2026 Cover Crop Programs

The Missouri CRCL Project's cover crop incentive program offers four options to support the use of fall-planted cover crops. This includes two planting incentives and two incentives for cover crop management. Specific details and guidelines for each are found later in this guide.



Planting Incentives

Rye-Soy Program
$30 per acre

Diverse Covers
$40 per acre



Management Incentives

Cover Crop Grazing
$20 per acre

Late Termination
$15 per acre

Enrollment Period: To Be Announced

Applications are online at: **app.farmraise.com/mo-crcl/signup**

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Have Questions?

We are available to help by email or phone.

Program email: mocrcl@missouri.edu

Call or text:
(573) 550-5568 - *Felicity, Cover Crop Pgm Specialist*
(573) 902-8021 - Bethany, Cover Crop Pgm Manager

Program Timeline

- **July 31, 2025** - Application Deadline
- **Aug. 31, 2025** - Application Decisions Deadline for CRCL Team
- **Sept. 30, 2025** - Deadline to Sign Contract
- **Jan. 31, 2026** - Additional Farm Information & 2026 Subsidiary Print Deadline
- **Jan. 31, 2026** - Planting Verification Deadline
- **June 31, 2026** - Late Termination & Grazing Verification Deadline

More information on these steps can be found on pages 7-9.

Eligibility Criteria

Cover Crop Program Eligibility:

- Fields to be enrolled must be located in Missouri, primarily used for annual crop production (corn, soybean, wheat, sorghum, or cotton) and planted to an annual crop either the current or previous year.
    - Pasture ground or ground used for annual forages are not eligible for this program, but should consider enrolling in Regenerative Grazing, which opens in November.
- The cover crop may NOT be harvested for grain or seed production, hayed, baled, or burned, per NRCS restrictions.
- Fields to be enrolled may NOT be simultaneously enrolled in publicly funded incentives for the same practice on the same acre. For cover crop planting, this practice is Cover Crops (340). Publicly funded programs include NRCS programs (EQIP or CSP), the Missouri SWCD Conservation Cost-Share, and any other USDA Advancing Markets for Producers (AMP) programs.
    - Fields currently enrolled in carbon market programs are permissible, but applicants should check with the other program's rules on enrollment in other incentives.
    - Late termination and cover crop grazing typically do not conflict with other programs unless specifically included as a component of that other program.

General CRCL Program Eligibility:

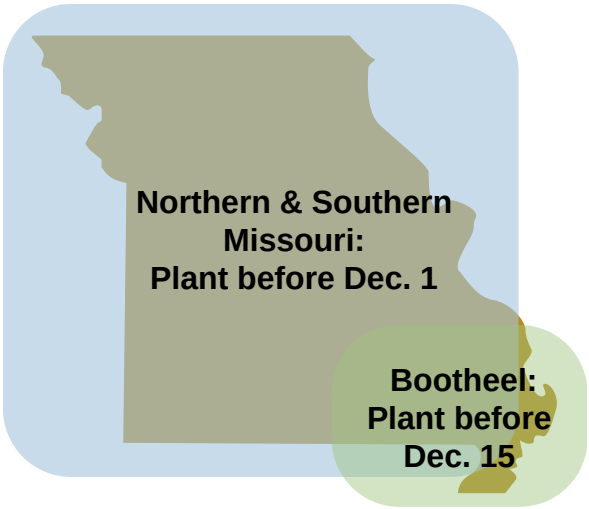
- Records must be established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA).
- Forms AD-2047 and AD-1026 must be on file with FSA.
- Applicant must be a current citizen of the U.S. or a lawful alien possessing a valid I-551.
- Applicant must have operational control of the acreage to be enrolled, with ability to implement the desired practices and engage in farming activities.
- Payments funded and processed by the University of Missouri are subject to audit and inspection by the USDA Office of Inspector General and other federal assistance program oversight entities

Please Note:

- Enrollment is for a single year and reopens annually.
- A single entity can enroll in up to $10,000 of incentives per enrollment period.

Cover Crop Planting: Rye-Soy

Generalized Planting Dates:



Rye-Soy: $30 per acre

Incentive payment to plant a cereal rye or other grass cover crop in the fall before a soybean crop

Minimum Seeding Rates

When drilled: 30 lbs/ac

When broadcast: 38 lbs/ac

Information above is based on Missouri NRCS guidelines

This is a great way to get started with cover crops for those who are new to it. Cereal rye is the most popular cover crop for good reason. It is easy to establish, overwinters reliably, and is simple to terminate. It has a strong track record of working well when planted before soybeans.

