

# CASH IN ON COVER CROPS



WITH

THE

## COVER CROP INCENTIVE PROGRAM



Dauphin County  
Conservation District



### Important Dates

- Applications must be in the office by **July 31<sup>st</sup> 2023**
- Enrollment Verification form **August 14<sup>th</sup> 2023**
- Proof of certification submitted by **January 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**
- Spring Verification will occur **March 2024**
- live cover must be maintained until **April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**
- Payments received **following spring verification**

### Program Specifics

Our one-year program will allow farmers to receive an incentive payment for cover crops planted in Dauphin County.

Incentive Funding will be paid based on the following: Tier 1: \$40 per acre (No-Till\*\*), Tier 2: \$55 per acre (No-Till\*\* Multi-Species), Tier 3: \$25 per acre (Minimum-Till\*), Tier 4: \$40 per acre (Minimum-Till\* Multi-Species).

A maximum of 300 acres may initially be applied for through the program. Additional submitted acres may be considered at the discretion of the District based on funds availability.

Only approved cover crops may be planted. See application for a detailed crop list. Additional crops may be considered at the discretion of the district.

50% total soil cover must be achieved through live cover crop and previous crop residue.

Cover crop mixes will be at minimum 50% non-winter kill.

The minimum seeding rate for any Tier is 45 lbs. per acre and shall comprise no less than 50% winter small grains.

Crop growth must be maintained until April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

Acreage already enrolled in a separate incentive program will not be eligible.

Operators will be required to have their Conservation or Ag E&S and Manure Management or Nutrient Management plans where applicable.

### Why Plant Cover Crops?

Cover crops can bring many benefits to the farmer, including reducing soil loss by preventing erosion and runoff, improving soil health, and bringing nutrients to the soil, as well as supplying the farmer with an additional crop to use as forage or to graze.

### Who Is Eligible?

Growers who plant approved cover crops in Dauphin County by approved methods will be eligible to apply. Operators must have their Conservation or Ag E&S plans and Manure Management or Nutrient Management Plans if applicable. Only those approved and sent an enrollment verification form will be eligible to receive payment, dependent upon spring verification findings.

### How Do I Enroll?

Applications can be submitted to the Conservation District by mail, email, or in person at the conservation district office. All applications must be in the office by July 31 2023. Applications can be obtained on the District's website, at the District office or by emailing contact below.

### Additional Information

For additional guidance with planting, please reference the Penn State Agronomy Guide or the Northeast Cover Crops Council's Decision Tool.

<https://extension.psu.edu/the-penn-state-agronomy-guide>

<https://northeastcovercrops.com/decision-tool/>

*\*Minimum tillage is defined as one light pass with a disc prior to drilling.*

*\*\*No-Till is defined as cover crop broadcast or No-Till drilled into a field where no tillage has been done.*

FOR ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT:

Breonna Fink

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