

## BMP: Establishment of a Cover Crop (201)

Cover crops protect soil, air and water by capturing nutrients, reducing soil erosion and runoff, increasing water uptake, and sequestering carbon in soil.

The purpose of this BMP is to use cover cropping as a means to target carbon loss, soil organic matter loss, erosion and nutrient loss, and to take up excess moisture. Priority will be given to projects that follow low residue crops and/or target areas of excess moisture.

Farmers may be required to direct seed their following crop into the cover crop stand.

### Cost share ratio and funding cap

There is a cost share ratio of 25 per cent government, 75 per cent applicant. This BMP has a funding cap of \$10,000.

### Eligible costs

- seed, equipment use and labour costs for seed-bed preparation and seeding
- options such as winter cover crops, relay crops, green fallow crops and biennial green manures, cover crop mixtures for grazing on stockless farms
- cover crop mixture must have a minimum of 3 species with varying growth habits and be chosen to target the risk being mitigated (i.e. erosion protection, water uptake, etc.)
- supplied seed compensated based on average seed costs
- personal labour (\$25 per hour) and personal equipment use (at set program rates)

### Ineligible costs

- seeding of cash crops (e.g., winter wheat)

### BMP specific questions

You will be asked to answer the following questions as part of your application.

- What cover crop species have you selected for your mixture and why?
- How will you establish your cover crop (e.g., in-season, post-harvest, planted vs. broadcast)?
- How many acres of cover crop were seeded?
- What was the previous crop? What will be seeded following the cover crop?
- How will the cover crop be terminated?
- If relevant, attach a drawing or aerial photo that highlights any sensitive areas that are being improved by the establishment of cover crops.

### Reference materials

For more guidance in developing your application, visit:

- North Dakota State University: [Selecting a Cover Crop](#)
- University of Manitoba - Natural Systems Agriculture: [Cover Crops and Green Manures](#)