TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Quarterly Meeting
Monday, May 13, 2013
Albemarle Agri-Civic Center, 26032 Newt Road, Albemarle NC 28001
Teleconference phone number: (704) 342-6203
To join the Connect Pro meeting: https://agr.ncgovconnect.com/trc/

TRC Business Meeting – Kelly Ibrahim, Chair
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Members & Attendees

Name	**Affiliation**	
Kelly Ibrahim	DSWC	Member
Dewitt Hardee	NCDA&CS	Member
J Ben Knox	Rowan SWCD	Member
Greg Hughes	Hertford SWCD	Member
Jeff Young	DSWC	Member
Benjy Strope	WRC	Member
Davis Ferguson	DSWC	Member
Tom Ellis	NC Grange	Member
Terri Ruch	NRCS	Member
Chester Lowder	NC Farm Bureau	Member
Lisa Fine	DSWC	
Ken Parks	DSWC	
Tom Hill	DSWC	
Jeff Harris	Martin SWCD	
Joey Hester	DSWC	
David Williams	DSWC	

Approval of minutes- The minutes were approved with corrections. Tom Ellis 1st, Dewitt Hardee 2nd, all approved.

Approval of agenda by consensus.

Discussion items:

1. Report on Commission Actions on TRC Recommendations-Kelly Ibrahim reported the TRC recommendations which were approved and altered at the March Soil & Water Conservation Commission Meeting.

Action Items

1. Consideration of revisions to the Nutrient Scavenger Crop policy-The policy was revised to reflect the TRC's intent. Ben Knox 1st, Tom Ellis 2nd, all approved. (see attached policy)

Kelly Ibrahim

2. Consideration of revisions to the Cover Crop policy- The cover crop policy was revised to clarify the TRC's intent. Ben Knox 1st, Chester Lowder 2nd, all approved. (see attached policy)

   http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition/Text-Version

   Kelly Ibrahim

3. Consideration of revisions to the Waste Application Systems policy- The waste application system policy was revised to include compost spreaders. Davis Ferguson 1st, Tom Ellis 2nd, all approved (see attached policy).

   Lisa Fine/Kelly Ibrahim

4. Set next meeting location and date: July/August – It was decided that Kelly Ibrahim will send a doodle poll out in July to plan for next meeting.

5. Inline water control structure pricing- David Williams proposed to increase the cost of the 8"X 5' to $941 to fall in line with the cost of the other sized structures. Dewitt Hardee 1st, Tom Ellis 2nd, all approved.

Discussion items (continued)

1. Above ground storage tanks- Greg Hughes, will continue the workgroup.
2. Discussion of AgWRAP limitations on conservation irrigation-Ben Knox
   This issue may come back again later or be directed to the AgWrap Review Committee. Ken will contact the district for further information.
3. Member/guest comments

Nutrient Scavenger Crop

Definition/Purpose

A Nutrient Scavenger Crop is a crop of small grain grown primarily as a seasonal nutrient scavenger. The purpose is to scavenge and cycle plant nutrients. The nutrient scavenger crop also adds organic matter to the soil, improves infiltration, aeration and tilth, improves soil quality, reduces soil crusting, provides residue for conservation tillage, and sequesters carbon. Benefits may include reduction of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

Policies

1. For a nutrient scavenger crop to improve water quality, it must become quickly established, grow vigorously, and accumulate significant biomass in the early fall before nutrients are leached below the root zone. Only the following crops are eligible for this incentive. They **must** be planted by the planting deadline and sown at the seeding rates given below for each region.

