

## CBP SPFP Cover Crop Funding Limits

- Eligibility to receive Cover Crop BMP payment
  - 1- Operator has never used cover crops before
  - 2- Operator has only experimented with cover crops for 1- 3 year
  - 3- Operator has only used cover crops after certain crops, but wants to try cover crops after new crops.
    - a. Grant monies could be extend to a cover crop that operator has not established before (example – operator has cover cropped after corn silage for the last 10 years and now wants to try to cover crop after soybeans. Grant dollars would be allowed for the cover crop after soybeans)
- Grant monies can be extended for a maximum of 4 years (would cover 2 grants periods, if the district wants this option, but funding is not guaranteed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle and the district will need to reapply)
- District would be able to set eligibility and standards higher than those listed above with the exception of the 4 year payment limit. If payments are to be extended past 4 years, Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant Funds can not be used.
- ✓ *Note*
  - *These limits are for direct payments only and should not be reflected for equipment rental programs*
  - *These limits are for the operator's experience with cover crops and not the acres that the operator farms. (example, if a operator uses cover crops for 10 years and picks up newly rented ground that was never cover cropped, the operator is still not eligible, since he has the cover crop experience*

### Justification:

- The SPFP Manual states (page 3) “the long term goal of the SPFP is **not to subsidize** agricultural operations but to improve water quality in the most cost effective manner.”
- NRCS only pays (incentive) for this practice for 1 year on farms where this practice is not already established