

Overwintering Cover

Purpose

- To encourage agriculture producers to establish crops that provide overwintering cover
- To reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion
- To reduce water quality degradation due to excess nutrients
- To increase cropping system diversity

Applicability

Overwintering Cover applies to cropland acres in the H2Ohio program area. Participant may not be contracted for Overwintering Cover on participating acres under another H2Ohio Contract.

Specifications

1. The producer has an approved Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan (VNMP) or Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) with the local SWCD.
2. Establish any of these crops that provide overwintering cover according to NRCS Appendix A.
3. The completed practice must meet the criteria for planting dates, seeding, establishment, and maintenance per NRCS Appendix A; including seed quality and testing requirements:
 - a. Winter Annuals – Appendix A – Cover Crops (Minimum)
 - b. Perennial Forage - Appendix A - Forages
 - c. Overwintering Cover Crops – Appendix A – Cover Crops
4. Cover crops seed mix must include a minimum of 50% of full rate of an overwintering species.
5. Overwintering Cover must be maintained until March 15 of the contracted crop year.
6. Manure may not be applied from November 1 to March 15:
 - a. Manure shall not be applied on frozen, snow-covered, or saturated soils or applied when the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than a 50% chance of precipitation exceeding one-half inch in a 24-hour period.
 - b. If a field is used for an emergency manure application, regardless of application date it will be ineligible.
7. Fertilizer shall not be applied on frozen, snow-covered, or saturated soils or applied when the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than a 50% chance of precipitation exceeding one inch in a 12-hour period.
8. Limited field tile installation may occur if Overwintering Cover is maintained.

Participant Payments

- Enrolled participants will receive \$20/ac for completion of this practice, after verification that all program requirements are met.