



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Resource Conservation

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary
Julianne A. Oberg, Deputy Secretary

Conservation Grants Program

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

410.841.5864 Baltimore/Washington
410.841.5950 Fax
800.492.5590 Toll Free

Dear Maryland Cover Crop Farmer:

We are pleased to announce that signup for the 2020-2021 Cover Crop Grant Program will run July 1- July 17, 2020. To ensure everyone's safety and peace of mind, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program has switched to a mail-in sign-up. You have received this application packet because you participated in last year's Cover Crop Program. We hope that you will sign up for our grants to plant cover crops again this year. Here are a few pointers to help you through the application process.

- **Don't come to us—mail your application.** This year's cover crop signup will be conducted entirely by mail. There is no need to sign up in person at your local soil conservation district.
- **The 2020-2021 Cover Crop Program features a simplified application process.** Please read the enclosed flyer to learn about changes to this year's program. These changes are aligned with State of Maryland budget considerations.
- **Use the application and return envelope that you received with this letter.** Inside this packet you will find a cover crop application that has been pre-populated with your name and identifying information. Please verify that all information is correct and make changes where needed. Always use your full legal name and/or the legal name of your operation. Use the return envelope to mail the completed application to your local soil conservation district. Don't forget to affix a first class stamp.
- **You must be in compliance with Maryland's nutrient management regulations to receive our grants.** Please indicate that you have submitted a 2019 Annual Implementation Report (AIR) to the Nutrient Management Program. Check the box on line 6 of the application, provide the legal name of the farm operator/owner for whom the plan was written, and attach a completed *Current Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form*. This form must be signed by both the farm operator and the person who prepared the plan. It can be downloaded at mda.maryland.gov
- Here are some additional tips to help you complete the application. Steps correspond with those listed on the application:

Step 1 – Provide the total number of acres that you plan to plant in cover crops.

Step 2 – Choose the incentives that you want and provide the number of acres associated with each incentive.

Step 3 – A seed test is required for home-grown seed. Cost-share of \$15 per sample is available. Multiply the number of samples by \$15.

Step 4 – Add the base payment and incentives to get a total cost-share amount. Please note that the aerial planting incentive and incorporated seed incentive cannot be greater than the total base acres.

Step 5 – Register the number of acres you plan to enroll in the Extended Season incentive option—up to 500. Multiply this number by \$10. Add Steps 4 and 5 to get the total amount of cost-share that you have applied for.

Step 6 – Sign your application. We cannot process your application without a signature.

Step 7 – Due to social distancing requirements, most cover crop farmers were unable to sign their spring certifications for cover crops planted last fall. This section allows farmers to complete the 2019/2020 Cover Crop Program Spring Certification by providing a signature. ***In order to participate in the 2020/2021 Cover Crop Program, applicants who have received or expect to receive a 2020 cover crop payment must sign this section of the application.***

We look forward to helping you plant your cover crop. If you need assistance with your application, help is only a phone call away. A list of soil conservation districts is on the back of this letter. You can also contact the MACS office directly in Annapolis at 410-841-5864 or Salisbury at 410-677-0802, ext. 3.

Happy Planting,
The MACS staff and your local soil conservation district

Please turn over for soil conservation district contact information

MAILING ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS FOR MARYLAND'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Allegany Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
12407 Naves Cross Road, NE
Cumberland, MD 21502-8212
301-777-1747, ext. 3

Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
Heritage Office Center
2662 Riva Road, Suite 150 MS# 7001
Annapolis, MD 21401-7377
410-571-6757

Baltimore County Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
1114 Shawan Road, Suite 4
Cockeysville, MD 21030
410-527-5920, ext. 3

Calvert Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
P.O. Box 657
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-535-1521, ext. 3

Caroline Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
9194 Legion Road, Suite 3
Denton, MD 21629
410-479-1202, Ext. 3

Carrol Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
698 J Corporate Center Court
Westminster, MD 21157
410-848-8200, ext. 3

Catocin Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
92 Thomas Johnson Drive
Suite 230 North Amber
Frederick, MD 21702
301-695-2803, ext.3

Cecil Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
105 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite B-3
Elkton, MD 21921
410-398-4411, ext. 3

