

Farm Agronomic Practice (FAP) Program



The **Clinton County SWCD Farm Agronomic Practice (FAP)** grant program provides financial incentives to Clinton County farms to implement soil-based agronomic practices that improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion and agricultural waste discharges.



Eligibility:

- Farms are required to participate in the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program, a voluntary farm planning program administered by the local Soil and Water District.
- Farm must be Non-CAFO except for Cover crops and Conservation tillage
- Farm can not be receiving payments from another grant or program for the same practice.

Program Information:

- Grants are limited to a maximum of \$8,000 per farm operation, per calendar year.
- Funding rates may change due to program demand and funding availability.
- Practices implemented with District assistance may have different payment rates or processes.
- Applications are due May 15 for Rotational Grazing, August 15 for cover cropping, or 30 days prior to practice implementation for all other practices. Please submit one application for all practices planned from May 1, 2023, until October 31, 2023.
- The District will review applications in order of receipt.
- Claim Forms, including corresponding maps of the location of implemented practices, are required within 30 days of completing practice implementation or you may not be eligible for payment.
- Farms must be in good standing with the District to qualify

Eligible Practices:

- **Cover Crops**
- **Cropland to Hay**
- **Rotational Grazing**
- **Conservation Tillage-No Till Planting**
- **No-Till Pasture and Hay land Renovation**
- **Critical Area seeding**

Applications can be found online at www.clintoncountyswcd.org or by contacting the District at 515-561-4616 ext 3

Practice Requirements and Payment Rates:

Cover Cropping(\$70 per acre for drilled , \$82 for Inter-seeded, and \$45 per acre for broadcast)

All cover crops must be seeded at an approved rate to provide effective soil coverage and must be in place during the non-growing season. Broadcast seeding is expected to be completed by October 1st. Drilled and otherwise incorporated cover crops are expected to be completed by October 15th. If a farm applies for drilled cover crop and ends up broadcasting it, the district will pay at the broadcast rate. If a farm applies for broadcast cover crop and ends up drilling or incorporating it, the district will still pay at the broadcast rate.

Cropland to Hay(\$75 per acre)

Land is eligible for a one-time payment only at the period of the rotation where annual crop land is seeded down using no-till drill into perennial forages for pasture, hay or biomass production. This practice does not apply to the establishment of annually planted and harvested food, fiber, or oilseed crops. Seeding rate must provide full soil coverage and planting method must be adequate to accomplish the planned purpose for the practice. If applicable, nurse crops must be seeded at the maximum recommended rate for the variety and seed blend used (30-50 lbs per acre for oats).

Rotational Grazing (\$30 per acre)

Pastures supporting ruminant livestock are eligible for payments on an annual basis if livestock are rotated at least twice per week, excluded from surface water, and if at least three inches residual vegetation is maintained after grazing. Livestock access to surface water at well-managed discrete watering areas and livestock crossings are allowable under this program only when no other available options exist. Grazing plans, grazing maps, and records of rotational pasture management that indicate livestock are rotated at least twice per week to adequately rested pastures are required. Forest lands recently cleared and converted to pasture are not eligible.

Conservation Tillage: No-Till Corn/Annual Crops(\$15 per acre)

This program is limited to the planting of annual crops in a no-till system. A minimum of 30 percent of the soil surface must be covered by uniformly distributed plant residue after planting. There must not be any full-width soil disturbance performed from the time immediately following harvest or termination of one cash crop through harvest or termination of the next cash crop in the rotation, regardless of the depth of the tillage operation. Full-width harrowing, chisel plowing, field cultivating, tandem disking, or vertical tillage is not allowable under this practice. Cover crop planting must be drilled or broadcast, not incorporated. Manure injection with soil surface closure at time of injection is allowable under this practice.

No-Till Pasture and Hayland Renovation (\$75 per acre)

This program is limited to use of no-till drill equipment to improve pastures and/or hay. Seeding rate must provide full soil coverage and planting method must be adequate to accomplish the planned purpose for the practice.

Critical Area Seeding (\$300 per acre)

This program will apply to barnyards and other areas needing vegetation to reduce erosion and nutrient losses