

Sod-Based Rotation

Definition/Purpose

A Sod-Based Rotation Practice means an adapted sequence of crops, grasses and legumes, or a mixture thereof, established and maintained for a definite number of years as part of a conservation cropping system. Sod-based rotation is designed to provide adequate organic residue for maintenance or improvement of soil tilth to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

Policies

1. A one-time incentive payment per field will be made for establishment.
2. 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.
3. Minimum life of BMP is 3, 4 or 5 years, depending on the rotation. Average cost is based on the number of months fields are in sod:
 - a. 3 year sod-based rotation with fields in sod 17 months;
 - b. 4 year sod-based rotation with fields in sod 29 months; and
 - c. 5 year sod-based rotation with fields in sod 41 months.
4. In the event the established sod is destroyed with 6 months or more remaining in the required maintenance period, and the destruction is due to factors beyond the cooperators control, the cooperator is eligible for only one repair contract during the life of the maintenance period for the practice. So as to not interfere with the planned crop rotation, the repair contract shall not require the maintenance period to be renewed. If the cooperator elects not to repair the sod, then he/she must repay a pro-rated amount of the incentive received. (Repair contract payment is based on 75% of actual costs, in accordance with Repair Contracts policy in Section VI of the NCACSP manual.)

Any cooperator who receives state or federal funds for the 3 year sod-based rotation incentives after September 20, 2000 may remain eligible to receive incentive payments for 4 or 5 year sod-based rotation. The incentive payment for the 4 or 5 year sod-based rotation will be reduced by the amount paid for the 3 year practice.

5. When determining the acreage for which payments can be made for this incentive, 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.
6. Each cooperator will be limited to a \$25,000 lifetime cap for sod-based rotation.

Agriculture Cost Share Program

Standards

N. C. NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Standard #328 (Conservation Crop Rotation) and #512 (Pasture and Hayland Planting), # 528A (Prescribed Grazing).