

## Illinois Cover Crop Initiative



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Acres & Eligibility

### Is there an acre limit for my application?

There is not an acre limit for individual applications.

### How are participants chosen?

Applications are reviewed and contracts are administered on a first come, first served basis. There is currently funding available for 125,000 acres in Illinois. After 125,000 acres are reached, a waitlist will be established. In case an enrolled farmer is unable to plant their cover crops, a waitlisted farmer may move into their spot.

### Am I eligible if I've planted cover crops on these acres before?

Yes- previously cover cropped acres are eligible for this program.

### If I only plant cover crops before soybeans, can I enroll in a multi-year contract?

Contracts require the same acres to be cover cropped year after year with no breaks. If you only cover crop before soybeans and plan to do so this year, you are eligible for a 1-year contract with the ability to re-enroll different acres next year.

### What if I sign up for multiple years, but the weather does not permit me to plant cover crops one year?

We understand weather is a variable that no one can control and we are able to work with individual growers and their situation.

### Am I eligible if I'm enrolled in other programs on the same acres I want to enroll in the ICCI?

The ICCI program is eligible to be stacked with federal funding like CSP, EQIP, and CRP programs as well as state programs like Fall Covers for Spring Savings. The program does not stack with privately funded programs or programs that offer payments for carbon market credits. If you are enrolled in the Partners for Conservation program, please chat with our team to find out if you're eligible.

# Seed & Planting

## Are there requirements for seeding mixes and rates?

Please follow NRCS guidelines when establishing and tending to your cover crops. This includes following seeding rates and using approved mixes. Information on rates and mixes can be found on the Midwest Cover Crop Council's website at [www.midwestcovercrops.org](http://www.midwestcovercrops.org). You can plant a mix or a single species - both are eligible for the ICCI program.

## When do I need to plant my cover crops?

Cover crops must be planted no later than December 1, 2022 but can be planted as early as this summer. If you have planted some summer annuals after wheat, for example, those acres are eligible for the ICCI program.

## Can I plant my cover crops however I like?

Following NRCS guidelines, you can drill, broadcast, or aerial seed your cover crops. Interseeding is also allowed if the type of seed chosen is a good fit for that practice.

## How do I know what seed mix, rate, and planting type is best for me?

If you have questions on any component of your cover crop strategy, reach out to your local SWCD/NRCS office for advice that follows NRCS guidelines. Your cover crop seed dealer is also a great source of information. Both sources will provide you with information pertinent to your area for best results.

## Where should I get my seed?

You can obtain cover crop seed from any cover crop seed dealer that you would like to work with. You can also use seed that you have harvested yourself with the intention of planting for another year's cover crop planting. There are no requirements for seed to have any specific characteristics or qualities.

## NRCS Common Seeding Recommendations

### Post-Soybean, Into Corn:

#### Oats/Oilseed Radish

##### Seeding Rates (lb/ac)

	Oats	Radish
Drilled:	32-40	1.5-3
Broadcast:	50-70	1.5-3
Aerial:	50-70	1.5-3

### Post-Corn, Into Soybean:

#### Cereal Rye

##### Seeding Rates (lb/ac)

Drilled:	30-90
Broadcast:	40-100
Aerial:	40-100

\*NRCS recommendations are based on Midwest Cover Crop Council Illinois Cover Crop Selection Tool. The above recommendations are two common choices; consult [www.midwestcovercrops.org](http://www.midwestcovercrops.org) for other species and options.\*

# re:generations Program

## What's different about this program?

The re:generations program is available to farmers in specific areas of Illinois and offers additional payment potential if the farmer is a current ADM customer. Payments are available for cover crops, **new** no-tillage acres and/or for emissions scoring.

## Where is this program available?

This program is available to those who have delivered grain directly to one of the following ADM facilities:

Decatur • Hoopeston • Macon • Mt. Auburn • Niantic • Sullivan • Taylorville • Weldon

## What is a "current customer" of ADM?

A current customer is anyone who has delivered grain directly to an ADM facility listed above within the last two years.

## What do the payments look like?

Farmers are still offered \$10/acre for cover crops but payments for no-tillage and emissions scoring can vary. See the cart below for more information.

Practice	Compensation	Requirements
Cover Crops	\$10/acre	Plant a cover crop by December 1. Follow NRCS guidelines when planting and seeding cover crops.
No-Tillage	\$5-8/acre	<b>Change</b> from any tillage practice to no-tillage and deliver grain directly to ADM Decatur, Macon, Mt. Auburn, Niantic, Sullivan, Taylorville or Weldon elevators. This will be regionally scored and payment may vary depending on estimated outcomes.
Emissions Scoring	\$1-5/acre	Individual scores gathered and compared to area averages. Lowest scores achieve higher payments. Deliver grain directly to ADM Decatur, Macon, Mt. Auburn, Niantic, Sullivan, Taylorville or Weldon elevators.
Cover Crop/No-Tillage Combination	\$13-16/acre	Plant a cover crop by December 1 in combination with a change in practice to no-tillage. Deliver grain directly to ADM Decatur, Macon, Mt. Auburn, Niantic, Sullivan, Taylorville or Weldon elevators.

## Do I have to do all three practices to qualify?

No - you can do 1, 2, or all 3 practices and receive payments for the practices you choose to enroll.

## What if my acres aren't new acres?

Cover crop acres do **not** need to be new acres- it's okay if you've cover cropped the acres you plan to enroll before. No-tillage acres **do** need to be newly converted no-tillage acres. This conversion can be from **any** other tillage practice to no-tillage, but must have happened **this year**.

## Data & FBN

### What data do I need to share?

Farmers will be **randomly selected** to share either a "lite" version of their data or a "full" version of their data. The needs are outlined below:

#### "Full" Data Collection

- Crop types
- Tillage/cover crop program
- Fertilizer program
- Crop protection program
- Farm energy usage
- FSA 578 form
- Field boundaries

#### "Lite" Data Collection

- Cover crop plans
- FSA 578 form
- Field boundaries

### Do I need to keep my seed tags, receipts, and other proofs of purchase?

You will need to report your cover crop acres on the FSA 578 form and this will be used for verification. FBN will also be completing randomized remote sensing to verify if cover crops have been planted. No seed tags, receipts, or other proofs of purchase are required.

### Who am I sharing my data with?

Farmers Business Network, or FBN, will be collecting and securely keeping all of the data collected in their Gradable platform. Data will only be shared externally in aggregated form to demonstrate carbon sequestration and energy usage- never with individual information included.

### Do I have to pay for my data to be stored on Gradable?

FBN's Gradable platform comes at no cost to participants in the ICCI program.

### Will I have to listen to a sales pitch from anyone?

The project partners will not reach out to you to sell any of their products or services. If you are curious about any products or services they offer, they will be more than happy to share the requested information with you.

### Is this a carbon market program?

This program is considered a carbon inset program- there is no buying or selling of carbon credits, but you won't be able to access carbon markets on acres enrolled in this program for the length of your contract. Carbon assets generated from participation in this program are being claimed by ADM.

## Other Questions?

[icci@farmland.org](mailto:icci@farmland.org)

[www.farmland.org/icci](http://www.farmland.org/icci)