Charles Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
4200 Gardiner Road
Waldorf, MD 20601
301-638-3028

Dorchester Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
204 Cedar Street, Suite 200
Cambridge, MD 21613
410-228-5640, ext. 3

Frederick Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
92 Thomas Johnson Drive
Suite 230 North Amber
Frederick, MD 21702
301-695-2803, ext.3

Garrett Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
1916 Maryland Highway, Suite C
Mountain Lake Park, MD 21550
301-501-5856, ext. 3

Harford Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
3525 Conowingo Road, Suite 500
Street, MD 21154
410-638-4828

Howard Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
14735 Frederick Road
Cooksville, MD 21723
410-313-0680

Kent Soil and Water Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
122 Speer Road, Suite 4
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-778-5150, ext. 3

Montgomery Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
18410 Muncaster Road
Derwood, MD 20855
301-590-2855

Prince George's Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
5301 Marlboro Race Track Road,
Suite 100
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
301-574-5162, ext. 3

Queen Anne's Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
211 East Water Street
Centreville, MD 21617
410-758-3136, ext.3

St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
26737 Radio Station Way, Suite B
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-8402, ext. 3

Somerset Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
30730 Park Drive
Howard H. Anderson Ag Bldg.
Princess Anne, MD 21853
410-621-9310

Talbot Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
28577 Mary's Court, Suite 3
Easton, MD 21601
410-822-1577, ext. 5

Washington County Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 101
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-797-6821, ext. 3

Wicomico Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
2322-B Goddard Parkway
Salisbury, MD 21801
410-546-4777, ext. 3

Worcester Soil Conservation District

Attn: Cover Crop Program
304 Commerce Street
Snow Hill, MD 21863-1008
410-632-5439, ext. 3

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2020/2021 WINTER COVER CROP PROGRAM - APPLICATION / AGREEMENT



SECTION I – APPLICATION		SCD Use - Date Received		For SCD Use AGREEMENT NUMBER	
		SCD Use - SQL Entry Date		MACS Account Number	
1) SS or FID # - Last Four (4) Digits Only		2) District		3) Telephone Number	
5) NAME and ADDRESS of person to receive check. Include farm or corporate name, if any.				6) Nutrient Management Certification - Check (v)	
Name or Farm Name				7) Annual Implementation Report (AIR)	
C/O Name				8) Name on AIR	
Address					
City, State, Zip				9) ATTACHED - Current Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form	
		10) Change in Address (circle) [YES] [NO]			
For Applicant Use SECTION II- TECHNICAL REPORT					
Step 1 - Acres of Traditional Cover Crop		11) ACRES		PAYMENT RATE	
Base Acres - Total Acres of Cover Crop				\$40.00	
Step 2 - Choose Incentives*		13) ACRES		INCENTIVE PAYMENT RATE	
15) All acres aerial seeded by airplane or aerial ground into eligible previous crops by October 10, 2020				\$5.00	
16) Acres aerial seeded by <u>airplane or helicopter</u> into standing corn on or before September 10, 2020.				\$10.00	
17) Tillage and Planting Method Incentive- no-till, broadcast light tillage, minimum tillage, vertical tillage, conventional tillage on or before October 10, 2020				\$10.00	
18) Acres planted in Canola/Rapeseed				Minus \$15 per acre	
				subtract calculated amount from funding request	
19) Step 3 Cost Share for Seed Test (No. of Tests)				\$15.00	
Step 4 - SUBTOTAL AMOUNT** - Base Amount plus Incentive Amount(s)					
* Incentives offered on cover crop acreage for certain management practices. Review the chart in the 2020/2021 Cover Crop Program Requirements and Agreement. ** The subtotal dollar amount above will represent the maximum payment amount that you may receive.					
Extended Season Incentive - For cover crop fields maintained until May 1, 2021. IMPORTANT - The final determination for this incentive will take place February 2021 and is contingent on the State budget and number of acres fall certified. There is a 500 acre maximum cap. <u>If the incentive becomes available</u> the dollar amount calculated below will be combined with the subtotal in (Step 4) to indicate the maximum payment amount that you may receive under your Agreement.					
Step 5 - Extended Season Incentive		20) ACRES 500 maximum		\$10.00 per acre	
				TOTAL	

SECTION III – APPLICANT/AGREEMENT - PAGE 2

Public Information Notice – The principle purpose for which the information on this application is used to identify you as one of those persons whom the agency intends to give State cost-share funds. If you fail to provide the requested information, MDA may not provide you with cost-share funds. You have the right to inspect, amend, or correct personal information collected by the agency. Much of the personal information collected by the agency is available for public inspection. This information is not routinely shared with state, federal, or local government agencies.