It is acceptable to substitute or blend cereal rye with another overwintering cereal cover crop species, such as triticale or wheat. Additional cover crop species may also be added according to your goals, as long as minimum planting rates are upheld. Contact mocrcl@missouri.edu to ask about individual situations.

Information to Record for Verification

- Planting date
- Cover crop species planted
- Per-acre planting rate of each species
- Planting method (drilled, broadcast, etc.)
- Acres completed
- Document or photo upload
  - seed receipt
  - as-applied map
  - photo of cover crop if neither of the above apply
- *Satellite imagery will be used to help verify*



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Cover Crop Planting: Diverse Covers

Diverse Covers: $40 per acre

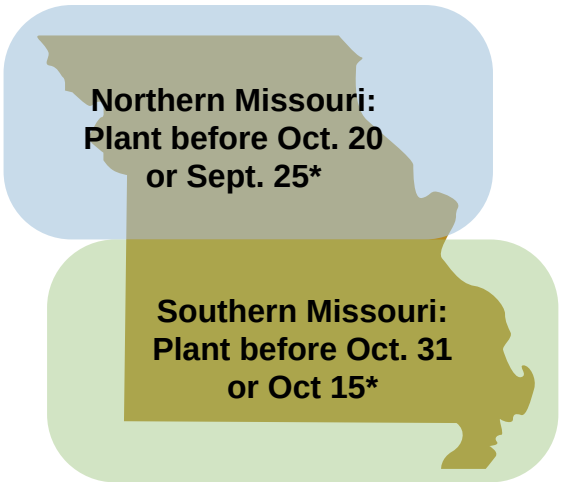
Incentive payment to plant a cover crop mix in the fall before a non-legume crop, such as corn, cotton, or sorghum

Minimum Rates for Suggested Mixes

When drilled:
- 13 lbs/ac wheat or oats
- 5 lbs/ac crimson clover
- 6 lbs/ac hairy vetch OR 1.7 lbs/ac rapeseed / other brassica

When broadcast:
- 16 lbs/ac wheat or oats
- 6 lbs/ac crimson clover
- 7 lbs/ac hairy vetch OR 2.3 lbs/ac rapeseed / other brassica

Generalized Planting Dates*:



*Earlier planting date applies to mixes that include winterkilled species (oats, turnips, radishes, etc.)

Information above is based on MO NRCS guidelines

Diverse Covers Mix Requirements:

3 fall-planted species, including:
- 2 non-grass species (legume/brassica), of which one should **overwinter**

Mix suggestions:

To mitigate the nitrogen management challenges of planting corn or other non-legume crops after a winter cereal cover crop, the diverse covers program provides suggested mixes with lower C:N ratios.

- For rotations that do not include wheat harvested for grain: **wheat, crimson clover, and hairy vetch (or a brassica)**
- For rotations that include wheat harvested for grain: **oats, crimson clover, and hairy vetch (or a brassica)**

You may substitute species or add additional as long as the diverse mix requirements are met. Contact mocrcl@missouri.edu for help with alternative mixes and planting rates.

Information to Record for Verification

- Planting date
- Cover crop species planted
- Per-acre planting rate of each species
- Planting method (drilled, broadcast, etc.)
- Acres completed
- Document or photo upload
  - seed receipt
  - as-applied map
  - photo of cover crop if neither above apply
- *Satellite imagery will be used to help verify*

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Cover Crop Management: Cover Crop Grazing

Cover Crop Grazing: $20 per acre

Combine livestock and row crops by allowing livestock to graze cover cropped fields

Guidelines

The cover crop should be at least 6" in height before grazing begins.

Livestock should graze no more than 40% of the available forage.

Grazing can occur in the fall, spring, or both.

Information above is based on MO NRCS guidelines



Producers in Missouri have a unique opportunity to explore the synergistic benefits of adding livestock to their crop ground. Livestock integration can provide significant benefits to soil health while offering a profitable return on investment when managed responsibly.

The guidelines on cover crop grazing are adapted from the Missouri NRCS Cover Crop (340) Standard, which seeks to maintain the soil health and erosion control benefits of the cover crop being grazed.

Grazing can be combined with other MO CRCL cover crop incentives or with an external cover crop incentive (as long as grazing is not a component of that program).

Contact mocrcl@missouri.edu with questions about grazing guidelines.

