

2011-2012 Cover Crop Program

MDA Cover Crop Spring Certification Reminder (December 12, 2011)

The Spring Certification for the 2011-2012 Cover Crop Programs is just around the corner! The reporting dates are listed below. Please note that dates are less than 1 week due to office closures.

As most of you know spring kill-down or suppression may occur on or after **March 1, 2012**. No nutrients from any source shall be applied to any acres enrolled in the 2011/2012 Winter Cover Crop Program before March 1, 2012; however, **Potash** and **Lime** may be applied to acres enrolled in the cover crop program.

The program requires spring certification to occur within two weeks after the kill-down or suppression has been achieved, but no later than **June 1, 2012**. To spring certify, you will need to verify fields and acres from the fall certification and provide kill-down method(s) and date(s). Acceptable methods for ending of winter management include: green chopping (for on-farm use only), plowing under, or killing by using a burn-down herbicide. *Grazing is NOT considered an acceptable method.*

In addition to providing the above information, we will prepare a Claim for Payment for eligible acres during your visit. All payments will be from the State of Maryland and will be in check form.

With regard to the State payments, many of you will receive a letter reminding you to have or obtain a current Nutrient Management Plan and send the required form "Annual Implementation Report (AIR) to their office. ***This letter is a reminder that you must have completed AND submitted the Annual Implementation Report to the appropriate office prior to receiving monies from this program or the monies will be held until the "AIR" is filed.*** (See http://www.mda.state.md.us/resource_conservation/nutrient_management/index.php for current form)

Note: Our office will not be accepting 2011-2012 Cover Crop Spring Certifications on Friday, April 20, 2012, Friday, May 25, 2012, and Monday, May 28, 2012, due to the WC Envirothon, MD State Service Reduction Day and the Memorial Day holiday, respectively. Please be sure to call for an appointment to ensure someone will be at the office and available to assist you.

The 2011-2012 Cover Crop Program is administered by the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program (MACS) and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund.



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