Nutrient Scavenger Crop	Minimum Planting Rate	Coastal Plain Plant Deadline/ *Earliest Kill Date**	Piedmont Plant Deadline/ *Earliest Kill Date**	Mountains Plant Deadline/ *Earliest Kill Date**
Barley	2-3 bu	Nov 15~~Oct. 15~~/ *April 1*	Oct. 31~~Oct. 10~~/ *April 10*	Oct.15~~Oct. 10~~/ *April 10*
Oats	3 bu	Nov. 15~~Oct. 15~~/ *April 1*	Oct. 31~~Oct. 10~~/ *April 10*	~~Nov.1~~Oct. 15/ *April 10*
Rye	2 bu	Nov. 15~~30~~/ *April 1*	~~Nov. 30~~Oct. 31/ *April 10*	Oct. 15~~Nov.1~~/ *April 10*
Triticale	90 lb	Nov. 15~~30~~/ *April 1*	Oct~~Nov~~. 3~~10~~/ *April 10*	Oct. 15~~Nov.1~~/ *April 10*
Wheat	2-3 bu	Nov. 15~~30~~/ *April 1*	Oct~~Nov~~. 3~~10~~/ *April 10*	Oct. 15~~Nov. 1~~/ *April 10*

*Note: Planting deadline in standard print and earliest kill date shown in *italics*. The scavenger crop shall remain until the cover has reached either physiological maturity (early bootstage) or has been left to grow until the required kill date.

2. Establishment of nutrient scavenger crops must be planned well in advance to achieve a good stand. Seedbed preparation may be done by any suitable method. Seedbed preparation may be eliminated when nutrient scavenger crops are seeded by broadcasting into a standing crop, into residues of a previous crop by conservation tillage methods or when the harvesting procedure or residue shredding will cover seeds. No-till methods are preferred.

3. Drill or broadcast methods of seeding may be used. Broadcast methods of seeding should be completed prior to harvest for cotton and soybeans. For cotton or soybeans, it is highly recommended that seed be broadcast during the defoliation pass or before leaf drop. Subsequent leaf drop and harvest operations will cover seeds and help ensure good germination.

4. Nutrient scavenger crops must be allowed to grow throughout the winter and early spring to achieve the purpose of the incentive. Greatest effectiveness is achieved if left to grow until the early boot stage. The planting and kill dates (see table under policy #1) are given in order to achieve optimum physiological maturity.~~.~~

5. No animal waste or fertilizer will be applied to these nutrient scavenger crops unless it is specifically recommended by ~~an agronomist~~ an NCDA&CS regional agronomist, or an agronomist certified by the N.C. Agricultural Consultants Association (NCACA) or Certified Crop Advisor Program (CCA). The fields must not be grazed nor the crop removed. No burning by fire of crop residue will be permitted.

6. No payment for this incentive shall be made until the nutrient scavenger crop reaches the kill date. Field office representatives shall verify each spring that cover has reached either physiological maturity (early bootstage) or has been left to grow until the required kill date. Field offices unwilling to assist operators in achieving success and monitor nutrient scavenger crop establishment and stand quality should not offer this incentive to cooperators in their district.

7. Disking or plowing destroys the majority of the soil quality gains associated with nutrient scavenger crop management. Therefore, while disking or plowing may be allowed by this practice, conservation tillage is encouraged.

8. Certified seeds or bin seed may be used for each year to receive the annual incentive payment. **Cooperators using bin seed must be careful to adhere to the restrictions imposed by the federal Plant Variety Protection Act, the NC seed rules and statutes, and laws governing the use of seed from patented plants.** Seed allowed for cost share includes rye, tritcale, oats, barley, or wheat. Rye or triticale is preferred for higher rates of nutrient scavenging and biomass accumulation. Incentive rates are dependent on the species planted can be found on the average cost list.

9. Practice has a $25,000 lifetime cap per cooperator. Each field is eligible for up to three annual contracts per cooperator. Annual contracts do not need to be consecutive years. The life of the BMP is one year.

10. Growers currently receiving state or federal cost share for any conservation tillage practice are not eligible for this practice on the same field or group of fields. (All conservation tillage incentive rates include cost of nutrient scavenger crops.)

