

18. The Operator agrees that the following requirements apply to the Operator's cover crop, inspection, the fall/spring certification and the Operator's claim for payment.
- A. Spring termination may not occur before **March 1, 2024**, unless the operator plans to plant an early season vegetable crop. Termination may occur as early as **February 15, 2024**, when planting early vegetable crops; however, it is expected that the vegetable crop will be planted within 2 weeks of the cover crop being terminated.
  - B. Options for end of winter management by the Operator include green chopping (for on-farm use only), plowing under, rolling/crimping or terminating by using a burn-down herbicide. Grazing of a cover crop does not qualify as an acceptable spring termination method.
  - C. As required by the MOU with CBTF a random spring spot check of 10% of the acres in each County will be completed. This spot check may be completed by MDA, District or other personnel as deemed appropriate by MDA. This spot check will occur prior to final payment being issued. Additional spot checks may be requested by MDA.
  - D. Cover crops that may winter kill such as Forage Radish and Spring Oats are not eligible for the delayed termination incentive.**
  - E. Planting green **may not occur prior to May 1, 2024, if the applicant wishes to receive the delayed termination incentive.** However, if the applicant wants to plant green prior **May 1, 2024**, they may do so and they would be eligible for the regular cover crop payment once the cover crop is reported as terminated.
  - F. Within two weeks after the Operator's termination of the cover crop, but no later than **June 3, 2024**, the Operator shall certify to the SCD that the cover crop has been destroyed. The SCD will enter the appropriate information into the Spring Certification section of the application. The final cost-share payment by MDA will be determined by the number of qualified acres which have met all of the program requirements, less any fall payments received and not to exceed the approval amount on the Operator's original application.
  - G. The Operator's Spring Certification/Claim submission shall be received by MDA's MACS office no later than **June 14, 2024, or payment will be denied.**
  - H. **At the time of Spring Certification, the Operator shall have submitted the Operator's Annual Implementation Report (AIR) to the MDA Nutrient Management Program for the previous calendar year in order to meet the nutrient management cross-compliance guidelines. No Spring Payment will be issued by MDA until the AIR is complete and on file with MDA.**