



## **Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL17 – Use of non-chemical methods to kill cover crops**

### **State Criteria**

#### **General**

- All cover crops will be killed using one of the methods described below
- Can use different methods within the cropping rotation
- Cash crops must be no-tilled or strip-tilled after cover crop is terminated
- Use of herbicides are prohibited to terminate cover crop

#### **Mowing**

- Mowing must be done using a “Flail” or “Sickle Bar” mower
- Time mowing to ensure plant re-growth is minimized, e.g. after flowering in rye or midbloom or later in hairy vetch

#### **Roller Crimping**

- Delay crimping until after early milk stage in cereal grain cover crops to ensure successful termination
- Manage cover crops for high bio-mass production through proper selection of seed, fertilizer application and timing of planting in the fall
- Cover crop must be crimped not cut

#### **Undercutting**

- Use “V” blade cultivators that are run just under the surface of the soil (<2’)
- Most suitable for bed production

#### **Weather Kill**

- Select cover crop based on those that are most reliably killed by temperature shifts
- Use both summer and winter kill cover crops based on crop rotation



Complete the Table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning			To be completed by Producer during certification	
1	2	3	4	5
Tract	Field	Acres Planned	Acres Applied	Cover crop Used and Date Planted
<i>Ex. T1001</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>		

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-3 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 4-5 PRODUCER COMPLETES

**I certify that the following information meets specifications and has been provided to NRCS:**

1. Written documentation for each year of this enhancement describing the following items:
  - Cover crop used and date planted
  - Date and amount of fertilizer applied (if used)
  - Date on which cover crop was terminated
  - Cash crop planted following the cover crop and method used
2. A map showing fields where the enhancement is applied.
3. Photographs of a representative number of fields showing roller crimping of cover crop.

I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the application of these activities.

**Certified by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_