

From: [Soil & Water Conservation Program](#)
To: [DNR.Soil and Water Conservation Districts staff](#); [Soil & Water Conservation Program](#)
Cc: [DNR.MGS SWC Staff](#)
Subject: Additional Guidance and Forms for Cover Crop Practice
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 2:51:52 PM
Attachments: [2025 FollowUp Cover Crop Form.pdf](#)
[2025 Cover Crop Form.pdf](#)
[2025 CC Cost Share Program Changes Shovel2.pdf](#)

Good afternoon,

Per the N340 Update email sent on July 24, 2025, SHAC has changed the process on taking samples for the cover crop soil health test. The email included a link to guidance on taking the sample. Since then, SHAC has developed another guidance document that explains multiple ways to take samples. It is a one page document that can be shared with cooperators.

Additionally, SHAC has updated the sample submission forms to capture information needed for fertility testing and recommendation. Any FY26 cover crop samples submitted from this point forward need to use the new forms. If samples have already been submitted using the old form, staff from SHAC will contact the cooperator to obtain the additional information needed for the fertility test.

The instruction sheet and forms are attached and also on the SHAC Website or on the SWCD Intranet page.

https://mosoilandwater.land/sites/mosoilandwater/files/2025%20CC%20Cost%20Share%20Program%20Changes_Shovel2.pdf

https://mosoilandwater.land/sites/mosoilandwater/files/2025_Cover_Crop_Form.pdf

https://mosoilandwater.land/sites/mosoilandwater/files/2025_FollowUp_Cover_Crop_Form.pdf

Staff from SHAC meet with an advisory group which included program staff and a couple of MU Extension board members. There was a lot of discussion about the report provided to the producers which included the complexity of the report, information provided on the report and the timing of the report. SHAC has modified the report to make it a one page document. The report will now have a scale rating for each test similar to a fertility test, basic recommendations and reference to some information guides. Additionally, the report will include soil fertility results and recommendations. Some of the soil health analysis take longer to process than the typical fertility test. However the new director of SHAC is committed to having the reports back to the cooperators in shorter timeframe than what has been seen so far.

The earlier email also referenced changes to NRCS' 340 standard and IR. With the new 340 IR, the selected purpose auto populates the pounds per acre seeding rate which may be different depending on the purpose. Please remember when planning cover crops the purpose statement of the practice in commission policy states "encourage the adoption of cover crops for reducing soil erosion, improving water quality and soil health". At a minimum the purposes that apply to this statement need to be selected in the 340 IR to align with commission policy. When before and after erosion estimates have been calculated, please make sure the numbers are included on the Agron sheet as that will provide usefully information to support the nutrient reduction modeling of practices the program is doing.

Please contact your coordinator if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Soil & Water Conservation Program
Phone 573-751-4932

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