

NRCS **NEWS RELEASE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Cover Crop/Prevented Plant EQIP Sign-up

NRCS is announcing a 2013 Cover Crop/Prevented Plant EQIP sign-up through August 16th. This program offers payments ranging from \$43-\$125 per acre on fields where a cover crop will be planted. Requirements for this program are to seed the cover crop this year and have at least 2 species in the mix. Our office has various seed mix recommendations available that have been put together to solve different resource concerns. Eligible acres can be any cropland acres, not just prevented plant acres. If you are interested in cover crops or know anyone who may be, don't hesitate to stop by or call the Long Prairie NRCS before the August 16th deadline. Our office is located in the Ag Service Center at 607 9th Street NE, Long Prairie and we can be reached via telephone at 320-732-6618 ext. 3.

Why plant a cover crop? Since late spring planting and prolonged rain has resulted in many fields that will go unplanted this year, farmers in this situation should consider alternate options to ensure long-term productivity from this difficult situation.

Planting cover crops has the potential to capture applied nutrients, fix nitrogen, build organic matter, control weeds, control erosion and improve soil quality during the remainder of the season. These benefits can build considerable yield potential for the following crops. With the possible "prevented planting" payment and the improved yield potential following a full season cover crop, the economic prospective for the whole rotation could be huge!

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