

MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES


Michael L. Parson
Governor

Dru Buntin
Director

MEMORANDUM
2025-006

DATE: September 11, 2024

TO: All Soil and Water Conservation Districts

FROM: Jim Plassmeyer, Director 
Soil and Water Conservation Program

SUBJECT: N340 Cover Crop Practice Policy Change

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commission, at their August 14, 2024 meeting, approved changes to the N340 Cover Crop Policy effective for all contracts board approved after August 14, 2024.

The Commission voted to remove the lifetime payment maximum and replace it with an annual maximum of \$5,000. This change means any landowner that previously reached the lifetime maximum is again eligible under the new annual maximum amount.

The Commission also moved to remove the two production crop requirement, allowing acres that only have a single production crop grown to be eligible for the practice. It is important to note, only acres that are used for annual production crops are eligible for the N340 cover crop practice. Use in pasture is not eligible under policy.

With these policy changes, the Commission drought variance was also modified. Any producer who qualifies for the drought variance and plans to harvest the cover crop for livestock feed is still subject to the \$5,000 annual maximum. The over limit max component has been eliminated.

In addition to the policy modifications above, other changes affecting the N340 practice should be noted. Several Districts have been using Farm Service Agency maps to plan this practice. In consultation with NRCS, we have been advised the FSA maps should not be used as a conservation planning document. Maps for the contract or plan development should come from either the NRCS Conservation Desktop or the Soil and Water Program's mapping tool. Any acres in a field not planted in cover crops should not be included. Examples of excluded features could be waterways, fencerows, tree lines, buildings or roads. The program is aware districts have begun the planning process for contracts not currently submitted or board approved and discourage the use of FSA maps for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Beginning for FY26



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contracts using FSA maps and notes will no longer be acceptable for payment for state cost share. The contracted acres on FY25 contracts should be verified that the acres have been planted and meet the practice policy during the practice certification process.

Also, the Soil Health Assessment Center (SHAC) has increased their prices for the current fiscal year. Initial samples are now \$110 per sample and follow up samples are \$92 per sample. Component prices have been updated in MOSWIMS to reflect the current pricing. Please work with landowners to make certain they are aware of the current soil test cost. Updated forms have been placed on the Soil and Water Conservation District's intranet page and through SHAC at the following link <https://soilhealth.missouri.edu/dnr-cover-crop-program-form/>.

The districts will be notified when the online version of the cost share handbook is updated with the policy changes.

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