

## 2025-2026 Cover Crop Sign-Up is Here

Sign up for the 2025-2026 Cover Crop Program has begun! Sign-up ends **Thursday, July 17, 2025**. Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is directing applicants to sign up in person. You may call to make an appointment or simply call ahead and come by the Harford Soil Conservation District office, to apply for this year’s Cover Crop Program.

Planting cover crops are an excellent means to improve organic matter, absorb and control nutrient runoff, and provide ground cover through the winter months which help reduce erosion potential.

This year, MDA set the base payment at \$35/acre, an incentive for planting rye, triticale, or multi-species are \$15/acre, and an incentive of \$15/acre to plant your cover crop by October 10<sup>th</sup> for specified planting methods (i.e., no-till drill, broadcast with light tillage, minimum tillage, vertical tillage, or conventional tillage). For more details about the incentive rates, please view the chart below.

2025-2026 COVER CROP PLANTING AND PAYMENT OPTIONS					
TRADITIONAL COVER CROPS PAYMENT OPTIONS	NO-TILL	CONVENTIONAL	BROADCAST WITH LIGHT, MINIMUM OR VERTICAL TILLAGE	AERIAL	BROADCAST STALK CHOP AND BROADCAST CULTIPACKER
Base payment:	\$35/acre	\$35/acre	\$35/acre	\$35/acre	\$35/acre
Incorporate on or before October 10, <i>add:</i>	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre
Aerially seed into standing corn by October 10, <i>add:</i>	\$0/acre	\$0/acre	\$0/acre	\$10/acre	\$0/acre
Plant rye, triticale, or a multi-species cover crop, <i>add:</i>	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre	\$15/acre
<b>MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$65/acre</b>	<b>\$65/acre</b>	<b>\$65/acre</b>	<b>\$60/acre</b>	<b>\$50/acre</b>

When you sign up, please be sure to bring your completed “Current Nutrient Management Plan Certification” (NMPC) form. This certification must be signed by the nutrient management plan preparer and the farm operator. A fillable NMPC form may be downloaded by going to MDA’s website at [bit.ly/NMPlan\\_Certification](https://bit.ly/NMPlan_Certification).

In addition, MDA will rely on the updated W-9 form (March 2024 version). In some cases, we will need to ask that you update your W-9 form. For those who have not submitted a completed W-9 form before, a fillable W-9 form may be downloaded on the IRS website at [irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf](https://irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf).

For more information about this year’s Cover Crop Program, please go the MDA’s website at [https://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/Pages/cover\\_crop.aspx](https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Pages/cover_crop.aspx).