

*Miami Conservancy District*  
*Nutrient Trading Program*  
***Reduction Calculations for Cover Crops  
and Reduced Nitrogen Application***

In order to encourage broader use of the Nutrient Trading Program, reduction calculations for cover crops after corn wheat, and soybeans will be possible with the next version of the Load Reduction Spreadsheet. Since this approach is new, applications for cover crops can only be calculated on a year to year basis, in other words landowners wanting to apply for multiple years of cover crop, will have to apply every year. This being done so that changes to the spreadsheet and calculation assumptions can be made as experience is gained on cover crop load reductions.

Moreover, all cover crops shall be annuals; load reductions due to the establishment of perennial cover shall be calculated through the **Ag Fields & Filter Strips** tab. Lastly, harvesting of cover crops is allowable within the program, but wheat that is fertilized or harvested for grain may not be submitted as a cover crop.

For cover crop following soybeans, the **Ag Fields & Filter Strips** tab can be used to calculate the sediment load reductions strictly from a soil erosion perspective.

For cover crops following corn grain and wheat, the new **Cover Crops & Reduced N App** tab can be used. The load reductions for these cover crops ignore any soil erosion benefits of the cover crop, and calculations are based on the nitrogen scavenging ability of the cover crop.

Finally, for cover crops after corn silage, both tabs mentioned above on the Load Reduction Spreadsheet should be used. First use the **Ag Fields & Filter Strips** tab should be used to calculate the sediment load reduction, and then the **Cover Crops & Reduced N App** tab should be used to determine the reduced nitrogen loads.