

# LEGUME COVER CROP

## WQ-4

### *Important Facts*

#### Specifications

*Crimson Clover must be planted at a rate of 20 lbs by September 15 or October 1 for Coastal Plain.*

*Austrian Winter Pea must be planted at a rate of 60 lbs by October 15.*

*Hairy Vetch must be planted at a rate of 20 lbs by October 15.*

*All seed is required to be inoculated.*

#### Methods:

*No-Till method*

*Aerial Seeding*

*Conventionally drilled as long as 30% of previous crop residue remain*

*Broadcast as long as 30% of previously crop residue remain.*

#### Rate

*The total eligible cost is \$25 per acre.*

*The tax credit rate is 25% of the total eligible cost not to exceed \$17,500. If a cooperator receives cost share, only the per cent of the total cost of the project that the cooperator contributed is used to determine the tax credit.*



Cost share and tax credit are provided for utilizing an adequate legume mulch residue as a natural source of nitrogen to reduce applied soil amendment nitrogen.

This practice will improve water quality by providing an adequate residue cover to prevent erosion and serve as a desirable mulch for no-till cultivation. Water quality will also be enhanced by the nitrogen fixation of the legume in order to reduce applied amendments.

#### Policies

1. This practice is for use only on land being planted to a grain crop. No-till planting must be established into an existing legume stand or newly established legume stand.
  2. Removal of the legume residue by baling or by any other means is not allowed. Grazing is not permitted for this practice.
- Existing stands: An adequate (minimum 60% legume cover and stand composition) cover that has been planted for at least one year prior to grain planting. Stand can be composed of clover, lespedeza, vetch or alfalfa. Seed must have been inoculated at time of planting.
  - Vetch is not recommended in rotations containing small grains. It is very important that seeding dates be met to insure adequate fall growth.