Information to Record for Verification

- Date livestock turned in
- Cover crop height when turned in
- Date livestock out
- Cover crop height out
- Number of head
- Field numbers and associated acres they had access to
- Photo upload of livestock in field
- *Satellite imagery may be used to help detect grazing events*

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Cover Crop Management: Late Termination

Late Termination: $15 per acre

Allow additional spring growth of cover crops by delaying termination until at least May 1st

This program is designed to encourage continued cover crop growth in the spring, rather than terminating as early as possible. Delayed termination allows cover crops to accumulate more spring biomass, which can improve soil health, weed control, erosion control, and more.

You can enroll in late termination in combination with other MO CRCL cover crop incentives. It can also be combined with external cover crop incentives (as long as termination timing is not a component of that program).

Guidelines

The cover crop must be left growing until at least **May 1st**.

As with all other cover crop incentives, the cover crop cannot be harvested, hayed, baled, or burned (any practice that removes biomass from the field). Due to biomass removal, grazing can not be the method of termination.

Information to Record for Verification

- Termination date
- Termination method
- Total acres terminated after May 1
- As-applied map or receipt, if you have one
- *Satellite imagery will be used to help verify late termination date*



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Application Process & Timeline

1. Submit an Application

Create an online account with an email address to access the application "dashboard" hosted by our project partner FarmRaise. Be sure to save this login information so you can return to access action items needed to complete the program. The link to the application is found on page 1 of this packet. Please note that at this time, only one application can be submitted per account, and each email address can only be associated with a single account.

If you need assistance with technology or require a paper copy of the application instead, please contact us for help.

Have the following items on hand for your application:

- Farm maps from FSA for 2025*
- Producer Farm Data Report from FSA for 2025* (to verify association with farms enrolled)
- Producer Subsidiary Print from FSA for 2025* (to verify eligibility)
- A list of the field numbers and associated acreage (from your FSA Farm Maps) and the program(s) you would like to enroll each field in. All four cover crop programs are handled in a single application. We recommend writing this down before starting the application, as the form does not automatically save your progress.

**These documents can be obtained in advance by contacting your local USDA Farm Service Agency office. We will ask for a copy of each document to be uploaded with your application. Alternatively, you can authorize us to request them on your behalf during the application.*

2. Application Review

Applications will be reviewed by the program team in the order submitted. With enrollment ending July 31, we will notify applicants of their status **before August 31.**

Notification of acceptance will be sent to the email associated with the FarmRaise account you created to complete the application. You can also check your status by logging in to the online "dashboard".

Application Process & Timeline (continued)

3. Contract

Approved applicants must sign a contract to signify their intent to participate in the program.

The deadline to fill out contract documents is CHANGE.

New participants and returners with payment information updates will need to set up a payment profile with MU. You will receive an email from **invitations@paymentworks.com** inviting you to register within several days of submitting the contract.

4. Submit Additional Requirements

Additional Farm Information Survey

This is information we are required to collect by USDA, the funder of this project. It can be completed as soon as your application is approved. This questionnaire collects background information on the farms and fields enrolled, such as tillage practices, past cover crop use, and crops planned for the following year. We collect this information later in the process rather than at application with the intent to keep the application as simple as possible.

2026 Producer Subsidiary Print from FSA

This is an updated version of the document requested at application, used to confirm eligibility requirements. As the 2026 Federal Fiscal Year begins in October of 2025, we will need a 2026 Subsidiary Print before running any payments. If you authorize us to request FSA documents on your behalf, we will take care of obtaining the updated version for you.

These are the line items we verify on the document:

- AD-1026: Certified
- Conservation Compliance: In Compliance
- Foreign Person: Not Applicable

These items should be completed in your FarmRaise dashboard by MUST BE CHANGED

Application Process & Timeline (continued)

5. Practice Implementation

Complete the practice according to the program guidelines outlined on pages 3-6. Remember to save your relevant receipts and record dates to submit for verification. Reference the guideline pages for a list of the information to keep in your records.

6. Practice Verification

The verification step is where you will fill out a practice report form and upload with relevant receipts or other documents. As with other required items, this will be submitted in your online dashboard.

For cover crop planting incentives, this can be done as soon as planting is completed.
For grazing, verification can be completed when livestock have finished grazing.
For late termination, this should be completed after termination.

We may use a combination of remote sensing technology and/or field visit spot-checks to help confirm practice implementation. In the case of a field visit, you would be notified in advance.

Planting verification deadline: **MUST BE CHANGED**
Grazing and late termination verification deadline: **MUST BE CHANGED**

7. Payment

Cover crop payments will be issued after the practice has been completed and all of the required information in steps 3-6 has been received and reviewed.

If you are enrolled in both planting and management incentives, you will likely receive one payment for planting and a later payment for the management incentives due to activities occurring at different times of the year.

Please refer to Page 1 for a summary of these deadlines and for the application link.