CERTIFICATION: I request cost-sharing under this program to address a potential nutrient management/water quality problem. I agree to comply with the requirements as outlined in the 2020/2021 Cover Crop Program Requirements and Agreement. I have read the program guidelines and understand the steps involved for approval. I understand I am not approved for cost-share funds until I have received a letter of approval and a signed and dated copy of my Application/Agreement from the Maryland Department of Agriculture. If at any time program requirements are not met, the Agreement can be cancelled by the Department with no obligation to pay the applicant and any payments already made will be forfeited. I understand this Agreement may be terminated automatically, without liability to the Department or the District, if there are no available public funds under the program supporting this project.

Step 6 - Signature of Applicant

Date

SECTION IV - Spring Payment - 2020

***** Due to COVID-19 and social distancing requirements most cover crop participants were not able to provide a signature for the spring certification process as required. This section of the application provides the opportunity to complete the 2019/2020 Winter Cover Crop Program Spring Certification. In order to participate in the 2020/2021 Winter Cover Crop Program, applicants who have received or expect to receive a 2020 cover crop payment must spring certify by signing this section. *****

Participant's Certification – I certify that the Claim for Payment represents a true and accurate accounting of eligible costs for the installation of the project approved in my 2020 Cover Crop Application/Agreement. I further certify that the provisions of the program as outlined in the Agreement have been/were met. I hereby request or certify receiving a cover crop cost-share payment for the 2019/2020 Winter Cover Crop Program.

Step 7 - Signature of Applicant for Spring 2020 Cover Crop Certification - Required

Date

The _____ Soil Conservation District has reviewed this referral and finds it adequate and appropriate for this program.

Authorized Signature (Designated Technician)

Authorized Signature (Designated Chairman or Designee)

Date

**2020/2021 Winter Cover Crop for Nutrient Management
Program Requirements and Agreement**

Applicant (Operator) whose application is approved by the Department agrees to the following terms and conditions to be eligible to participate in the 2020/2021 Winter Cover Crop Program for nutrient management to reduce the leaching of excess crop nutrients into ground water during the fall and winter months, to immobilize unused nitrogen from the root zone and to reduce erosion.

The Operator Agrees:

1. A. To plant annual cover crops as provided in Chart 1B below on the Operator's farm in early fall which follows the harvest of corn, sorghum, soybeans, vegetables, hemp, millet or tobacco as the immediately preceding crop.
- B. Chart

Approved Cover Crop Varieties	Seeding Rate Per Acre		Base Payment for Traditional Cover Crop Only	Statewide Planting Period for the Traditional Cover Crop Program ¹	Aerial Planting Deadlines	BCSC and BCCP Planting Deadlines
	Aerial ³ and BCSC and BCCP seeding rates	Incorporated seeding rates ⁴				
Canola/Rape(Brassica)	10	6	\$25.00 ²	08/15-10/01	10/01	10/01
Forage Radish	12.5	7.5	\$40.00	08/15-10/01	10/01	10/01
Oats	120	72	\$40.00	08/15-10/01	10/01	10/01
Barley	150	90	\$40.00	08/15-10/15	10/10	10/15
Rye	140	84	\$40.00	08/15-11/05	10/10	10/15
Triticale	140	84	\$40.00	08/15-11/05	10/10	10/15
Wheat/Spelts	150	90	\$40.00	08/15-11/05	10/10	10/15
Ryegrass	25	15	\$40.00	08/15-10/15	10/10	10/15
Clover(as part of mix)	25	15	\$40.00	08/15-10/01	10/01	10/01
Hairy Vetch(as part of mix)	31.25	20	\$40.00	08/15-10/01	10/01	10/01
Winter Peas(as part of mix)	75	45	\$40.00	08/15-10/01	10/01	10/01

