

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) Cover Crop – Crop Insurance Demonstration Project

Sign-up open until January 15th, 2018

Program Rules:

Program is offered for acres of cover crops installed outside of state/federal program incentives (WQI, IFIP, state cost share, EQIP, CSP, etc.). Interested participants sign-up at www.surveymonkey.com/covercroptdemo for acres planted to cover crops in the fall of 2017 and will be planted to a insurable crop in 2018. If you need assistance in signing up for the program, please contact covercroptdemo@iowaagriculture.gov or (515) 281-5851. Eligible applicants will receive a \$5/acre insurance premium discount on the following year's crop insurance invoice for every acre of cover crops enrolled and verified in the program.

Minimum information needed for sign-up is contained in the online application form, but includes: contact information, acres of cover crops seeded, Approved Insurance Provider (AIP), common land units/land legal description of fields/acres seeded to cover crops in fall 2017, etc. This information can be found on individual participants "Report of Commodities" form (FSA-578). This form would be a good resource in applying for this program.

Seeding of cover crops must follow best agronomic practices in terms of seeding dates, appropriate seeding rates, seed mixes, seeding dates, and ensure objectives of the cover crop are being met. Utilize NRCS Iowa Agronomic Technical Note #38: Cover Crop Management as a guide.

Applications received by January 15th will be collected and assessed for eligibility of this program. Applicants will receive a confirmation message from the application site when completed. Applications must be completed in full to remain eligible. IDALS may contact prospective applicants for additional clarifying information. Applicants must maintain documentation cover crops have been seeded (seed bills, etc.) and utilize Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) seeding recommendations as a guide. Iowa NRCS Agronomy Technical Note #38 is a good resource recommendations for seeding and management of cover crops.

IDALS will verify acres based on applications received and acres requested. Only acres in cover crops (absent other state/fed incentivized cover crops) will be eligible for the additional \$5/acre premium reduction. Confirmed applications will be forwarded to RMA for processing incentive on crop insurance premium invoice for 2018 crop.

A cover crop is considered a non-grain harvestable, non-insurable conservation/agronomic practice seeded in the fall to protect and improve soil and water quality. To ensure practice achieves the desired results, no full width tillage/termination of the cover crop in the fall is allowed. Management/termination must be done in the spring in accordance with the most recent version of the NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines:

www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1263099.pdf. This guidance not only informs proper management of cover crops, it also must be followed to maintain eligibility for federal crop insurance.

Applicants must certify that by signing up for this program, they give IDALS permission to share the information provided to RMA for administering the benefit to the beneficiary as documented on the field applied for. Applicants also convey permission to IDALS or IDALS representative ingress/egress to the property enrolled if necessary to verify cover crop establishment.

Participants must follow the following NRCS and RMA most recently developed guidance on management of cover crops to maintain eligibility for crop insurance found here:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1263099.pdf