



Soil and Water Conservation District
5 Park Lane
Highland, New York 12528
(845) 883-7162

Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District

2025 Soil Health Program

In an effort to increase local adoption of soil health improving practices, as well as improve farm economic viability, the Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District will implement a soil health program for county farmers this fall. A total of \$60,000* will be available for funding cover crops. Due to the limited availability of funds, each farm will be reimbursed up to \$6,000.

The application deadline will be **September 16th**. Once applications have been received and reviewed, the District will notify landowners of their approved applications and the next steps.

Preference will be given to farms that have completed at least Tier 2 of the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program with the District. All eligible farms will develop a cover crop plan with the District through the AEM process (AEM Tier 3A Cover Crop plan). This plan will involve working with District staff to plan and evaluate cover crops. Cover crops will be checked and certified by District staff in the Fall of 2025, and all payments will be on a reimbursement basis after cover crop has been certified. **Cover Crop must be planted by October 20th or show adequate fall growth for winter soil protection.**

Cover Crops planted must meet [USDA NRCS Cover Crop Standard \(340\)](#)

Cost Share Rates for 2025:

- Cover Crop Single species rate (organic and non-organic): \$83/ac
- Cover Crop Multi-species rate (organic and non-organic): \$102/ac
- Cover Crop – 1 ac or less (organic and non-organic): \$607/ac

If applicants have any questions about the program or planting cover crop, please contact our office at 845-883-7162 ext. 3. Applications can be submitted by email to travis.ferry@ny.nacdnet.net or cooper.hernsdorf@ny.nacdnet.net.



*Additional funding for more cover crops may be available this fall.