1. Seeding may begin on 08/15/2020 for all planting options.
 2. Please note that the base payment for planting canola/rape as a single species is \$25.00, no reduction in payment when it is part of a mix.
 3. This seeding rate for aerial and non-incorporated planting methods has been calculated at a rate that is a 25% increase to the standard seeding rate.
 4. The seeding rate listed above represents the seeding rate for all incorporated planting methods and has been calculated at 25% less than the rates used in previous years.
2. To be in strict compliance with all nutrient management requirements including the submission of the current AIR and also the Nutrient Management Plan Certification form. Also to be in good standing with all other divisions of the Department of Agriculture (MDA) including but not limited to Maryland Agriculture Water Quality Cost-Share program (MACS) and Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), as a condition of eligibility for filing a claim for cover crop costs under this Agreement;
 3. To complete an application form requesting a minimum of 5 acres of cover crop cost-share and no more the 500 acres of the Delayed Termination incentive. **The delayed termination incentive is contingent on available funding and will be determined in February 2021.**
 4. Except for animal wastes as described in paragraphs #6 and #7 below, nutrients from any nutrient source shall not be applied by the Operator to any acres enrolled in the 2020/2021 Winter Cover Crop Program before March 1, 2021. However, Potash and Lime may be applied by the Operator to acres enrolled in the cover crop program;
 5. If manure utilization was part of the fertilization method for the previous Crop and manure was applied in the spring, the Operator agrees to report these acres to the Department on the Departmental certification form. On farm generation is not required for spring utilization of manure. Manure use acreage shall be consistent with and documented on the Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for the operation;
 6. Fall application (September 10 thru December 15) by the Operator of **non-poultry** manure to enrolled acreage is prohibited unless the following conditions are met:

- A. The application of manure is managed in accordance with a certified Nutrient Management Plan(NMP) and is in accordance with the current Nutrient Management(NM) regulations;
 - B. No other vegetative acres are available on the farm;
 - C. The acreage that received manure shall be indicated on the Operator's submitted cover crop fall certification to the Department.
7. Fall application (September 10 thru December 15) of **poultry** manure is prohibited unless the following conditions are met:
1. The application of manure is managed in accordance with a certified NMP and is in accordance with the current NM regulations;
 2. A whole house clean out has occurred;
 3. No other vegetative acres are available;
 4. The acreage that received manure must be indicated on the submitted cover crop fall certification.
8. All commercial seed purchased by the Operator for cover crops shall be **tested and properly labeled in accordance with Maryland Seed Law and Regulations**. All seed shall be free of prohibited noxious weed seed, have a minimum germination rate of 80%, and have no more than 16 restricted noxious weed seeds per pound. The following information shall be on the seed tags being submitted to the Department by the Operator: seed type, state of origin, test date, germination, and noxious weed count and purity results. The seed test shall not be more than **9 months old** at the time of planting. **Commercial seed labeled as "cover crop" shall meet the germination and noxious weed requirements of the program.**
9. If an Operator elects to use home grown seed, a representative sample must be submitted to **Maryland State Seed Testing Laboratory by October 1, 2020** to be tested for **germination and noxious weeds before it is planted as a cover crop**. **Please be advised: If seed test results are not received by the Operator before planting to ensure seed meets standards of the program, the Operator risks these acres not being eligible by the Department for the program.** Please see the Seed Sampling Guidelines Handout for additional information. (Seed testing by Pennsylvania and Delaware Seed Testing Laboratories are **not** permitted for this program.) All seed shall be free of prohibited noxious weed seed, have a minimum germination rate of at least 80%, and have no more than 16 restricted noxious weed seeds per pound. The seed test shall be no more than **9 months old** at the time of planting. **Seed that has a germination of 65% to 79% may be used however those acres will be subject to a performance based spot check. If those acres do not meet certain density standards they will not be eligible for payment. Guidelines regarding increased seeding rates will be available at the local SCD offices.**
10. To establish the cover crop, the Operator or hired contractor shall use one of the following **APPROVED PLANTING METHODS** to ensure **good seed to soil contact by using the best planting method possible**:
1. **No-till:** utilizing a **no-till drill in undisturbed ground; the seeding rate for this planting method is shown in the chart above labeled incorporated seeding rate.**
 2. **Conventional:** prepare seedbed using primary tillage (plow, chisel) or secondary tillage (disking) then seeding with a conventional drill; **the seeding rate for this planting method is shown in the chart above labeled incorporated seeding rate.**
 3. **Broadcasting/Light tillage:** broadcast seeding followed by light disking or other approved methods to ensure seed to soil contact. The date recorded as the planting date for this method is the date of seed incorporation. Approved incorporation methods eligible for this option include vertical tillage equipment and certain light tillage equipment such a Phillips Harrow. **The seeding rate for this planting method is shown in the chart above labeled incorporated seeding rate. Please contact the local SCD with any questions regarding tillage equipment before planting.**
 4. **Aerial Seeding:** seeding into a standing approved previous crop (such as corn, soybeans or sorghum) **All aerial seeding methods must use the aerial seeding rate shown in the chart above and the seeding shall be completed on or before October 10, 2020.**
 5. **Broadcast/stalk chopping (BCSC):** broadcasting of seed followed by stalk chopping (corn or sorghum). **The seeding rate for this planting method is the aerial seeding rate shown in the chart above. This planting method must occur on or before October 15, 2020.**
 6. **Broadcast/cultipacker (BCCP):** broadcasting of seed followed by a cultipacker (corn or sorghum). **The seeding rate for this planting method is the aerial seeding rate shown in the chart above. This planting method shall occur on or before October 15, 2020.**
11. The cover crop shall be properly maintained by the Operator for the duration of this cover crop Agreement.

