



JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR · JERRY COSTELLO II, DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 26, 2025

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**IDOA “FALL COVERS FOR SPRING SAVINGS”
COVER CROP INCENTIVE PROGRAM RETURNS**
Applications Accepted Starting December 15 with Opportunity for Pre-Enrollment

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) announces the sixth year of the popular Fall Covers for Spring Savings Program.

Users will again be able to enter their information into the application and validate it during a pre-enrollment period starting at 8 a.m. CST on December 3, 2025. Applications can be submitted once the program opens at 8 a.m. on December 15, 2025. Prior to submission, applications can be saved and edited at any time.

Pre-Enrollment Opens	8 a.m. CST, Wednesday, December 3, 2025
Program Opens (Applications can be submitted)	8 a.m. CST, Monday, December 15, 2025
Program Closes	11:59 p.m. CST, Thursday, January 15, 2026

A total of 190,000 acres are available for the 2025-2026 program. Funding of eligible acreage is on a first come, first serve basis. Over the last six program years, producers in Illinois have enrolled over 885,900 acres in the Fall Covers for Spring Savings Program.

“By investing in cover crops today, we’re helping farmers build healthier fields for tomorrow,” **said IDOA Director Jerry Costello II.** “These practices strengthen our soil, safeguard against extreme weather, and support long-term resilience across Illinois agriculture.”

The program is applicable for acreage in Illinois seeded to cover crops in the fall of 2025 that will be planted to an insurable crop in 2026. Eligible applicants will receive a premium discount up to \$5 per acre on the following year's crop insurance, depending on individual crop insurance policies, for every cover crop acre enrolled and verified in the program.

Applicants will be required to certify their cover crops through their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office before applying. Applicants will also need their current FSA-578 and federal crop insurance policy number(s) for the application.

The discount program was designed to promote additional acres of cover crops that are not covered by other state or federal incentives. IDOA will use a combination of tools to verify that acres applied for through this program are planted in cover crops. The program is only applicable for those with coverage through the United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (USDA-RMA) crop insurance program. Confirmed applications will be forwarded to the USDA-RMA for processing and for application of premium discounts to 2025 crop insurance invoices.

Pre-enrollment and applications are available at:

https://apps.agr.illinois.gov/BLWR_CoverCrop/ or by following a link on the IDOA website at agr.illinois.gov/. Applications will be available until 11:59 p.m. CST on January 15, 2026.

For questions, please call IDOA at (217) 782-6297.

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