

CROPPING PRACTICES & LARGE-SCALE TRM GRANTS



Cropping practices on agricultural fields are eligible for cost sharing in Large-Scale Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants.

WHICH GRANT TYPE IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Non-TMDL:

A non-TMDL TRM grant must achieve compliance with one or more currently noncompliant NR 151 agricultural performance standards and prohibitions.*

TMDL:

A TMDL grant may do any or all of the following:

1. Bring a facility or cropland into compliance with a performance standard to meet or make progress towards meeting a TMDL goal.
2. Go above and beyond a performance standard to meet a TMDL goal.
3. Address a TMDL-related pollutant source for which there is no performance standard.

**Non-TMDL TRM grants only provide cost share dollars for existing noncompliance. This means that the facility is not now, and was never previously, in compliance since the effective date of the applicable performance standard. Reimbursement is for compliance costs of existing facilities/cropland only.*

Cropland NR 151 Performance Standards (effective date)

- Sheet, rill and wind erosion [NR 151.02](#) (Oct. 1, 2002)
- Tillage setback [NR 151.03](#) (Jan. 1, 2011)
- Phosphorus index [NR 151.04](#) (Jan. 1, 2011)
- Nutrient management [NR 151.07](#) (Varies 2003-2008)
- Silurian bedrock [NR 151.075](#) (July 1, 2018)

Eligible Practices To Meet Performance Standards Or Prohibitions And TMDL Goals

- Contour farming [NR 154.04\(8\)](#)
- Cover crop [NR 154.04\(9\)](#)
- Nutrient management [NR 154.04\(20\)](#)
- Pesticide management [NR 154.04\(21\)](#)
- Residue management [NR 154.04\(24\)](#)
- Strip-cropping [NR 154.04\(32\)](#)

Ineligible Activities For Cost Sharing

Activities requiring coverage under a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (NR 153.15(2)(f))

- Fields in CAFO nutrient management plans
- Fields that are part of a water quality trading plan or an adaptive management plan

Refer to NR 153 and ATCP 50 for other ineligible costs.

This document (#3800-2024-05) is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.



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COST-SHARING AMOUNTS

Cropping practices may be cost shared up to 70% of eligible costs. Alternatively, grantees may use the flat rates listed below in lieu of the cost-share percentage.

- ✓ Cover crops: \$70.00 per acre.
- ✓ Nutrient management: \$10.00 per acre.
- ✓ Strip cropping: \$13.50 per acre.
- ✓ Residue management: \$18.50 per acre.
- ✓ Contour farming: \$9.00 per acre.

COST-SHARE AGREEMENT

As with any TRM grant, a cost-share agreement is required between the grantee and landowner/operator for cropping practices to be eligible for cost sharing. A cost-share agreement that solely includes cropping practices does not need to be recorded on the deed for the landowner. The required operation and maintenance period for cropping practices is one year.

Cropping practices may be funded for up to three years (the length of a Large-Scale TRM grant). All three years of cost sharing may be reflected on the cost-share agreement to save the grantee time having to update and amend the agreement each year. A fourth year of cost sharing may be eligible if the grant is approved for a time extension.

Combinations of practices on the same fields are eligible for cost sharing (e.g. cropping and residue management).

REIMBURSEMENT

Grantees may seek reimbursement for cropping practices on an annual basis. They should list the cost-share agreement number as a source of “purchase” documentation on the reimbursement request form if/when there is no invoice or receipt for an out-of-pocket expense. Grantees should also provide photos of the implemented cropping practices with their final report.

FUNDING SOURCES

The Wisconsin DNR may use a variety of state and federal funding sources to cost share cropping practices, depending on availability of funds. State bond revenue may not be used for cropping practices. It may only be used for structural practices. Federal Section 319 funding may only be used in project areas implementing the goals of a nine key element watershed-based plan.

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