CHAMPAIGN COUNTY COVER CROP INITIATIVE

The Champaign County Farm Bureau (CCFB) has been granted American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding to increase the utilization and grow understanding of the use of cover crops in Champaign County. In partnership with the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) & the Illinois Nutrient Research Council (NREC), the CCFB will be administering the Champaign County Cover Crop Initiative (CCCCI)

THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY COVER CROP INITIATIVE WILL:

1. Incentivize farmers at a rate of $33 per acre of cover crops planted
2. Incentivize a maximum of 2,106 acres per year over a three-year (2022-2024) period
3. Be open to all farmers using cover crops and to all size of operations; however, the program will give preference to farmers utilizing cover crops for the first time and to small farming operations
4. Provide notification to farmers of their acceptance in the program by no later than Sept. 9th of each year
5. Randomly spot check 20% of farmers participating in the program to verify planted acres, seed varieties planted, and seeding rate
6. Make payment to the farmer or landowner will be made after verification is complete and will be completed by February of the following year at the latest. (ex. 2022 cover crop acres will be paid by Feb. 2023 at the latest)
7. Provide educational opportunities for all Champaign Co. farmers about best management practices for cover crop usage

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. An application must be completed in either electronic form or by hard copy and received by CCFB staff at 801 N. Country Fair Drive, Champaign, IL 61821 by **Sept. 1st** of each year of participation
2. Agronomic details including: planting date, variety planted, and seeding rate must be provided to the CCFB office by **Dec. 1st** of the planting season
3. Producers must cooperate fully with CCFB staff if randomly selected for additional verification purposes

The CCFB and its partners do not guarantee that receiving funds in one year will guarantee acceptance to the program in subsequent years. Furthermore, the CCFB takes no responsibility for the success or failure of individual producer's cover crops, nor any resulting agronomic or land issues that might result from cover crop usage.