to enrolled land in the fall only after receiving approval from the Kent Conservation District (KCD) Board of Supervisors or their designee. If the cover crop has not already been planted, it must be planted within 7 days of manure application. Examples of hardships might include heavy rains that fill to capacity or overflow a liquid manure storage structure or diseased poultry litter that must be removed from the house immediately. The Board of Supervisors has the right to approve or disapprove such requests.
- You will receive **ONE** payment: **Harvest is no longer allowed within the KCD Cover Crop program.** Written planting certification must be made by the dates specified in the above table. Payment for cover crops will be paid once the participant certifies **in writing** that the crop has been disposed of in an approved manner between March 1 - May 31, 2024.
- Farmers will self-certify in writing that program provisions have been met prior to receiving payment. **Each program participant must review the maps and certify the fields planted with the Kent Conservation District by the dates listed in the above chart. Failure to do this will result in no cost-share payment and withdrawal from the program.** Spot checks will be conducted.
- Program participants must visit the KCD office to review the maps and **certify in writing, by completing the cover crop destruction form, that the cover crops were destroyed between March 1 - May 31, 2024 in accordance with step #2 before receiving payment. Failure to certify destruction by June 7, 2024 will result in nonpayment.**

- Options for end-of-winter management include killing by a "burn-down" herbicide, by plowing it under, or green chop (for on-farm use only), before planting to the new crop.
- Aerial seeding must be completed by the listed dates and at the required rates. Applicator bills may be requested.
- Planting of cover crop into hay ground and / or pasture is not eligible.**
- Grazing on KCD cost-shared cover crops is allowed with the following conditions:
  - Farmer must submit **a written request** to KCD at least two weeks prior to grazing livestock. Please identify the fields to be grazed and the number and type of animals.
  - Cover crop must be well established. Under optimal conditions, grazing can commence 6 to 8 weeks after planting and after two-week written notification.
  - The KCD reserves the right to deny a grazing request based on poor crop establishment, too many animals per acre, or other conditions that may apply.

### **SPECIAL NOTICE**

**Cover Crop Assistance will be a maximum of \$50,000.00 per applicant, paid at destruction. In the event enrollment in the program exceeds available funding, the Kent Conservation District reserves the right to adjust the maximum payment amount per participant.**

**For more information, please call the District at 302-608-5370.**