

2006 CSP Job Sheet IN-ENM-07 Nutrient Management

Cover Crop - Nutrient Management Enhancements #07

DESCRIPTION - This enhancement uses annual cover crops to capture and retain nutrients for recycling to later crops. Cover crops help to prevent nutrient leaching and runoff. Cover crops also improve soil structure, provide additional soil organic matter, and reduce erosion by protecting the soil surface.

Enhancement Requirements



Planting a cover crop that winter kills after establishment is acceptable.

Acceptable cover crops include, but are not limited to: annual ryegrass, wheat, oats and rye. Cover crops should be established within 1-2 weeks after harvest, and prior to Oct. 30th. Refer to local NRCS Field Office for seeding recommendations.

Strawly solid manure applied after corn silage is not considered a cover crop.

Consider establishing cover crops prior to starting a no-till system and after low residue crops. Low

residue crops include soybeans, corn silage, tomatoes and vegetable crops.

Performance Requirements

Required Documentation = The CSP Participant will certify this activity annually by signing an annual payment certification letter and submitting it to the NRCS office servicing the contract. The CSP Participant will retain annual records that a cover crop has been applied to all low residue crops.

Payment will be made each year on the cropland acres under contract for this enhancement. Where less than full performance (100%) is certified, payment will still be made, provided at least 75% of the low residue acres received a cover crop **and** provided in judgment of NRCS, a reasonable weather related reason exists why the CSP participant could not perform this enhancement on all contract acres. Otherwise no payment will be made for less than full performance.

Enhancements must be established for one full crop season before payments can be made.

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