11. Growers who have previously received state or federal cost share for any conservation tillage practice are eligible for this BMP.

12. When determining the acreage for which payments can be made for this practice, only the acreage actually planted shall be considered. The area occupied by farm roads, best management practices, ditches, structures, etc. shall not be included in planted acreage.

13. BMP soil, nitrogen, and phosphorus impacts are required on the contract. Include the planted acreage as well. Refer to the Minimum NCACSP Effects Requirements table later in this section for the correct methods of calculation.

14. On occasion it may be unavoidable for the cooperator to need to access the field when the traffic will result in ruts in the field (e.g., harvest operations). With documented approval from field staff, the cooperator can spot disk/level ruts to smooth out the surface. The field staff will work with the cooperator to stay in compliance with his/her conservation tillage contract. If field staff determines adequate cover can be established prior to next crop being planted, a cover crop should be planted immediately. The field staff can provide a recommendation on what might be best to plant as a quick cover. Cooperators must contact their district office for assistance.

    a. Field staff needs to determine the level of need for isolated disking. If smoothing the ruts will allow for the cooperator to stay in compliance, no contract extension will be required.

    b. If extensive disking and leveling occurs, contract must be extended by one year or cooperator must refund entire amount of incentive payment.

Recommendation

Growers are encouraged to establish this BMP using conservation tillage or long term no-till.

Specifications

NC NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specification #340 (Cover Crop), # 328 (Conservation Cropping Rotation), #329~~A~~ (Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/~~and~~ Strip Till/Direct Seed)~~, and #778 (Long Term No Till)~~.

(Revised July 2009; Policy #14 added March 2010, revised July 2013)

Cover Crop

Definition/Purpose

A crop or mixture of crops ~~of grasses, legumes, or small grain~~ grown primarily for seasonal protection, erosion control and soil improvement. It usually is grown for one year or less. The major purpose is water and wind erosion control, to cycle plant nutrients, add organic matter to the soil, improve infiltration, aeration and tilth, improve soil quality, reduce soil crusting, and sequester carbon/nutrients. Benefits may include reduction of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. (DIP)

Policies

~~1.~~ For a cover crop to improve water quality, it must become quickly established, grow vigorously, and accumulate significant biomass. See NRCS Cover Crop code 340 Specifications table 1 for crops and required planting dates. ~~The following crops are eligible for this incentive. They must be planted by the planting deadline and sown at the seeding rates given below for each region (see Table 1.).~~

~~Table 1. Required Planting Rates and Deadline Planting Dates.~~

~~Cover Crop Species~~	Planting Rates ~~(Lower amount: minimum rate)~~	~~Required Minimum Planting Dates by Physiographic Region~~	~~Deadline Planting Dates by Physiographic Region~~
		~~Coastal Plain Piedmont Mountains~~	~~1.Coastal Plain 2.Piedmont 3.Mountains~~
~~Annual Lespedezas~~ [1]	~~20-40 lbs.~~	~~1. February 1 2. February 1 3. March 15~~	~~1. March 15 2. April 1 3. April 15~~
~~Austrian Winter Pea~~ [4]	~~30-40 lbs.~~	~~1. August 25 2. August 25 3. N/A~~	~~1. October 25 2. October 15 3. N/A~~
~~Barley~~	~~2-3 bu.~~	~~1. September 1 August 20 4. August 1~~	~~1. October 15 2. October 10 3. October 10~~
~~Crimson Clover~~ [4]	~~15-30 lbs.~~	~~1. Sept. 15 2. Sept. 5 3. Sept. 1~~	~~1. November 15 2. November 5 3. November 1~~
~~Cow Pea (Southern Pea)~~	~~30-90 lbs drilled or 70-120 lbs broadcast~~		~~Late summer~~
~~Hairy Vetch~~	~~30-40 lbs.~~	~~1. August 25 2. October 15~~	~~1. Oct. 25 2. October 15~~

