

EQIP BMPs That Support CLC Farming



EQIP and CLC

- **EQIP** – Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Farm Bill funding to provide assistance to agricultural producers to implement conservation practices.
- **CLC** – Continuous Living Cover – The concept of keeping plant cover on the land all year long.
- **EQIP** funding can be used to implement **CLC** strategies on the farm.



EQIP Practices applied to CLC strategies

Continuous Living Cover (CLC) strategies that might be used in Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) practices in the Midwest.

Practice Number†	Practice Name†	Count of CLC strategies that can be applied‡	CLC strategies				
			Forage	Biomass	Perennial Grains	Agroforestry	Cover Crops
311	Alley Cropping	5	X	X	X	X	X
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	4	X	X	X		X
332	Contour Buffer Strips	3	X	X	X		
386	Field Border	4	X	X	X	X	
595	Integrated Pest Management	5	X	X	X	X	X
379	Multi-Story Cropping	4		X	X	X	X

† As assigned by NRCS.

‡ Represents the number of Continuous Living Cover strategies that might be funded under this EQIP contract.



Combining Multiple EQIP Practices

Descriptions of Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) practices and their potential relevance to Continuous Living Cover (CLC) strategies in the US Midwest.

EQIP PRACTICE AND COMMONLY ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

PRACTICE DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION TO CLC

328 Conservation Crop Rotation

Commonly Associated Practices

- 330 Contour Farming
- 340 Cover Crops
- 329 Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
- 345 Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
- 600 Terraces

Conservation Crop Rotation is defined by the NRCS as “a planned sequence of crops grown on the same ground over a period of time.” This conservation practice supports the use of CLC strategies cover crops, pasture & forage, biomass as well as perennial grains.

- Number of CLC strategies = 4



EQIP Funding and Payment Rates

- Each sub-practice or component has a payment rate associated with it.
- Payment rates vary from component to component depending on the complexity and expense of implementing the component of the practice.
- Payment rates vary from state to state and from year to year.



EQIP Funding and Payment Rates

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) practice number, name, and range of pay rates for Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Practice Number	Practice Name	States Currently Funding	Payment Range Per Unit
327	Conservation Cover	IA IL MN MO WI	\$90.00 - \$3758.84/Acre
340	Cover Crop	IA IL MN MO WI	\$29.88 - \$933.79/Acre

