United States Department of Agriculture
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Soil Quality

Cover Crop Job Sheet (340 Addendum A)
Continuous Cover (use of cover crop)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) October, 2007

Participant Name _____
Contract # _____

INFORMATION ON THIS JOB SHEET IS CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF THE CONTRACT AND/OR CONSERVATION PLAN.

Purpose

This job sheet will be used in establishing a cover crop for the explicit purpose of keeping the crop field in a growing cover crop at times that the field would otherwise be bare or fallow for more than 60 days. The main purpose of this activity is to increase soil quality through the presence of actively growing vegetation during otherwise fallow periods. (NOTE: in fields with significant risk of Take-All (fungus - *Gaeumannomyces graminis*), oats should be established and the EQIP incentive rate will be paid at the wheat establishment rate.)

Figure 1 gives some examples of when this practice would apply to typical rotations in Kentucky. The crop rotation being used in the field where cover crop will be planted will be recorded in Table 1. Fields that require cover crops for Food Security Act (FSA) Highly Erodible Land (HEL) compliance are not eligible for this activity.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

On all lands requiring vegetative cover for natural resource protection and or improvement where cover crops will be used to provide live, vegetative cover during periods when no crops are present in the field.

Establishment Specifications

1. Plant species (cereal rye or wheat only), seedbed preparation, seeding rates, seeding dates, seeding depths, fertility requirements, and planting methods will be consistent with any selection of cereal rye or wheat from Table 4 of the "Establishing Vegetative Practices in Kentucky" document located in Section IV of the eFOTG.

2. Species (cereal rye or wheat only) and seeding rates will be according to Table 1.

3. Seed will conform to minimum state standards for purity, germination and other features. Seed tags and other pertinent seed information must be delivered to NRCS representatives before payments will be made.

4. Fertilizer and lime applications, when planned, shall be made according to University of Kentucky recommendations based on a soil test analysis performed consistent with University of Kentucky laboratory soil test procedures.

<u>Seeding and Seedbed Preparation</u>

Important: Avoid no-till planting or cultipacking planted seedbeds in wet soil since it may result in placing the seed too deep.

No-till establishment is the preferred method since

soil disturbance is minimal, thus reducing weed competition and the risk of soil erosion. Conventional seeding may be used for establishment on areas that have been recently cropped, where weedy competition will be lessened and where the risk of soil erosion is minimal.

No-Till Seeding

Care needs to be exercised when setting drills to ensure that planting depths are correct for the species planted.

Conventional Seeding

The importance of a dry firm seedbed cannot be over emphasized to ensure proper planting depth. Prepare a seedbed by disking.

Broadcast seed and after broadcasting, cultipack, harrow or roll the seeded area only once to ensure good seed to soil contact and the proper, shallow seeding depth.

Operation and Maintenance

Cover crop growth can be terminated by chemical methods, by rolling the cover with a roller/crimper or by a combination of the two techniques.

The cover crop residue CANNOT be disked or plowed into the soil or disturbed with any other full width tillage implement (e.g. Turbo-Till®, Phoenix®/Phillips® Harrows, etc.).

The cover crop CANNOT be harvested for grain or for silage. All crop residues must be left in the field.

The cover crop CANNOT be terminated prior to March 1st.

Figure 1. Typical rotations in Kentucky were winter cover crop would be applicable. These are just two, common Kentucky rotations and *cover crops are **not** limited to the below examples*.