12. Grazing or “green chopping” for livestock forage is allowed after the fall crop is well established, but only for the applicants own use but it **may not be sold**.
13. The use of unapproved cover crop mixes is prohibited; however, the use of approved cover crop species in plant mixes are allowed as follows: **Applicants can mix Canola/Rape, Forage Radish and/or one of the listed Legume varieties in chart 1B with the following approved cover crop species: Wheat, Rye, Triticale, Oats, Barley and Ryegrass. When using 2 species the rate would be 50/50, when using 3 species a 50/25/25 mix can be used with the cereal grain representing the 50.** However, if a mix is used the crop with the earliest planting date will determine the planting date deadline. If planting a mix including Canola/Rape, Forage Radish and/or a legume the mix must be planted by 10/01. Applicants may also mix any of the cereal grains. Again the species with the earliest planting date will determine the planting deadline. Seeding rate charts are available at your local SCD office.
14. The Operator is eligible for incentive payments as determined by the Department, the **MACS INCENTIVE OPTIONS requirements for Traditional Cover Crop** for planting methods and planting dates are as follows:

Traditional Cover Crop Payment Options	No-Till	Conventional	Broadcast w/light tillage/ Minimum Tillage or Vertical Tillage	Aerial	Broadcast Stalk Chop and Broadcast Cultipacker
Base Payment	\$40/acre	\$40/acre	\$40/acre	\$45/acre	\$40/acre
Plant on or before October 10, <i>add:</i>	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$0	\$0
<i>Aerial seeding into standing corn planted on or before 9/10</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10/acre	\$0
<i>Delayed Termination after 5/1(contingent on available funding)</i>	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre	\$10/acre
MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT	\$60/ac	\$60/ac	\$60/ac	\$65/ac	\$50/ac

15. The Operator agrees to certify compliance with the Cover Crop Program as follows:
- A. Within one week of planting the cover crop but no later than the dates listed in the chart below, the Operator shall certify planting information with the local Soil Conservation District that the Operator is in compliance with all eligibility requirements of the Cover Crop Program.

MACS INCENTIVE FOR 9/10AERIAL PLANTING DEADLINE¹	MACS INCENTIVE FOR 10/10 PLANTING DEADLINE²	MACS BASE PAYMENT PLANTING DEADLINE 11/05
Certification Deadline 9/17	Certification Deadline 10/16	Certification Deadline 11/12

¹MACS early Aerial planting bonus- planting must occur on or before September 10, 2020.

