

# 2008 Bedford County Cover Crops Incentive Program

--Program Signup Form--

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Watershed (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Cover crop(s) & estimated number of silage acres with cover crops (max. 100 acres per operator):***

<input type="checkbox"/> Barley	(\$20/acre)	Number of corn silage acres enrolled: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wheat	(\$20/acre)	Number of corn silage acres enrolled: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Rye	(\$20/acre)	Number of corn silage acres enrolled: _____

## ***Bedford Co. Conservation District Equipment Program:***

Through the Bedford County Conservation District's Equipment Program, Bedford County operators can rent no-till drills for \$12/ac plus a \$20 delivery fee to plant cover crops. Rental Rates are subject to change. Are you interested in renting a no-till drill? Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Additional materials needed to enroll in the 2008 Cover Crops Incentive Program:***

- \_\_\_ Signed Chesapeake Bay Special Project Funding Forms (CBP-SP1, CBP-SP3, CBP-SP5)  
(Will be provided by the Bedford County Conservation District)
- \_\_\_ Field map(s) showing field and field location  
(Contact your FSA or NRCS office for field maps)
- \_\_\_ Completed and signed copy of IRS form W-9  
(Contact the Bedford County Conservation District if you need an IRS form W-9)

## ***General program information:***

- Signup Deadlines: **August 1, 2008**  
Additional sign-up acres may be available after the signup deadline.
- Enrollment is first-come, first-serve.  
Operators are not guaranteed enrollment until notified by the Bedford County Conservation District.
- Eligible Cover Crops:  
Winter rye, winter wheat, and barley, planted at 2 bushels per acre (certified seed is *not* required).
- Eligible cropland is limited to **corn silage acres**.
- Cover crops must be established by the following dates:
  - \* Barley                      October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - \* Wheat                        October 15<sup>th</sup>
  - \* Rye                             November 1<sup>st</sup>There will be no extension of these deadlines.
- **Cover crops must be established with a no-till drill into standing corn silage stubble.**  
Please contact the conservation district if you need equipment rental assistance.
- Operators must maintain cover crop soil cover through April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Cover crop fields must achieve 50% soil cover by April 15<sup>th</sup> via live or terminated cover crop.
- Liquid manure application is permitted on cover crop field, however operators are still expected to maintain 50% soil cover via cover crop.
- Cover crop fields will be scouted by the Conservation District prior to April 15<sup>th</sup> for verification of cover crop establishment and 50% soil cover. "Good faith" efforts will not be penalized provided soil cover deficit was caused by factors out of operator's control, such as deer.

***Additional Program Information:***

**Benefits Of Cover Crops**

Corn silage production is almost second to none in terms of forage quality. However the production of corn silage is also one of the most soil-damaging crops you can grow. Because corn silage removes the entire corn plant from the field very little, if any at all, corn residue is left on the field's surface. The result is a continual decrease of the soil's quality because of the constant removal of organic matter (in the form of corn residue), which can dramatically reduce the soil's production capability over time. Additionally, because of the lack of corn stalk residue following silage production the field is exposed to soil erosion, which carries away organic matter and nutrients found in the topsoil, again damaging the field's productive capacity, and also degrading the quality of local streams and groundwater. One method for continuing to produce corn silage to meet the farm's forage needs and at the same time maintain and increase the soil quality and protect the environment is to grow a winter cover crop. The use of cover crops following corn silage harvest can dramatically reduce soil erosion, increase soil health, reduce nutrient runoff, and protect surface and groundwater resources. Cover crops reduce soil loss and nutrient runoff by preventing soil-raindrop impact and by decreasing the flow of soil and nutrient-laden rain and snowmelt running off of the field. Cover crops can also improve the soil's health by creating organic matter, reducing compaction, retaining and recycling nutrients, and increasing water infiltration, by converting nutrients into leaves and roots which replace the corn residue lost from the field during silage harvest. Over time cover crops can quickly "pay for themselves" by improving the soil's ability to grow high quality, high yielding silage.

**Bedford County's No-Till Drill Equipment Program**

The Bedford County Conservation District's Equipment Rental Program has no-till drills available to the participants of this program. The Bedford County Conservation District's Equipment Program offers the drills for a low \$12 per acre rental rate and a one-time delivery fee of \$20. If you do not own a no-till drill or are just now considering your no-till options, renting a drill from the Bedford County Conservation District could be an excellent way to get started. With drill rental comes farm delivery, set-up assistance, and full service maintenance. The equipment program has been in operation for nearly 20 years and has 8 drills available. Available are John Deere, Vermeer, and Great Plains drills.

***Contact Information:***

Please return this form to the Bedford County Conservation District at the following address.

Bedford County Conservation District  
702 West Pitt Street  
Fairlawn Court, Suites 3 & 4  
Bedford, PA 15522

The Bedford County Conservation District can be reached at 814-623-7900, ext.112, 125 or 128.