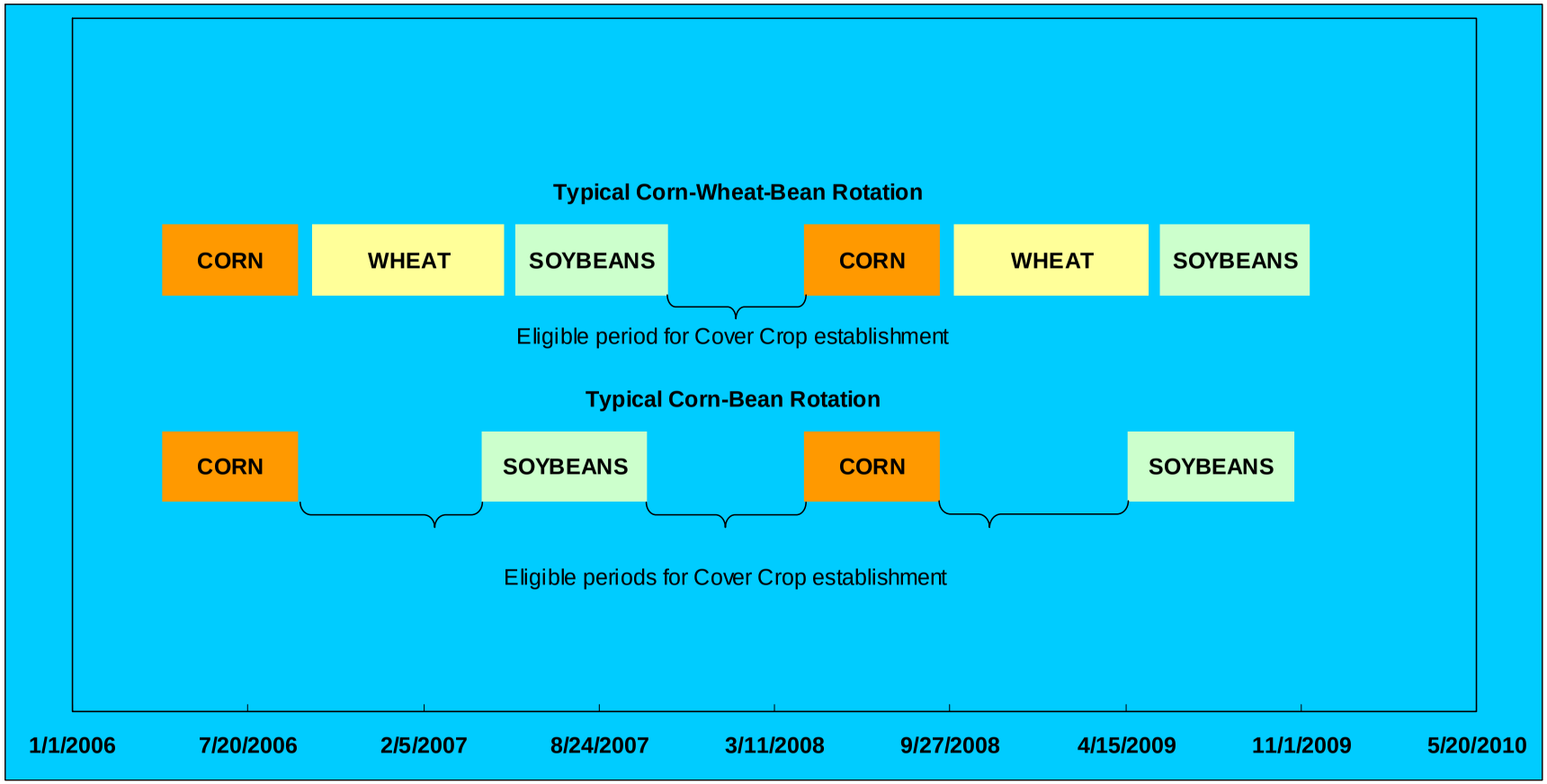

Table 1. Species and seeding rates will be according to the information provided in the table below. If planned, the application of fertilizers and soil amendments shall be made according to University of Kentucky fertilizer and lime recommendations. The recommendations must be made from a soil test that is performed according to University of Kentucky laboratory soil test procedures. If additional room is needed, make copies of this table and attach it to the back of the job sheet.

Field No.(s)	Crop Rotation	Acres	Cover Crop Species	Lbs./Ac Seed (PLS)	Total Lbs. Seed (PLS)	Seeding Method (Conventional or No-Till)	Seeding Date/s	Lime Ton/Ac	N Lbs/Ac	P205 Lbs/Ac	K2O Lbs/Ac

Additional Information:

Program specific requirements or additional technical recommendations that may apply are as follows.