

ORANGE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Application for Soil Health Practices Financial Assistance Page 1

Issued May, 2021

Funding Incentives for Soil Health Practices

Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) is accepting applications from Orange County farmers for financial assistance to support the implementation of a variety of 'Soil Health' practices. This includes such practices as cover crops, conservation tillage and residue management.

To be eligible, applicants need to have completed Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) planning with this office at least to the Tier 2 level prior to applying. Completion of a Tier 3 plan will be required before any cost-sharing application is approved. Contact our office if you don't know the status of your AEM planning.

The due date for applications under this round of funding is August 20th, 2021. It is expected that applicants who are selected for funding will be notified no later than January 1st, 2022. Funding agreements will be developed with approved applicants covering the period 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2023.

Financial assistance will be in the form of flat-rate incentive payments and will be acreage-based. Applications for large acreages may be reduced based on the number of applications received. Cost-share rates are expected to be as follows:

Cover Crop - \$53.54/acre

Residue and Tillage Management - \$21.68/acre

A total of \$50,000 is expected to be allocated to this two-year program. **Note that delivering this program will be dependent upon NYS continuing to make AEM Tier 4 Project Implementation funding available to conservation districts.**

To justify the expenses associated with administration of this program, applications should propose soil health practices on a minimum of 5 acres.

OCSWCD reserves the right to make changes to rates, acreage caps, funding allocations and other aspects of this program at their sole discretion.

Projects will be required to meet one of the following Practice Standards issued by USDA-NRCS:

340-Cover Crop [NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE \(usda.gov\)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/csp/cover-crops/)

345-Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till [Conservation Practice Standard Residue Management Reduced Till \(Code 345\) \(usda.gov\)](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/csp/residue-management-reduced-till/)

Questions may be directed to Kevin Sumner or Travis Ferry at 845.343.1873 or at kevin.sumner@ocsoil.org, or travis.ferry@ocsoil.org.

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APPLICATION DUE DATE – AUGUST 20th, 2021

Applicant Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Town and Section-Lot-Block, or Mailing Address of Farm Headquarters

I would like to apply for _____ acres of Cover Crop

I would like to apply for _____ acres of Residue and Tillage Management

Note: Enter ANNUAL acreage. Approved projects are expected to cover practice application for two years – 2022 and 2023.

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Planning Status

I have completed AEM Planning to the Tier 2 Level _____ Yes _____ No

(Completion of AEM Planning to the Tier 2 level is REQUIRED in order to submit this application.)

I have an AEM Tier 3 Plan that includes COVER CROP and/or RESIDUE AND TILLAGE
MANAGEMENT _____ Yes _____ No _____ Don't Know

*If you don't know the status of AEM Planning on your farm, contact this office BEFORE submitting this application.

Applicants who have completed the AEM Tier 2 process but do not have a Tier 3 Plan will be required to complete one before their application is acted on. If you need a Tier 3 Plan, you will be contacted by this office after receipt of your application. Lack of responsiveness on the part of an applicant in completing the Tier 3 Plan, as determined by OCSWCD, will result in disapproval of that applicant's request for funding assistance.