

DNR-SWCP N340 Cover Crop Practice Checklist – Landowner/Operator

LANDOWNER: _____

OPERATOR: _____

FARM: _____ FIELD(s): _____ CONTRACT: _____

For each step, please check mark after completion. After all steps are complete, please sign the bottom of the form acknowledging that the practice has been completed according to all policies, standards, and specifications.

Cooperator acknowledges they will not receive cost-share payments for fields planted prior to board approval of cost-share contract. *Initial here:* _____

PLANNING PHASE

	Discuss with staff the fields and species of cover crops to be planted
	Landowner or Operator Authorization form signed Policy: The contract must contain the name of the legal landowner. If an operator is participating, the landowner must complete an "Operator Authorization" form.
	ACH/EFT vendor form filled out by bank and submitted to Office of Administration NOTE: The name and address on the ACH/EFT form must match the cost-share contract information
	Conservation plan signed Policy: - Contracted acres must currently be in a minimum of a 2 species production crop rotation. - Cooperators must adopt cover crops in compliance with the Cover Crop (340) standard as part of this practice.
	AGRON340 seeding sheet received **Ensure seeding dates are followed** Policy: All cover crop seedings must be planned with a minimum of 25% cool-season annual grass, small grain component or warm season grass. (Caution should be taken when selecting Annual Ryegrass for a cover crops mix.)
	Map showing correct fields to be planted has been received
	Use soil ring to take soil sample(s) if required Submit sample(s) to SHAC along with payment and DNR-SWCP Cover Crop Cost-Share Soil Health Information form (Attachment A) REQUIRED: YES NO If yes, list field(s): _____ Policy: A soil sample for the Initial Standard Soil Health Package test through the Missouri Soil Health Assessment Center (SHAC) must be taken on each field prior to seeding cover crops. The initial sample will need to be taken only for the first state cost-share contract on the field. The number of samples per field will be determined by the sampling requirements provided by SHAC. Website: http://cafnr.missouri.edu/soil-health/
	Cost-share contract signed by Cooperator, Technician, and SWCD Board Member

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

	Cover crops planted by no-till or broadcast—<i>Minimal soil disturbance allowed with STIR value of 20 or less as calculated in RUSLE 2 to establish the cover crop.</i> Policy: • Cover crops must be no-tilled or broadcast seeded with either ground equipment or aerial. Minimal disturbance allowed with STIR value of 20 or less as calculated in RUSLE2 for establishment of cover crop (not the whole cropping rotation). • Cover crops may be grazed once the forages have reached a minimum height of 6–8 inches with enough biomass produced to justify grazing. However, grazing should not occur if it will damage the forages so that their effectiveness as a cover crop would be impacted. Grazing will need to stop once the forages have been grazed down to 4 inches. • Spring planted cover crops must have been planted at least 60 days prior to being terminated.
	Cover crops terminated (in spring) Policy: • Cover crops will be terminated as late as practical to maximize plant biomass production and nutrient uptake. Landowners need to take into consideration timing for next crop and crop insurance requirements. • Cover crops will not be harvested for grain, seed or hayed • Tillage cannot be used to terminate the cover crops. • N595 Pest Management practice may be utilized to terminate the cover crops. The pest management plan must be developed to address the termination of the cover crop and all pest issues that may occur during the next production crop growing season.
	Production crops planted by no-till or broadcast—<i>NO incorporation allowed</i> <i>Notify staff as soon as all fields on the contract have been completed</i> Policy: • Production crop following the cover crops must be planted using a no-till system on the contracted acres. No-till is defined as per standard 329 for Residue and Tillage Management No-Till. • Payment can be issued after no-till planting of the production crops into the (terminated) cover crops or after May 25 if the production crop has not yet been planted.

PAYMENT PHASE

	Field review performed by SWCD and/or NRCS Staff
	AGRON340 Certification Worksheet completed
	Provide necessary receipts to SWCD office by May 25 BULK SEED: _____ SOIL TEST (if required): _____ Policy: The landowner needs to make payment for their soil sample(s) prior to receiving their cost-share payment. Submitting samples and appropriate payment is a requirement of the cover crop practice and must be done to receive the cost-share payment.
	Contract payment signed by Cooperator, Technician, and SWCD Board Member

I acknowledge that I have completed this practice and followed all policies, standards, and specifications:

Cooperator: _____ Date: _____

SWCD Representative: _____ Date: _____