



# Kent Conservation District Cover Crop Program Guidelines FY25

The intent of this program is to result in a viable cover crop and to reduce the pollution of ground and/or surface water.

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Planting Rates</u>	<u>Aerial Planting Rates</u>	<b><u>New Information:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Planting by <b>Oct. 1<sup>st</sup></b> and reported by <b>Oct. 4<sup>th</sup></b></li> <li>• Late Planting by <b>Nov. 15<sup>th</sup></b> and reported by <b>Nov. 19<sup>th</sup></b>.</li> <li>• Due to plant residue, cover crop establishment may be variable. After inspection, if field establishment isn't achieved, and the required documents haven't been provided, the KCD Board of Supervisors will investigate and may deem applicant ineligible for payment.</li> <li>• Required documents include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Seed Tags (with lot numbers, testing date, germination percentage above 80%, and noxious weed/inert matter percentage)</li> <li>○ Aerial application records (with FSA farm and tract numbers and seeding rates)</li> <li>○ FSA maps with the planting area highlighted.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If you are planting homegrown seed, it must be <b>tested within 6 months of planting per storage unit (i.e., grain bin)</b> for &gt; 80% germination, purity, and free of noxious weeds by a Delaware or Maryland seed laboratory within 6 months of the planting date.</li> <li>• No payments will be made until the required documentation is provided.</li> </ul>
Annual Rye	15 lbs./Ac	19.5 lbs./Ac	
Cereal Rye / Triticale	100 lbs./Ac	130 lbs./Ac	
Barley	100 lbs./Ac	130 lbs./Ac	
Spring Oats	90 lbs./Ac	117 lbs./Ac	
Wheat/Speltz	100 lbs./Ac	130 lbs./Ac	
Common Vetch	60 lbs./Ac	78 lbs./Ac	
Hairy Vetch	20 lbs./Ac	26 lbs./Ac	
Crimson Clover	15 lbs./Ac	19.5 lbs./Ac	
Winter Peas	50 lbs./Ac	65 lbs./Ac	
Winter Rape	8 lbs./Ac	10.4 lbs./Ac	
Forage/Oilseed Radish	8 lbs./Ac	10.4 lbs./Ac	
Forage Turnip	5 lbs./Ac	6.5 lbs./Ac	
Radish/Pea Mix	6 lbs./Ac / 30 lbs./Ac	7.8 lbs./Ac / 39 lbs./Ac	

The above colors mean:  
Grasses / Legume / Brassica

**\* No early or late planting extensions will be granted.**  
**\* If you want to do a mix that is not listed above, please contact KCD for approval and planting rates a minimum of three (3) days prior to planting.**  
**\* Aerial application of crops require a 30% increase in seeding rate and will result in a \$5 increase in payment per acre (\$65 per acre early and \$55 per acre late).**  
**\* Early Planting by October 1<sup>st</sup> and reported by October 4<sup>th</sup> = \$60 per acre.**  
**\* Late Planting by November 15<sup>th</sup> and reported by November 19<sup>th</sup> = \$50 per acre.**

**Dates to Remember**

Application Sign-up	June 1 <sup>st</sup> – August 30 <sup>st</sup>
Early Planting	October 1 <sup>st</sup>
Early Reporting	October 4 <sup>th</sup>
Late Planting	November 15 <sup>th</sup>
Late Reporting	November 19 <sup>th</sup>
Aerial Application Records	January 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Destruction	March 1 <sup>st</sup> – May 31 <sup>st</sup>
Destruction Reporting	June 6 <sup>th</sup>
Cover Crop Payments	June 15 <sup>th</sup> – June 30 <sup>th</sup>

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.

Please see the conditions page





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### CONDITIONS

1. 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.
2. You will receive ONE payment: Harvest is no longer allowed within the KCD Cover Crop program. Written planting reports must be made by the dates specified in the above table. Payment for cover crops will be paid once the participant reports in writing that the crop has been destroyed in an approved manner between March 1 - May 31, 2025.
3. Farmers will self-certify in writing that program provisions have been met prior to receiving payment. Each program participant must review the maps in person 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.
4. **NEW**- Due to the large amount of plant residue left by small grains in a double cropped soybean system, establishment of cover crops may be variable which may require further investigation. If no visible establishment is present and applicants are unable to provide all necessary documentation, the KCD Board of Supervisors may deem applicant ineligible for payment.
5. **NEW** – Copies of seed tags are now required. Seed tags must include the following: Lot number, seed testing date, germination percentage above 80%, and noxious weed/inert matter percentage. No payments will be made until the required documentation is provided.
6. **NEW** – The use or purchase of homegrown seed will need to be tested prior to planting for > 80% germination, purity, and free of noxious weeds by a Delaware or Maryland seed laboratory. Seed testing must be completed within 6 months of the planting date.
7. 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, 2025, in accordance with step #2 before receiving payment. Failure to report destruction by June 6, 2025, will result in nonpayment.
8. Options for end-of-winter management include killing by a "burn-down" herbicide, roller crimper, plowing it under, green chop and/ or hay baling (for on-farm use only by the applicant – no resale or distribution of any kind), before planting the new crop.
9. Aerial seeding (airplane or drone) must be completed by the listed dates and at the required rates. **NEW** - Receipts for aerial application must be provided with FSA field/tract numbers along with seed tag/germination records before payment will be made.
10. Planting of cover crop into hay ground and / or pasture is not eligible.
11. **Grazing on KCD cost-shared cover crops requires prior approval by the KCD Board of Supervisors:**
  - a. 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.
  - b. Cover crop must be well established. Under optimal conditions, grazing can commence 6 to 8 weeks after planting and after two-week written notification.
  - c. 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.
12. Cover crop acres must be physically located in Kent County, Delaware.