



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor

Sara Parker Pauley, Director

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM 2016-018

DATE: April 19, 2016

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: ^{for} Colleen Meredith, Director ^{JB}
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: N340 Cover Crop Practice Payment Requirements

The N340 Cover Crop was approved by the Soil and Water Districts Commission as a new practice in Fiscal Year 2016. There are numerous contracts for this practice statewide and payments will soon be submitted for approval. This memorandum is being provided to summarize what is needed for the contract payment process.

Based on the Soil and Water Districts Commission policy, the following items must occur for the payment to be made. First, soil samples and payment for the samples must have been submitted to the University of Missouri Soil Health Assessment Center (SHAC). The SHAC information spreadsheet provided by the Program Office can be used to verify that payment has been made for the landowner's sample(s). Secondly, the production crop must be no-tilled into the terminated cover crop to process the contract payment. If the production crop has not been planted by May 25, the district may process the contract payment so the payment can be made using current fiscal year funds. However, the district will need to follow up to verify the production crop was no-tilled. If the landowner or operator has a paid contract and does not no-till the production crop, they will have to repay 100% of the cost-share payment received. No-till is defined in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Residue and Tillage Management 392 Practice Standard.

For the certification process, NRCS announced during a webinar held on March 24, 2016, that the Agron 340 Cover Crop Certification Worksheet found in Appendix 1 of the Cover Crop 340 Practice Standard will need to be used for the checkout process of the cover crop practice. This is not identified in the practice policy but the certification worksheet must be attached as "Supporting Documentation" in MoSWIMS when the contract payment is submitted for review to verify the number of species actually planted.

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The implementation of the cover crop practice throughout the state this year has been tremendous. Statewide there are 1,447 approved contracts for the cover crop practice. Due to the volume of contracts for all practices, districts are encouraged to work with landowners and operators to get contracts submitted to the Program Office for payment as soon as the practice can be certified.

Thank you for your efforts this year for implementing the cover crop practice as well as all the other practices. If you have any questions, please contact your district coordinator.

CM:jpd