~~5~~		~~3 July 15~~	~~3. August 30~~

Cover Crop Species	Planting Rates (Lower amount: minimum rate)	Required Minimum Planting Dates by Physiographic Region	Deadline Planting Dates by Physiographic Region
Oats	3 bu.	1. September 1 2. August 20 3. August 1	1. October 15 2. October 10 3. November 1
Pearl Millet [3]	6-10 lbs. in row; 20-25 lbs. drilled or broadcast	1. May 5 2. April 25 3. April 15	1. July 5 2. June 30 3. June 30
Rye	2 bu.	1. Sept. 15 2. Sept. 5 3. August 15	1 November 1 2. November 1 3. November 1
Ryegrass [5]	30-40 lbs.	1. Sept. 15 2. Sept. 15 3. Sept. 1	1. November 15 2. November 1 3. November 1
Sorghum-Sudan Hybrids [1, 2]	15-20 lbs in row 35-40 lbs drilled or broadcast	1. May 5 2. April 15 3. April 15	1. July 5 2. June 30 3. June 20
Sweet Clover, Red Clover	6-10 lb/ac drilled 10-20 lb/ac broadcast	Dec to Jan 15 or after wheat	Dec to Jan 15 or after wheat
Sun Hemp	40-50 lb/ac	9 weeks before average fall freeze date	9 weeks before average fall freeze date
Triticale	1 ½ bu.	1. Sept. 15 2. Sept. 1 3. Aug. 20	1 Nov. 30 2. Nov. 20 3. Oct. 20
Wheat	2-3 bu.	1. Oct. 25 2.October 10 3.October 1	1. November 15 2. November 1 3. November 1

[1] Tolerates fairly acid soil but performs best when a soil pH of 6.0 to 6.5 is maintained.

[2] Potential danger from prussic acid poison if plants are frosted, stunted or young growth is grazed. Do not allow horses to graze the green plants; apparently the hay may be used if properly cured.

[3] No problem with prussic acid.

[4] Inoculate seed. [5] May at times become a pest since it volunteers readily. Herbicides can now be used effectively to reduce this problem. [6] Mid range of production. Amounts will vary ± 50% depending on numerous factors. Top growth only

~~2.~~1. Selection and ~~E~~establishment of cover crops must be planned well in advance to achieve a good stand and maintain 85 percent or greater cover until a minimum of 30 days prior to planting. Seedbed preparation may be done by any suitable implement or method. Seedbed preparation may be eliminated when cover crops are seeded by broadcasting into a standing crop, into residues of a previous crop by conservation tillage methods or when the harvesting procedure or residue shredding will cover seeds. No-till methods are preferred.

~~3.~~2. Drill or broadcast methods of seeding may be used. Broadcast methods of seeding should be completed prior to harvest for cotton, soybeans and peanuts. For cotton or soybeans, it is highly recommended that cover be broadcast during the defoliation pass or before leaf drop. Subsequent leaf drop and harvest operations will cover seeds and help ensure good germination.

~~4.~~3. No payment for this cost-shared practice shall be made until the cover crop is established.

~~5.~~4. Field offices unwilling to assist operators in achieving success and monitor cover crop establishment and stand quality should not offer this incentive to cooperators in their district.

~~6.~~5. Allow the cover crop to grow until a minimum of 30 days before planting the succeeding crop. Terminate cover crop as late as possible to maximize plant biomass production considering the time needed to prepare the field for the next crop. Disking or plowing destroys the majority of the soil quality gains associated with cover crop management. Therefore, while disking or plowing may be allowed by this practice, conservation tillage is encouraged. Small grains should grow until at least early boot stage. Legumes should grow until at least early flower.

