

Northwest Florida Water Management District

Grass Rotation Pilot Program Definitions

The following equipment and tools are eligible for cost-share reimbursement. Only purchases of new equipment or services will be eligible for reimbursement.

Descriptions of Flat-Rate Payment Practices and Equipment

Grass Conversion:

Funds will be provided for a producer to incorporate grass into their rotation on a schedule established as part of their individual farm plan. There will be one payment of \$340 for each acre upon which it is determined that grass has been established (determination will be made using NRCS standards). The grass, once established, must then be maintained for two seasons.

Fencing:

Funds for fencing will be available for producers including cattle in their rotation program. Fencing needs will be identified as part of individual farm plans. Payment for fencing will be provided at a rate provided by the USDA-NRCS 2017 EQIP payment schedule dependent upon type of fencing selected by the producer. Payment will be upon determination that the completed fencing meets applicable NRCS standards.

Descriptions of Cost-Share Reimbursement Practices and Equipment

A number of pieces of equipment are eligible to receive 75 percent cost-share reimbursement based on actual cost. Items funded through the District's agriculture BMP cost-share reimbursement program, such as irrigation system retrofits, control panels, endgun controls, and soil moisture probes, are defined in that program's application materials and may be considered for funding as part of the rotation program contract. Only items additional to the BMP cost share list and specific to the grass rotation program are defined in this document.

Weed Wiper:

A weed wiper is a tool for eradicating weeds in pastures or low crops where the undesirable plants are taller than the crop canopy or pasture grasses. The tool consists of a steel rotating drum covered with a specialized material that holds liquid herbicide until it comes in contact with the weeds. Adjustable height allows precise targeting of nuisance weeds. The weed wiper provides maximum chemical transfer to undesirable grasses and weeds with minimal dripping or drift to damage the pasture grass or crop.

No-Till Equipment:

No-till farming is planting directly into the previous year's crop residues, without any tillage occurring. It limits soil disturbance while managing the amount and distribution of crop and plant residue on the soil surface year round. Planting or drilling is accomplished in a narrow seedbed or slot created by coulters, row cleaners or disk openers. A grain drill or other equipment that facilitates the described planting method is eligible for cost-share reimbursement.

Strip-Till Equipment:

Strip-till entails seedbed preparation in a narrow band no more than 1/3 of the row width. Crop residue and soil consolidation is left undisturbed between the seedbed areas. Equipment that facilitates the described planting method is eligible for cost-share reimbursement.

Handling Pens:

Basic handling pen components, such as: fence panels, squeeze chutes, crowding tubs, gates, and loading ramps are eligible for cost-share reimbursement.

Other Cattle Inclusion Items:

There are other measures that could be useful for inclusion of cattle in a crop rotation that may be considered for funding eligibility. These include, but are not limited to: troughs, piping, and chain harrows.

Other Agricultural Equipment and Services:

Additional technologies that facilitate grass/cattle inclusion in the producer's rotation while allowing for decreased fertilizer application or water use may also be eligible for cost-share reimbursement under this program.