

Insuring a Crop Following a Cover Crop

St. Paul Region: Iowa, Minnesota, & Wisconsin

What is the definition of a cover crop?

Cover Crop - A crop generally recognized by agricultural experts as agronomically sound for the area for erosion control or other purposes related to conservation or soil improvement.

New Cover Crop Special Provisions Statement

Insurance shall not attach or be considered to have attached to a planted crop on acreage for which, in the same calendar year:

- (1) A crop (other than a cover crop) reaches the headed or budded stage prior to termination, regardless of the percentage of plants that reach the headed or budded stage; or**
- (2) A crop, including a cover crop, is hayed, grazed, or otherwise harvested past May 10; or**
- (3) A crop, including a cover crop, is not terminated prior to planting**

For purposes of insurability under this Special Provision, a cover crop is one that meets the definition of a cover crop in the Basic Provisions and was planted within the last 12 months. In this statement, termination means growth has ended.

Can I insure a spring crop following a cover crop?

To insure a spring crop following a cover crop you must:

- not hay, graze or otherwise harvest the cover crop after May 10, and
- kill the cover crop prior to planting the spring crop

Can grazing be used as a form of terminating the crop?

No, grazing is not considered terminating the cover crop.

Can I plant into a living cover crop?

No. You are not allowed to plant a spring crop into an established grass or legume. If you want to insure a spring crop, you need to have killed the cover crop (using a herbicide or tillage) before planting the spring crop.

**Contact your insurance agent for more details.*

Regional Contact
USDA/Risk Management Agency
Saint Paul Regional Office
30 7th Street East, Suite 1890
Saint Paul, MN 55101
Telephone: (651) 290-3304
Fax: (651) 290-4139
Email: rsomn@rma.usda.gov

Visit our regional office page at http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/fields/mn_rso

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

To File a Program Complaint

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with Disabilities

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact the Department by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.