



H2Ohio

Overwintering Cover Crops



Compatible Practices:

- Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Development & Implementation
- Variable Rate Phosphorus Application
- Subsurface Phosphorus Placement
- Manure Incorporation
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Drainage Water Management

Overwintering Cover Crops are....

Establishing a soil conserving overwintering cover crop into an existing crop rotation to reduce erosion, improve soil health, increase cropping diversity and reduce water quality degradation due to excess nutrient loss.

How it works

- All nutrients are applied based on an approved VNMP prior to establishment or after March
- Producer establishes an overwintering cover crop by October 15
- Cover crop are maintained until March 15 of the following year

Benefits for Farmers

- Crop diversity and rotation are increased
- Cover crop can be harvested or grazed after March 15 of the following year
- Producer may apply for up to four years of funding for this practice
- Producer will receive \$25 per acre, per year

Partners in the H2Ohio Program include:



How to Apply?

If interested, contact your local soil and water conservation district:

Lorain County Conservation District
42110 Russia Rd.
Elyria, OH 44035
440.326.5800

Overwintering Cover

Purpose

- To encourage agriculture producers to establish crops that provide overwintering cover
- To reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion
- To reduce water quality degradation due to excess nutrients
- To increase cropping system diversity

Applicability

Overwintering Cover applies to cropland acres in the H2Ohio program area. Acres receiving payment under any other county, state, or federal program (EQIP, H2Ohio, MWCD, etc.) are not eligible. Cropland enrolled in CSP and receiving payment for NRCS Practices 328 or 340 are not eligible.

Specifications

1. Establish crops that provide overwintering cover according to NRCS Appendix A.
2. The completed practice must meet the criteria for planting dates, seeding, establishment, and maintenance per NRCS Appendix A; including seed quality and testing requirements:
 - a. Winter Annuals – Appendix A – Cover Crops (Minimum)
 - b. Perennial Forage - Appendix A - Forages
 - c. Overwintering Cover Crops – Appendix A – Cover Crops
3. Cover crops seed mix must include a minimum of 50% of full rate of an overwintering species.
4. Overwintering Cover must be maintained until March 15 of the contracted crop year.
5. Manure may not be applied from November 1 to March 15:
 - a. Manure shall not be applied on frozen, snow-covered, or saturated soils or applied when the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than a 50% chance of precipitation exceeding one-half inch in a 24-hour period.
 - b. If a field is used for an emergency manure application, regardless of application date it will be ineligible.
6. Fertilizer shall not be applied on frozen, snow-covered, or saturated soils or applied when the local weather forecast for the application area contains greater than a 50% chance of precipitation exceeding one inch in a 12-hour period.
7. Limited field tile installation may occur if Overwintering Cover is maintained.

Participant Payments

- Enrolled participants will receive \$40/ac for completion of this practice, after verification that all program requirements are met.