Water Quality Enhancement Activity – WQL10 – Plant a cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

Cover crops must be planted whenever the crop they are scheduled to follow in the rotation is grown and rotated across all planned acres by the end of the contract period.

Cover Crop Requirements

- Cover crops cannot be harvested or grazed
- Cover crops must follow planting dates, seeding rates, method of planting and other requirements in Conservation Practice Standard 340, Cover Crop . Specifications will be provided on the Cover Crop Worksheet (NE-CPA-7).
- Cover crops which winter kill must planted at least 8 weeks prior to the average date of the first killing frost.
- Cover crops which over winter must have at least 4 weeks of spring growth before termination.
- Winter annual cover crops planted following a low residue crop must have a minimum of 6-8" of growth before they are terminated.
- Cover crops which follow fall harvested crops must be a winter annual small grain such as rye, wheat or triticale, or a winter annual small grain with a legume.

This enhancement is most applicable following high nitrogen use crops such as corn or following summer or early fall applications of manure.

Acceptable cover crops are: Most cereal grains including barley, oats, wheat and rye; forage sorghum, sudangrass or sorghum-sudan; and brassicas such as canola, oil seed radish and turnip.

Cover crops must be seeded early enough to allow for adequate growth to occur prior to winter and must meet the requirements of the Cover Crop Standard (340) in the Field Office Technical Guide.

Nitrogen application rates for the subsequent crop must be based on a current soil test (no more than 3 years old), must follow University of Nebraska recommendations, and must be adjusted to account for the recycling of N by the cover crop.

It is recommended that this enhancement be applied in conjunction with Water Quality Enhancement WQL25 "Split Applications of Nitrogen Based on a Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test" to better quantify the amount of available N being released from the cover crop.

Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)

Complete the Table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning						To be completed by Producer during certification process	
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
Tract	**Field(s)**	**Existing Rotation**	**Planned Rotation with Cover Crop**	**Cover Crop**	**Acres Planned**	**Date Planted**	**Acres Applied**
Ex. T1001	*1*	*C-B-W*	*C-B-W-cc*	*Canola*	*100*	*Aug. 15*	*100*

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-6 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 7-8 PRODUCER COMPLETES

C=Corn; B=soybeans/edible beans; W=Wheat; M=Milo; A=Alfalfa; O=Oats; cc=cover crop; Others=_____

In addition:

1. Complete, sign, and attach Cover Crop worksheet NE-CPA-7 showing the cover crops grown, seeding date, seeding rate, fertilizer applied, and the method and date of termination.
2. Provide copies of soil tests.
3. Complete a Nutrient Budget Job Sheet (NE-CPA-38) or equivalent showing realistic yield goals for the subsequent crop and nitrogen application rates.

I certify that the enhancement criteria have been met and the required documentation provided to NRCS.

Certified by: _____ Date:_____