~~7.~~**6.** Either certified seed or bin seed may be used for this cost share practice in order to receive payment. The maximum payment for planting shall be $20.00 per acre. **Cooperators using bin seed must be careful to adhere to the restrictions imposed by the federal Plant Variety Protection Act, the NC seed rules and statutes, and laws governing the use of seed from patented plants.**

~~8.~~7. Practice has a $15,000 lifetime limit per applicant and is limited to 3 annual contracts per applicant.

~~9.~~8. BMP soil and phosphorus impacts are required on the contract. Include the planted acreage as well. Refer to the Minimum NCACSP Effects Requirements table later in this section for the correct methods of calculation.

~~10.~~9. Cover crop is an annual practice. Request for payment must be annually.

10. Animal waste or fertilizer may be applied to these cover crops when needed to improve the vigor of the crop.

~~11.~~ This practice precludes the planting of cover crop for harvest. The fields must not be grazed or the crop removed. No burning by fire of crop residue will be permitted. ~~This practice precludes the planting of small grain for harvest.~~

~~12.~~11. An applicant may not simultaneously receive the cover crop incentive and either the 3-year conservation tillage incentive, the long-term no-till incentive, or the nutrient scavenger cover crop incentive.

~~13.~~12. On occasion it may be unavoidable for the cooperator to need to access the field when the traffic will result in ruts in the field (e.g., harvest operations). With documented approval from field staff, the cooperator can spot disk/level ruts to smooth out the surface. The field staff will work with the cooperator to stay in compliance with his/her conservation tillage contract. If field staff determines adequate cover can be established prior to next crop being planted, a cover crop should be planted immediately. The field staff can provide a recommendation on what might be best to plant as a quick cover. Cooperators must contact their district office for assistance.

a. Field staff needs to determine the level of need for isolated disking. If smoothing the ruts will allow for the cooperator to stay in compliance, no contract extension will be required.

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Specifications

NC NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specification #340 (Cover Crop), # 328 (Conservation Cropping Rotation), #329~~A~~ (Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/ ~~and~~ Strip Till/Direct Seed)~~., and #778 (Long Term No Till)~~.

(Revised July 2009; Policy #13 added March 2010, revised July 2013)

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Policies

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4. Field offices unwilling to assist operators in achieving success and monitor cover crop establishment and stand quality should not offer this incentive to cooperators in their district.

5. Allow the cover crop to grow until a minimum of 30 days before planting the succeeding crop. Terminate cover crop as late as possible to maximize plant biomass production considering the time needed to prepare the field for the next crop. Disking or plowing destroys the majority of the soil quality gains associated with cover crop management. Therefore, while disking or plowing may be allowed by this practice, conservation tillage is encouraged. Small grains should grow until at least early boot stage. Legumes should grow until at least early flower.

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Specifications

NC NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specification #340 (Cover Crop), # 328 (Conservation Cropping Rotation), #329 (Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed).

(Revised July 2009; Policy #13 added March 2010, revised July 2013)

Waste Application Systems

Definition/Purpose

A Waste Application System means an environmentally safe system (such as solid set, dry hydrant, mobile irrigation equipment, etc.) for the conveyance and distribution of animal wastes from waste treatment and storage structures to agricultural fields as part of an irrigation and waste utilization plan. (DIP)

Mobile Application System means a portable conveyance system for the application of liquid animal waste from a waste storage pond or lagoon or a manure spreader for the application of dry waste or compost.

Solid Set System means an in-ground sprinkler system which allows the conveyance of liquid waste from a waste storage pond or lagoon to allow land application of liquid wastes.

Underground Main and Hydrant System means an in ground system of pipes ending in hydrants which allows the conveyance of liquid waste from a waste storage pond or lagoon to facilitate the land application of animal wastes.

Policies

1. Items for reimbursement under the maximum are all equipment, materials, construction, installation, vegetation, pumps, etc. from the waste structure to and including the delivery system**. The type of system must be specified on CPO** (i.e. center pivot, traveling gun, solid set, etc.) Reimbursable items must be supported by receipts, including any previous payments to the cooperator for pipe, hydrants or other elements of a waste application system. **For all operations, cost share payments are limited to a $35,000 lifetime cap**. Cost share will not pay for any motorized vehicles used in transporting/applying waste or for replacing worn out equipment that was previously cost shared on.