²MACS incorporated planting bonus- planting must occur on or before October 10, 2020

- B. The Operator shall submit the following to the local SCD with the fall certification form:
- Seed tags for purchased seed and seed tests for home grown seed. **The seed tags need to be signed by the Operator and any seed tests not in the Operator’s name shall also be signed.**
 - All Custom planted acres including Aerial and Aerial Ground will require an FSA map designating which fields were planted signed and dated by the applicator.
 - The **applicant** will also need to provide **signed** documentation, for all aerial or aerial ground seeded acres, certifying previous crop, crop planted, seeding rate and planting date.
- C. The Operator shall allow SCD personnel or MDA personnel to conduct random Spot-Checks to verify compliance with program guidelines as follows: If there are multiple farms and or fields fall certified, SCD personnel will be allowed to check an average of **20% of the farm/fields certified. If the Operator has farm/fields in different planting tiers, 20% of the farm/fields from each tier shall be checked.** At least one farm/field for each applicant will be spot checked by SCD personnel. These locations will be determined randomly by the SCD’s. SCD’s will submit completed forms for receipt by the MACS office no later than **December 18, 2020.**

AGREEMENT

Winter Cover Crop

1. The Operator agrees after review by the SCD or the MACS office if it is determined that an Operator has failed to provide required documentations as provided in paragraph 15B, then any MACS Cover Crop Agreement(s) for the acreage in question will be cancelled by the MACS Administrator and any claims for payment denied.
2. The Operator agrees that if, as a result of a spot-check, the SCD or MDA determines an Operator has submitted false, misleading or inaccurate information on the Operator's Fall/Spring Certification form, or if the cover crop does not meet program requirements (planting deadline, planting method, crop type, etc.), **all cover crop agreements** for that applicant are null and void and shall be cancelled by the MACS Administrator and any claim for payment denied.
3. An Operator whose agreement has been cancelled may be placed on probation for one year by the MACS Administrator; during probation the Operator shall be ineligible to participate in any MACS Program.
- D. After all acres have been reported the applicant may request a print out showing acres certified or they can ask that the information be emailed to them. Please verify acres are correct, once the **fall certification process is complete acres cannot be changed**. The fall certification information carries over to the spring. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify his acres are complete before signing off on his fall certification.
- E. If an optional partial payment of \$35.00 per acre is requested by the Operator for acres fall certified and after that partial payment is made by the Department, it is determined that the amount paid exceeds the final eligible payment due after spring certification, the Operator agrees to reimburse the Department for any over payment.
16. The Operator agrees that the following requirements apply to the Operator's cover crop, inspection, the fall/spring certification and the Operator's claim for payment.
 - A. Spring termination may not occur before **March 1, 2021**, unless the operator plans to plant an early season vegetable crop. Termination may occur as early as February 15, 2021, when planting early vegetable crops; however it is expected that the vegetable crop will be planted within 2 weeks of the cover crop being terminated.
 - B. Options for end of winter management by the Operator include green chopping (for on-farm use only), plowing under, or terminating by using a burn-down herbicide. Grazing of a cover crop does not qualify as an acceptable spring termination method.
 - C. Spring spot checks will be completed by SCD/MDA personnel to verify compliance and accuracy of information provided by the Operator. This spot check will occur prior to final payment being issued.
 - D. **If requesting the Delayed Termination incentive the Applicant must notify the SCD by April 15, 2021 which acres they intend to declare for this incentive. However, cover crops that winter kill such as Forage Radish and Spring Oats are not eligible for the delayed termination incentive.** The SCD, MACS, or MDA representative shall conduct a spot check to determine eligibility. These acres cannot be terminated prior to May 1, 2021. Once these acres have been spot checked for eligibility the applicants will be notified. Those acres may then be terminated and the applicant would report the termination to the SCD office. These cover crop acres must be terminated by June 3, 2021.
 - E. Planting green **may not occur prior to May 1, 2021 if the applicant wishes to receive the delayed termination incentive.** However, if the applicant wants to plant green prior May 1, 2021 they may do so and they would be eligible for the regular cover crop payment once the cover crop is reported as terminated.
 - F. Within two weeks after the Operator's termination of the cover crop, but no later than **June 3, 2021**, the Operator shall certify to the SCD that the cover crop has been destroyed. The SCD will enter the appropriate information into the Spring Certification section of the application. The final cost-share payment by MDA will be determined by the number of qualified acres which have met all of the program requirements, less any fall payments received and not to exceed the approval amount on the Operator's original application.
 - G. The Operator's Spring Certification/Claim submission shall be received by MDA's MACS office no later than **June 14, 2021, or payment will be denied.**
 - H. **At the time of Spring Certification, the Operator shall have submitted the Operator's Annual Implementation Report (AIR) to the MDA Nutrient Management Program for the previous calendar year in order to meet the nutrient management cross-compliance guidelines. No Spring Payment will be issued by MDA until the AIR is complete and on file with MDA.**

