NRCS Announces Special Cover Crop Sign-up

SIGN UP DEADLINE JULY 11, 2014

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced a special funding opportunity for farmers interested in planting Cover Crops. NRCS will provide financial & technical assistance for adding cover crops to your crop rotation to address conservation needs. Cover crops are highly effective in reducing soil erosion, suppressing weeds, building up organic matter and improving soil health. Cover crops recommended by NRCS may include rye, oats, millet, wheat, red clover, turnips, canola, radishes, as well as other species, either alone or in combination.

Cover crops reduce wind & water erosion by literally covering the soil. They hold excess nutrients and reduce risk of runoff. They sequester carbon, and improve soil structure which, in turn, improves infiltration and nutrient availability.

Contact your local NRCS office to complete an application before the July 11 deadline to be considered for this Cover Crop funding. In Outagamie County contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center at 3369 W. Brewster Street, Appleton, WI 54914 or call 920-733-1575 ext. 3 For more information, visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov

For more information on cover crops, see Wisconsin Cover Crops factsheet, and “How to Establish Cover and Green Manure Crops”.

Farmers with crop insurance will need to check with their crop insurance agent to make sure the cover crop is terminated so as not to impact their insurance payments or coverage.