2. By signing the Cost Share Agreement (NC-ACSP-2), the cooperator and/or landowner acknowledges and agrees that they are responsible for the maintenance or replacement of all equipment cost shared as a component of waste management measure(s) at their expense and that any cost shared component will not be sold or used as collateral for the life of the practice must be included in the CPO.

3. Above-ground mobile irrigation pipe may be used as a component of a waste application system for cost share with the following stipulations:

    a. All pipe from the lagoon or waste storage pond to the field must be buried according to NRCS standards;

    b. The waste application system must include a safety valve that will close in case pressure is lost; and

    c. The use of above ground pipe must be approved by an engineer.

4. The following guidelines apply for poultry litter spreaders:
    a. Before a cooperator can receive Cost Share assistance for a poultry litter spreader he/she must have a method for mortality disposal approved by the State Veterinarian and must have adequate litter storage (i.e. storage for 25% of the volume of waste generated annually). For purposes of the cost share program, storing covered or uncovered litter on the ground is not considered acceptable storage, nor is pit disposal acceptable for mortalities (unless approved in an emergency by the State Veterinarian.

    b. Only a commercially sold fan spinner, rotary type spreader with an adjustable door for calibration may be cost shared.

    c. Cost share will be based on actual cost ~~with receipts required~~ not to exceed the amount on the average cost list for ACSP, with receipts required.

    d. Non-producers are not eligible for litter or manure spreaders.

5. The following guidelines apply for compost spreaders:
    a. A permit is required from the State Veterinarian, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for all composters.
    b. All state regulations for composting must be followed.
    c. Only a commercially sold spreader appropriately sized for applying material consistent with the waste management plan may be cost shared.
    d. Cost share will be based on actual cost not to exceed the amount on the average cost list for ACSP, with receipts required.
    ~~d.~~e. Non-producers are not eligible for compost spreaders.

~~5.~~6. Fencing was ruled to be a production practice by the TRC and **is not** an acceptable element of this BMP.

~~6.~~7. When .0200 and Cost Share converge:

    a. When Cost Share is used for a waste application system that meets the .0200-certification requirements, and a new water quality problem associated with the waste application system is created through the actions of the farmer, Cost Share funds shall not be used to solve the new problem.

    b. When a waste management system is certified with equipment that is not cost shared, the farmer will be eligible to upgrade the system with Cost Share assistance as long as greater water quality benefits can be shown.

    c. Cost Share funds can be used to pay the difference between the current replacement value of a previously Cost Shared waste application system (e.g., a honey wagon) and a new system (e.g., solid set) as long as the new system is shown to provide greater water quality improvements.

    d. If a third party applicator arrangement for an animal operation fails the application system. This example would be analogous to a system that breaks through no fault of the operator, and a repair contract would be allowable.

e. Cost Share would be available to extend irrigation pipe when an existing Waste Management Plan (WMP) is updated and the operation will need to expand the waste application systems to take phosphorus or other nutrients into consideration or to base the application rates on more current realistic yield estimates. The operation would still be limited to the amount listed on the average cost list.

~~7.~~8. Waste Management Plan Statement (NC-ACSP-WMP) is required.

~~8.~~9. BMP soil impact is not required on this BMP. Include the amount of fresh manure in nitrogen and phosphorus units, which will be generated and properly managed under the waste management system. Also include the number of acres affected, animal type, and animal units.

~~9.~~10. Minimum life of BMP is ten (10) years.

Specifications

N. C. NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specification #442 (Irrigation System, Sprinkler), #430 (Irrigation Pipeline), #449 (Irrigation Water Management), and #590 (Nutrient Management). (Additional references)