

LOCALLY APPROVED COVERS OR PRACTICES FOR DCP BASE ACREAGE

DCP base acreage is required to be protected from wind and water erosion and shall be maintained to control the propagation of weeds, including noxious weeds throughout the crop year. The following list of approved covers and practices shall be used throughout the crop year in order to maintain eligibility for DCP programs.

NOTE: If acreage is reported as Prevent Plant according to 2-CP (Rev. 15), haying or grazing of cover crops cannot occur until November 1st or later of the applicable crop year.

1. Crop residue from mechanical cultivation or chemical fallow.
2. Solid seeding of any crop (including corn) must be seeded timely enough to allow for adequate growth. This includes perennial crops.
3. Solid seeded cover crops can have fall fertilizer applied provided sufficient cover is left on the soil surface after fertilizer is applied.
4. Rye or winter wheat seeded by the normal fall planting date for harvest the following year.
5. Approved wildlife food plots which may include corn windbreaks.
6. Flax strips at the normal seeding rate of not more than 16 feet apart may contain a minimum of one row of flax, with two or more rows encouraged. Two or more rows are required on flax strips up to 25 feet apart.
7. Winter wheat or fall rye strips up to 18 inches in width that will be used the following spring for sugar beet seeding.
8. The spreading of straw-type manure and/or crop residue can be substituted in place of cover crop or existing crop residue.
9. Tillage is allowed to control weeds, wind and water erosion in a manner consistent with erosion control measures normally carried out on other cropland in the area.

Note: Deviations from the guidelines above can be made by the COC with concurrence by the county NRCS.

10. Weeds, including weeds on planted acreage, must be controlled by either mechanical or chemical treatment.
11. A “cocktail mixture” of various crops, not limited to, but may include turnips, radishes, sugar beets, legumes, small grains and/or coarse grains, as a cover crop or intended for forage or grazing.
12. On a case-by-case basis, producers can request an extension from the COC to perform control measures for wind/water erosion or weed control. See 4-CP (Rev. 6), par. 33 for guidance.