



## **Cover Crop Incentive Project Requirements**

**Performance Incentive:** \$20/acre

**Maximum Payment:** \$1,000 (maximum 50 acres)

**Project Cap/Applicant:** 1 grant/applicant/year

**Purpose:**

- Encourage farmers to try new cover crop mixes and techniques, and will help demonstrate their use around Elgin County.
- Promote the establishment and over-wintering of cover crops, helping to provide soil protection and reduce soil erosion into watercourses.

**Details:**

- Priority will be given to areas directly adjacent to watercourses, wetlands or with tile drainage.
- Cover crops cannot be planted for the purpose of harvesting or grazing by livestock.
- To be eligible for the incentive, an appropriate cover crop must be planted at a rate that will provide erosion protection.
- Crops may be tilled no sooner than April 1 of the year following planting, but crops can be chemically destroyed the previous fall as long as residue remains until April 1.
- Only cover crops used exclusively for cover are eligible for grants.
- Oilseed radish and spring cereals like oats are not appropriate cover crop choices after September 10, in order to achieve adequate soil protection. Winter cereals like wheat and rye are appropriate choices after September 10.

**Performance Incentive:**

- Successful applicants must provide a photo including GPS coordinates confirming adequate ground cover before destroying in the Spring.
- Producers will be paid the incentive after program staff have confirmed the field(s) were managed according to the guidelines. Producers do not have to produce proof of payment. Therefore, producers who grow their own seed are eligible to participate in the program.