

## Farm Agronomic Practice (FAP) Program



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

The FAP program also provides education and instructional activity grants to support outreach regarding the impacts of agricultural practices on water quality and current state agricultural water quality regulations.



### **Eligibility:**

Vermont farms required to comply with the Required Agricultural Practices are eligible to apply.

### **Program Information:**

- Applications are due 30 days prior to practice implementation for all practices except rotational grazing and cover crops.
- Rotational grazing applications are due June 15
- Cover cropping applications are due August 1
- Funding rates may change based on program demand and available funding.
- Grants are limited to \$8,000 per farm.
- Shapefiles or maps of implemented practices must be included in application and/or with final report.
- Applications are reviewed in order of receipt.

### **Eligible Practices:**

- **Cover Cropping**
- **Conservation Crop Rotation**
- **Conservation Crop Rotation & Nurse Crop**
- **Rotational Grazing**
- **Conservation Tillage**
- **No-Till Pasture and Hayland Renovation**
- **Manure Injection**
- **Educational or Instructional Activities** – (Maximum award of \$1000 per activity)

**Applications can be found online at [Agriculture.vermont.gov/fap](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap) or by contacting the Water Quality Division at (802) 828-2431.**

## **Practice Requirements and Payment Rates:**

### **Cover Cropping (\$30 per acre for broadcast or inter-seeded, \$35 per acre for helicopter seeding, and \$45 per acre for drilled or otherwise incorporated)**

All cover crops must be seeded at highest recommended rate to provide effective soil coverage and must be in place during the non-growing season. Broadcast or inter-seeded cover crops must be seeded by October 1st to be eligible. Drilled and otherwise incorporated cover crops must be seeded by October 15th.

### **Conservation Crop Rotation (\$35 per acre)**

Program participants are eligible for a one-time payment only at the period of the rotation where annual crop land is seeded down into perennial forages. This practice does not apply to the establishment of annually planted and harvested food, fiber, or oilseed crops.

### **Conservation Crop Rotation with Nurse Crop (\$45 per acre)**

Program participants are eligible for a one-time payment only at the period of the rotation where annual crop land is seeded down into perennial forages. Nurse crop cover crops must be seeded at the maximum recommended rate for the variety and seed blend used.

### **Rotational Grazing (\$25 per acre)**

Pastures are eligible for payments on an annual basis if livestock are excluded from surface water, rotated at least twice a week, and adequate perennial vegetation, at least three inches residual vegetation, is maintained on pastures. 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 that demonstrate adequate rotational pasture management, including at least twice-weekly moves and consideration of appropriate pasture recovery periods, are required for payment under this program.

### **Conservation Tillage (\$12 per acre)**

No full width tillage shall be performed regardless of tillage depth (except for mulch till as needed to properly implement the practice), previous crop residues cannot be burned, and residues must be uniformly distributed over the entire soil surface where the practice is to be implemented. Manure injection is allowable under this practice. A minimum of 30 percent of the soil surface is covered by plant residue immediately following planting of the crop.

### **No-Till Pasture and Hayland Renovation (\$12 per acre)**

This program is limited to use of no-till drill equipment to improve pastures and/or hay.

### **Manure Injection (\$25 per acre)**

This program is limited to subsurface injection including disk, shank, and grassland manure injection, injected below soil surface simultaneously with a single implement. Aeration is not covered under this practice.