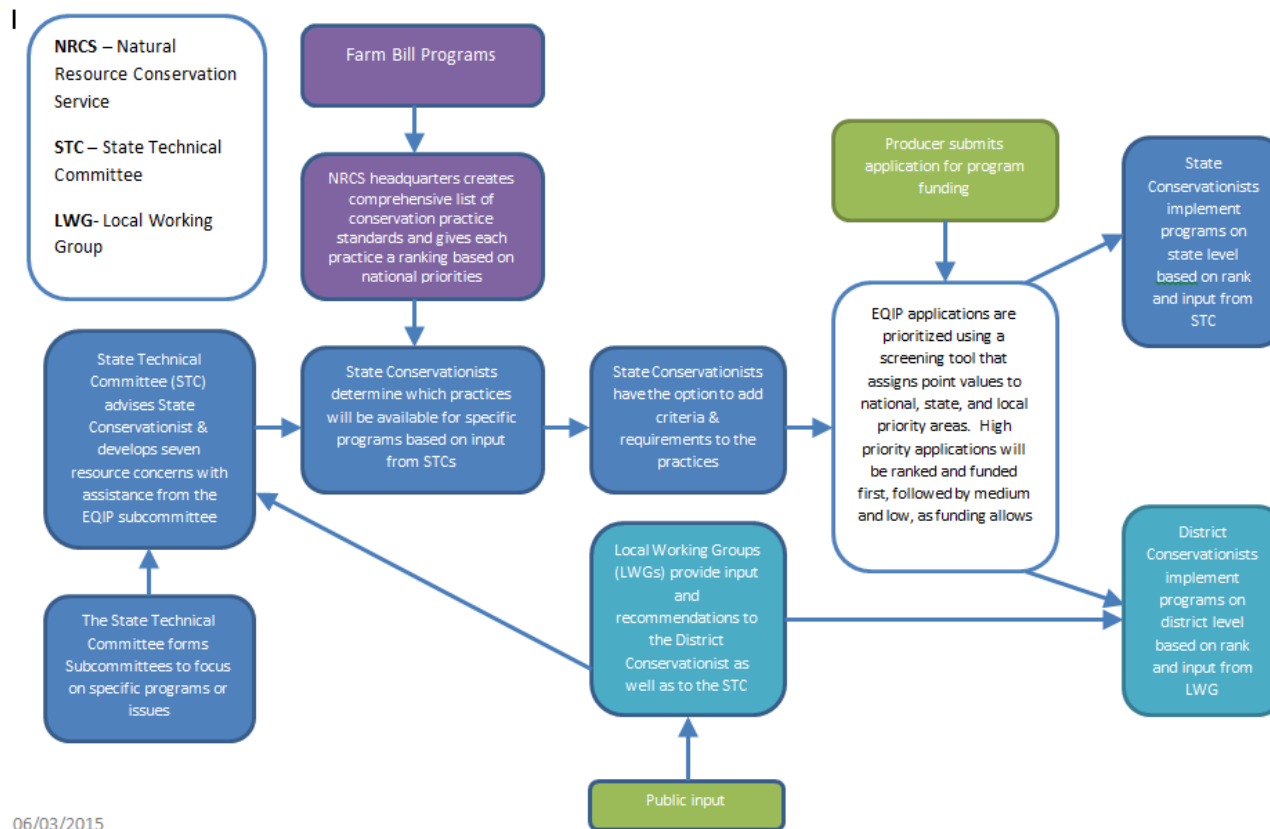


EQIP and Local Conservation

- Each individual state chooses which EQIP conservation practices it will fund based on local concerns.
- State Technical Committees (STCs) and Local Working Groups (LWGs) advise the State Conservationist.
- Individuals can apply to become a member of an STC or LWG.
- Meetings are open to the public and citizens are welcome to voice concerns or offer input.



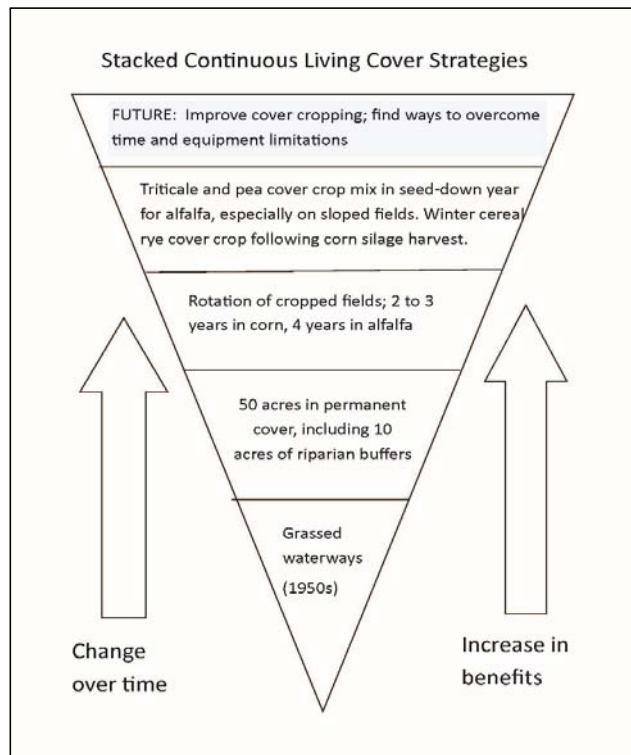
How EQIP Conservation Practices are Prioritized and Implemented



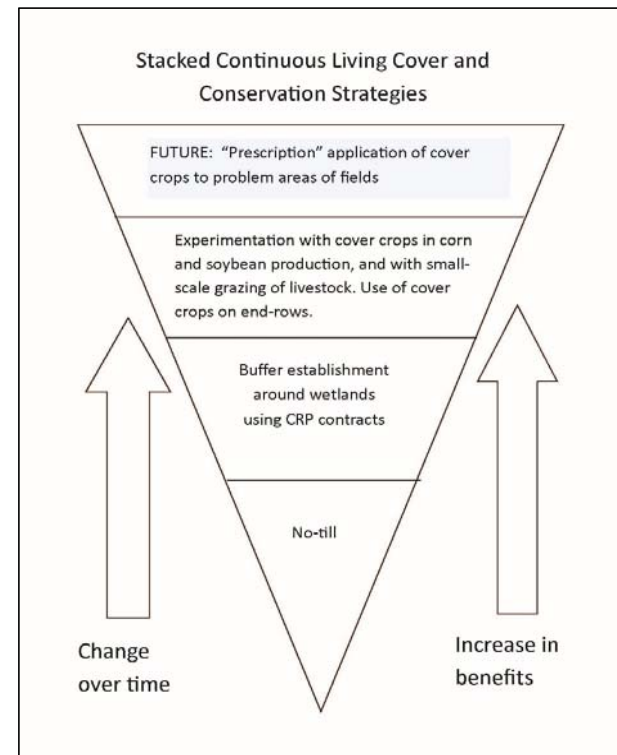
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Stacking of CLC Strategies



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