



CT Aerial Seeding for Cover Crops (340)

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

Lifespan – 1 year

Producer:		Date:	
Planned by:		Plan Approved by:	

Practice Specifications

Practice Specifications are prepared in accordance with the CT NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Refer to the Connecticut Conservation Practice Standard and other associated documents for requirements of this practice. Information contained in this document is considered part of the conservation plan.

Definition

Grasses, legumes and forbs planted for seasonal vegetative cover.

Condition Where Practice Applies

All lands requiring seasonal vegetative cover for natural resource protection or improvement.

Purpose (Check all that apply):

- Reduce erosion
- Increase soil health and organic matter
- Capture and recycle excess nutrients
- Suppress weeds
- Manage soil moisture
- Minimize and reduce soil compaction
- Adaptive Management field trials
- Other:

Timing and Communication

- **The helicopter company will contact local authorities, but the producer is responsible for communicating with all field landowners where application will occur and field neighbors to avoid community concerns.**
- **Early Season Cover Crop Seeding:** It is important that any herbicides/chemicals applied to fields have been activated (rain or irrigation) and label recommended residual times have been met before cover crop is seeded. Application of herbicides for problem weeds (i.e. burr cucumber) after seeding will likely terminate the new cover crop seedlings.
- **End of Season Cover Crop Seeding:** It is important that corn is harvested within 2-4 weeks after the seeding takes place to allow sufficient germination but too much time (est. more than 4 weeks) will see reduced seedling survival due to shading.
- **Flights for Early Season seeding** will typically begin from the warmer regions to colder regions starting in June – July. **Flights for End of Season seeding** will typically begin from the shorter (cooler) season regions to the longer (warmer) season regions starting in August – Mid September.
- Seeding schedules will be managed by the helicopter company. The company will work to schedule a time with the producer based on the projected harvest dates. The company will provide an update at least 48 hours before their arrival.



Seed Mix

- **All seed will be purchased by the vendor and transported to the farm by the company. This will reduce logistical problems.**
- The farm will be asked to deliver the seed pallets (typically via flatbed trailer) to a pre-determined landing site(s) on their farm.
- Examples of Seed Mixes may include the following:
 - Multi-species Cover Crop seed mix: 30 lbs/acre
 - 17 lbs/acre Annual Rye + 7 lbs/acre Crimson Clover + 3 lbs/ac Red Clover + 2 lbs/acre Radish + 1 lb/ac Ladino Clover
 - Cereal Cover Crop seed mix: 130 lbs/acre
 - 70 lbs/acre Winter Rye + 60 lbs/acre Oats
 - OR 110 lbs/acre Winter Rye
 - Final Seed Mixes will be determined by participant, NRCS and applicator per resource needs.
- Under this agreement, the provided seed as purchased will be bare, not treated (such as chemicals or clay) and is not certified organic. If specific seed qualities are needed (organic seed), the producer will need to make special arrangements with the helicopter company, if the company agrees to the change in their procedure.

Information for Helicopter Company to Contact Producer and Local Authorities

Producer Address _____

Producer Cell Phone (or other) _____

Producer Email _____

Town Names where fields will be flown: _____

Total Acres Contracted _____

Expected Planting Dates _____ Expected Harvest Dates _____

Expected Day Length of Corn _____ Expected Cover Crop Termination Method _____

Planned herbicides and last date of application on contracted acres _____

NRCS Planner Name _____ Phone# _____

NRCS Planner Email _____

Release of Shapefiles to Helicopter Company to Provide a Quote & Planning

- NRCS provides producers technical assistance to support the installation of Cover Crops and as one option, NRCS can provide GIS Based Shapefiles to facilitate aerial seeding. These digital files are loaded into the flight computer and tell the pilot which field to apply seed to.
- It is important that you carefully review all fields you are including in this program, as you will be charged for all acres contracted. Crop rotations between corn and grass complicate this issue and we need to stress that the acres you contract with the helicopter company is your choice regardless of any NRCS current or future contract.
- NRCS is not responsible for changes to crop rotations or changes to rented land.

I understand I am requesting NRCS to provide my GIS mapped cornfields to vendor to allow them to provide me a quote to seed my fields. I also have reviewed these maps for field season _____ and certify they are correct.

Producer Signature _____ **Date** _____



Quotes, Assignment of Payment, and Deposits

- The vendor will provide the farm a quote. The farm must decide if they want to participate in the aerial seeding program or if the farm would rather seed the cover crop on their own.
- If the farm decides to move forward with aerial seeding, the vendor may require a deposit.
- The farm is responsible for payment to the vendor. The farm can opt to use NRCS program payments if the farm chooses. NRCS will provide payment on any EQIP contract for cover crops after the seeding takes place and meets the requirements of the Cover Crop Standard (340) and this job sheet.
- The vendor requires farmers to provide an assignment of payment to them for payment. NRCS staff will facilitate the assignment of payment to the vendor at the farms request. This assignment will release only the pre-approved amount of funds in your EQIP contract to the vendor, based on how many acres were aerially seeded.
- NRCS will not be held responsible for additional expenses accrued by the producer for misidentifying fields which need seeding or for charges agreed to above the per acre rate in the EQIP contract. Because EQIP cover crop financial assistance rates change each year, as does the prices that the vendor charges, farmers need to be certain of any additional cost to them prior to developing a contract with the vendor.

Fields Planned for Aerial Cover Crop

Refer to attached conservation plan map(s) for location of area(s) to be planted with cover crops.

- Maps MUST include:
 - All required information from the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) Title 180 Subpart D 600.31 Conservation Plan
 - FSA Farm #, FSA Tract #, FSA Field #, with field boundary and acres
 - Producer name
 - Producer phone number(s) – cell and home
 - Labeled towns and roads

Cover Crop Specifications						
FSA Tract, Field	Acres	Seeding Date	Seed Mix Species- Rate (lbs/ac)	Seeding Method	Previous Crop Planned Harvest Date	Planned Termination Method

Attach sheet(s) for additional fields. Also, a separate table can be attached in lieu of entering the information here.



Additional Notes or Criteria for Installation on this Farm Operation

Note: Any changes to this plan must be approved by the NRCS representative managing the project.

Operation and Maintenance

1. When seeding legumes, ensure the proper inoculant is used at planting time. It is best to inoculate just prior to planting.
2. Do not use treated seed when broadcasting or aerial seeding in a crop to be harvested.
3. Plant the cover crop within the stated time period and maintain until the stated time or growth stage for best termination of the cover crop.
4. Evaluate the cover crop to determine if the cover crop is meeting the planned purpose(s). If the cover crop is not meeting the purpose(s), adjust the management, change the species of cover crop, or choose a different technology.

Concurrence of:	
Participant	Date

Plan Certification:	
NRCS Planner	Date



Practice Checkout

Producer:		Date:	
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Required Attachments

- Implementation maps
- Photos
- Receipts to verify application rates and help with component cost data collection

Cover Crop Specifications						
FSA Tract, Field	Acres	Seeding Date	Seed Mix Species- Rate (lbs/ac)	Seeding Method	Previous Crop Harvest Date	Additional Notes (i.e. fertilizer applied)

Attach sheet(s) for additional fields. Also, a separate table can be attached in lieu of entering the information here.

Additional Checkout Notes



Practice Certification Statement:

I have inspected the implementation of this practice and certify that it has been implemented according to the practice standard and the specifications in this job sheet.

Certified by:	Title:	Date:
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