17. The Operator agrees to all of the following general requirements and conditions of MDA's Cover Crop Program:

- A. I agree to allow reasonable access by Soil Conservation District/MDA staff for Spot Checks for the purpose of verifying program guidelines have been followed including stand establishment; kill down, manure application, etc.
- B. I agree that I will meet and maintain compliance with State nutrient management requirements throughout the life of the cover crop contract as outlined in paragraph 2.
- C. In the event that any partial payment based on the fall certification exceeds the final eligible payment due after spring certification, I agree to reimburse MDA for any over payment.
- D. I understand that any outstanding charges that I may have incurred with the Maryland Seed Testing Laboratory must be satisfied before final payment of the cover crop contract will be made.
- E. I have read, understand and agree with policies set forth in the preceding agreement in regards to establishing and maintaining the cover crop for the 2020/2021 Winter Cover Crop Program.
- F. I agree that MDA may deny to pay any claims for payment under MDA's Cover Crop Program, if the Operator is in violation of any requirement or condition under the Cover Crop Program, or if any claim for payment is based on false, misleading or fraudulent information.
- G. **I understand this document may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Signatures, including notary signatures, provided by electronic means including, by way of example and not of limitation, facsimile, Adobe, PDF, and sent by electronic mail, or via an electronic signature program, shall be deemed to be original.**
- H. I understand that if my lease is terminated during the contract life of this agreement MDA is not required to issue a payment for the cover crop planted. If I no longer have control over the termination of the cover crop and received a fall partial payment I will have to repay Maryland Department of Agriculture any funds received.
- I. I understand that the incentive payment for delayed termination is based on available funding, that determination will be made in February 2021, however I must have enough available funds on my approved agreement to receive payment.
- J. I understand that payment for acres designated as "Delayed Termination" is based on meeting a spot check verification prior to termination as well as an evaluation after termination if they do not meet those criteria they will not be eligible for the additional incentive payment.
- K. Application of non-farm generated Organic nutrients is prohibited on establish cover crop acres, those acres must be removed from the agreement and are not eligible for payment.



Maryland Department of Agriculture
Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program (MACS)

CURRENT NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN CERTIFICATION

Participants of MACS cost-share programs must certify that the agricultural operation associated with the cost-share practice(s) is following a *current* Nutrient Management Plan (NMP), to the extent required by COMAR 15.20.07. This form must be submitted to the local Soil Conservation District (SCD) office *when applying* to the MACS Program.

The SCD shall include a copy of this form with any MACS cost-share application. Applications received without this form, or with a form that is missing information, will be considered incomplete. Exception: This form may be submitted at the claim stage for Manure Transport and Manure Injection projects.

Section I. To be filled out by the Certified Nutrient Management Plan Preparer

Farm Operator Name(s)				
Farm Name (if applicable)				
Address				
	Number	Street		
	City	State	ZIP	County
Plan Preparer Name				
Certification No.		License No. (if applicable)		
Date the NMP was prepared or updated		Total Acres Under Plan		
Period the plan covers:	Begin Date	End Date		
I certify that the NMP information for the farm operation listed above is true and correct. I understand that if this information has been falsified, my certification and/or license may be revoked.				
Signature				
	Certified NM Consultant or Certified Farm Operator		Date	

Section II. Farm Operator Certification

I certify that: (1) my farm is operating under a current nutrient management plan for the time period indicated above and, (2) my nutrient management plan was developed by the plan preparer named above.	
Signature	
	Farm Operator
Print Name	
	Date

Section III. Landowner Information

(Fill out this section only if the landowner is applying for cost-share and is **not** the agricultural operator of the land)

Landowner Name				
Address				
	Number	Street		
	City	State	ZIP	County