



MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Michael L. Parson
Governor

Dru Buntin
Director

MEMORANDUM
2023-012

DATE: April 11, 2023

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: Jim Plassmeyer, Director JP
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: N340 Cover Crop Policy Update

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commission, at their March 29, 2023 meeting approved a modification to the N340 Cover Crop policy. Policy was amended to allow payments for cover crop contracts to be submitted for payment after no-till planting of the production crops into the terminated cover crop, or after May 1st if the production crop has not yet been planted.

The date was moved to May 1st from May 25th to allow district and program office staff additional time to prepare and process payments, as well as work through any issues or corrections needed on contracts during this process.

If contract payments are submitted prior to the termination and no-till planting of the production crop, the commission approved a new form that is required to be filled out by the operator and a SWCD representative. The form is for all parties to acknowledge payment is being made without meeting the full practice requirements. It is important to communicate to the operators the no-till requirement must still be met or will result in the operator being required to repay the full amount of cost-share funds received for this practice. Please enter a General note on the contract when this option is being utilized and attach the acknowledgement form under supporting documentation. Without the form attached, contracts will not be eligible to be paid. The form is attached and available at:

<https://mosoilandwater.land/sites/mosoilandwater/files/N340%20Cover%20Crop%20Acknowledgement%20Form.pdf>

In addition, to help reduce the number of variance requests, the program is asking the districts to take advantage of the cover crop checklist that was developed at the commission's request and released with Memorandum 2018-005. The checklist was developed for the cover crop practice



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to eliminate mistakes made while implementing cover crops. The checklist is available on the Intranet at:

<https://mosoilandwater.land/sites/mosoilandwater/files/Cover%20Crop%20Management%20Checklist.pdf>

Districts should use the checklist as a tool to make sure all steps and policies are being followed for the cover crop practice. For the FY23 contracts that have already been started, the checklist can be used to verify that all necessary documentation is in place. Should district requests or landowner appeals for the N340 Cover Crop practice be brought before the Commission in the future, there will be an expectation the checklist was used for planning purposes throughout payment of the contract.

Please contact your district coordinator with any questions. Thank you.

Attachment

**N340 Cover Crop
Payment Acknowledgement Form**

Payment for the N340 Cover Crop practice funded through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Soil and Water Conservation Program, can be issued after no-till planting of the production crops into the cover crops or after May 1 if the production crop has not yet been planted.

If the production crop following the cover crop has not yet been planted prior to payment of the cover crop practice, the production crop must still be planted using a no-till system on the contracted acres. Applicable no-till equipment is listed in standard 329 for Residue and Tillage Management No-Till.

By signing below the operator acknowledges that failure to comply with the no-till requirement of the production crop into the cover crops, will result in the operator being required to repay the full amount of cost-share funds received for this practice.

Contract Number(s) _____

Operator's Printed Name

Operator's Signature

Date

SWCD Representative Signature

Date