

## Chesapeake Bay Watershed Only

### Cambria-Indiana County No-Till Incentive Program

--Program Signup Form--

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Watershed (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Have you no-tilled before? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what and how often? \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Estimated number of No-Till acres to be planted:***

##### **Cover Crops**

Winter rye (\$14/acre) Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter wheat &/or barley (\$12/acre) Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Harvestable/Grazable Crops**

Cool Season Grass/legume (\$20/acre) Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Small Grain (\$20/acre) Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Soybeans (\$20/acre) Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Corn (\$20/acre) Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Other No-Till**

Warm Season Grass (\$20/acre) Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Strip Till Corn (\$15/acre) Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Cambria Co. Conservation District No-Till Drill Program:***

Through the Cambria County Conservation District's No-Till Drill Program, Cambria and Indiana County Bay Watershed operators can rent no-till drills for \$15/ac (\$12/ac for covercrops) with a \$50 minimum plus a \$20 delivery fee (up to 10 miles with an additional \$1/mile over 10 miles) to plant crops associated with this program. If you do not own a no-till drill or are just now considering your no-till options, renting a drill from the Cambria County Conservation District could be an excellent way to get started. With the drill rental comes farm delivery, set-up assistance, and full service maintenance of the drill. The equipment program has been in operation for nearly 12 years and has 3 drills available: a Haybuster, a John Deere, and a Truax Grass drill. Are you interested in renting a no-till drill? Yes  No

***Additional materials needed to enroll in the No-Till Incentive Program:***

- Field map(s) showing field and field location (contact your FSA or NRCS office for field maps)
- Completed copy of IRS form W-9 (contact the Cambria County Conservation District if you need an IRS Form W-9)

***Please return this form, field map(s), and W-9 to:***

**Cambria County Conservation District**

**Mark Stockley**

**401 Candlelight Drive, Suite 221**

**Ebensburg, PA 15931**

**Phone: 814-472-2120**

**FAX: 814-472-0686**

***General Program Information:***

- Enrollment is first-come, first-serve. Operators are not guaranteed enrollment until notified by the Conservation District.
- **Fall plowing (mold board) is prohibited on all owned and/or operated ground.**

***Additional Cover Crop Information:***

- ***Cover Crops must be established with no-till equipment.***
- Eligible Cover Crops: Winter rye, winter wheat, and barley, planted at 2 bushels per acre (certified seed is *not* required).
- Cover crops must be established by Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. Establishment deadline is subject to change depending on weather conditions. You will be notified if the establishment deadline changes.
- Liquid manure application is permitted on cover crop fields.

***Additional Program Information:***

***Benefits Of Cover Crops***

Corn silage production is almost second to none in terms of forage quality. However the production of corn silage is also one of the most soil-damaging crops you can grow. Because corn silage removes the entire corn plant from the field, very little, if any at all, corn residue is left on the field's surface. The result is a continual decrease of the soil's quality because of the constant removal of organic matter (in the form of corn residue), which can dramatically reduce the soil's production capability over time. Additionally, because of the lack of corn stalk residue following silage production, the field is exposed to soil erosion, which carries away organic matter and nutrients found in the topsoil, again damaging the field's productive capacity, and also degrading the quality of local streams and groundwater. One method for continuing to produce corn silage to meet the farm's forage needs and at the same time maintain and increase the soil quality and protect the environment is to grow a winter cover crop. The use of cover crops following corn silage harvest can dramatically reduce soil erosion, increase soil health, reduce nutrient runoff, and protect surface and groundwater resources. Cover crops reduce soil loss and nutrient runoff by preventing soil-raindrop impact and by decreasing the flow of soil and nutrient-laden rain and snowmelt running off the field. Cover crops can also improve the soil's health by creating organic matter, reducing compaction, retaining and recycling nutrients, and increasing water infiltration, by converting nutrients into leaves and roots which replace the corn residue lost from the field during silage harvest. Over time cover crops can quickly "pay for themselves" by improving the soil's ability to grow high quality, high yielding silage.