

Cover Crops

Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program

Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District (LFSWCD)



Practice Specifications and Rates

Harvestable:

Cost-Share: \$20/Acre

Planting Date: October 20th, 2024

Practice Completion: March 14th, 2025

Farm Produced Manure Application Allowed
(Up to 300 acres, other restrictions apply)

Small Grain/Mixed for Nutrient Management:

Cost-Share: \$40/Acre

Pure Rye Planting: \$20/Acre

Triticale Planting: \$10/Acre

Early Planting Bonus: \$30/Acre

Early Planting Date: October 20th, 2024

Standard Planting Date: November 10th, 2024

Practice Completion: March 15th, 2025

Late Kill-Down Bonus: \$10/acre

All cover crop applications are due to LFSWCD by November 27, 2024.

Nutrient Management Plans are required in order to receive cost-share on cover crop acres.

What is a Cover Crop?

A cover crop is grown to protect and improve the soil in rotation with a cash crop, like corn or soybeans. This agronomic practice creates a protective cover for the soil during the fall and winter, reducing soil loss and erosion. Cover crops also provide a nutrient management benefit by helping reduce nutrient loss and leaching, plus they add nutrients back to the soil.

How VACS Cover Crops Work

In the fall of each year, you register the maximum acreage you plan to plant in cover crops with LFSWCD. Each practice has different seed, planting date and kill-down/harvest date requirements. All cover crop practices are inspected after December 15th to confirm at least 60% ground cover. Once growth is documented, LFSWCD will reimburse the landowner a variable flat-rate for completing the practice.

VACS Programs

- SL-8B: Small Grain and Mixed Cover Crop for Nutrient Management and Residue Management
- SL-8H: Harvestable Cover Crop
- SL-8M: Small Grain and Mixed Cover Crop for Nutrient Management and Residue Management with Fall Manure Application*
- SL-8A: Protective Cover for Agricultural Cropland*
- SL-8: Specialty Crop Cover*
- WQ-4: Legume Based Cover Crop*

*Rates and specifications differ from ones listed.

Contact the Lord Fairfax SWCD for more information at:

722-B East Queen Street, Strasburg, VA 22657

(540) 465-2424 ext. 5

lfswcd.org

