

## 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 for practice assistance.

Organizations and businesses providing educational events for Vermont farms are eligible to apply for educational or instructional activity assistance.

### **Program Information:**

- Grants are limited to a maximum of \$8,000 per farm operation, per State fiscal year.
- Funding rates may change due to program demand and funding availability.
- Applications are due June 15 for Rotational Grazing, August 1 for cover cropping, or 30 days prior to practice implementation for all other practices. Please submit one application for all practices planned until June 30, 2022.
- The Agency will review applications in order of receipt.
- Claim Forms, including corresponding shapefiles or 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 State of Vermont to be eligible for Water Quality Technical and Financial Assistance, as defined in 6 V.S.A. § 4802.

### **Eligible Practices:**

- **Cover Crop**
- **Crop to Hay**
- **Crop to Hay with Nurse Crop**
- **Rotational Grazing**
- **Conservation Tillage**
- **No-Till Pasture and Hayland Renovation**
- **Manure Injection**
- **Educational or Instructional Activities**

**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, 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 seeding is expected to be completed by October 1st to be eligible. Drilled and otherwise incorporated cover crops are expected to be completed by October 15th.

### **Crop to Hay (\$35 per acre \$45 per acre with a nurse crop)**

Land is eligible for a one-time payment only at the period of the rotation where annual crop land is seeded down 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 (\$25 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 for payment under this program. Forest lands recently cleared and converted to pasture are not eligible for payment.

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

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. 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 with soil surface closure at time of injection is allowable under this practice. A minimum of 30 percent of the soil surface is covered by plant residue immediately following crop planting. Cover crop planting must be drilled, not incorporated.

### **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. Seeding rate must provide full soil coverage and planting method must be adequate to accomplish the planned purpose for the practice.

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

This program is limited to subsurface injection including disc, shank, and grassland manure injection, injected below soil surface simultaneously with a single implement. Aeration is not allowable under this practice. All manure injection must follow manure application standards of the Vermont Required Agricultural Practices Rule.