



2026 Minnesota NRCS EQIP Updates

TEAM Ecological Sciences



Practice Scenarios for 2026

- § All Scenarios were Nationalized in 2026.
- § **EQIP and CSP will use the same scenarios.**
- § Rates for programs set by NHQ.
- § CSP no longer has enhancements
- § 3600 Scenarios posted December 23
 - § Many changes and costs updates since December with no or very limited communication.



Practice Scenarios for 2026

- § **All Scenarios were reviewed for selection in MN.**
- § **Selected based on the following:**
 - § Practice offered
 - § Program applicability (EQIP or CSP)
 - § Applicability for MN (Tropics, Island, Other)
 - § Cost
 - § Ability to use
 - § Redundancy
 - § Degree of separation from other scenarios within a practice



Practice Scenarios for 2026

Base-Plus-Variable Pricing

- § Certain activities are using the Base-Plus-Variable Pricing method to determine contracting costs.
- § Base-plus-variable pricing combines:
 - § Base Payment: A fixed amount covering essential set-up or mobilization costs.
 - § Implementation Payment: An implementation payment is applied to account for the variable size, complexity, or resource requirements. The implementation payment is based on a per unit basis (e.g., square foot, acre, hour).
- § Total Payment = Base Rate + (Implementation Variable Rate × Quantity)



Practice Scenarios for 2026

Base-Plus-Variable Pricing

§ For these activities schedule both the base cost scenario and the appropriate implementation cost scenario. The base cost scenario will be scheduled once per activity. The implementation scenarios will be scheduled based on the quantity of units for the activity. The base and implementation scenarios should use similar scenario names.

§ Common in CPA, DIA, and CEMAs

§ Common in Engineering Practices

§ Not Common in ECS Practices

Practice Code Name: 325 -High Tunnel System

Scenario Number: 157

Scenario Name: Enclosed High Tunnel, Base Cost

Practice Code Name: 325 -High Tunnel System

Scenario Number: 158

Scenario Name: Enclosed High Tunnel, Implementation Cost

Practice Scenarios

The practice scenario is a general description of practice application for a typical resource setting.

The practice scenario:

- § Determines the commonly used components and activities associated with a practice.
- § Assist the field planner to select the most appropriate scenario for the resource setting regardless of the final payment rate.
- § Document the estimated incurred costs, FI, and the most applicable typical payment rate

Practice Scenarios

The practice scenario is a general description of practice application for a typical resource setting.

The practice scenario **does not:**

Dictate the technical requirements or design of a practice.

Represent application of a practice for a geographical area less than that of a State.

Develop a description of every situation that may exist where the practice is applied.



Practice Scenarios Website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/payment-schedules>



Report type *

☐ Payment Schedules ☒ Practice Scenarios

STATE *

Please Select



PRACTICE LIST *

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SEARCH

Practice Scenarios Website

NOT ALL SCENARIOS IN THE MN REPORT ARE OFFERED IN MN.

Practice Code Name: 340 - Cover Crop

Scenario Number: 1

Scenario Name: Single Species

Scenario Description: Typically a small grain or legume (may also use forage sorghum, radishes, turnips, buckwheat, etc.) will be planted as a cover crop immediately after harvest of a row crop, and will be followed by a row crop that will utilize the residue as a mulch. This scenario assumes that seed will be planted with a drill. The cover crop should be allowed to generate as much biomass as possible, without delaying planting of the following crop. The cover crop will be terminated prior to planting the subsequent crop.

Before Situation: Row crops such as corn, soybeans, or cotton are grown and harvested in mid-late fall. Fields remain fallow until next crop planting. Soil erosion, water quality and soil health are degrading.

After Situation: Implementation Requirements according to Cover Crop (340) are prepared and implemented. Over time, soil health is improved due to the additional biomass, ground cover, soil infiltration, and plant composition introduced to the cropping system. Cover crop residues left on the surface may maximize weed control by increasing allelopathic and mulching effect.

Associated Practices: Additional practices may be required to ensure effective implementation. The costs associated with these practices are not included in the current practice scenario.

Resource Concerns: The conservation practice standard provides implementation specifications to achieve the desired conservation objective(s) by addressing identified natural resource concern(s).

Feature Measure: Area planted

Scenario Unit: Acre

Scenario Typical Size: 40.00

Cost Summary:

Cost Category	Total Cost	Scenario Cost/Unit
Materials	\$2,701.11	\$67.53
Equipment Installation	\$1,284.15	\$32.10
Labor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mobilization	\$0.00	\$0.00
Acquisition of Technical Knowledge	\$0.00	\$0.00
Foregone Income	\$0.00	\$0.00
Risk	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$3,985.26	\$99.63

Disclaimer: This information is not intended for practical implementation. Please adhere to the specific design or implementation requirements applicable to your site.



Payment Schedules

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/payment-schedules>



Report type *

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STATE *

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Payment Schedule Website

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Minnesota	Minnesota EQIP-1	340	Cover Crop	Adaptive Management	Ea	\$5,496.52
Minnesota	Minnesota EQIP-1	340	Cover Crop	HU-Adaptive Management	Ea	\$6,595.83
Minnesota	Minnesota EQIP-1	340	Cover Crop	HU-Mechanical Termination	kSqFt	\$31.37
Minnesota	Minnesota EQIP-1	340	Cover Crop	Mechanical Termination	kSqFt	\$26.14
Minnesota	Minnesota EQIP-1	340	Cover Crop	HU-Multi-Species	Ac	\$93.52
Minnesota	Minnesota EQIP-1	340	Cover Crop	Multi-Species	Ac	\$77.93
Minnesota	Minnesota EQIP-1	340	Cover Crop	HU-Single Species	Ac	\$69.67
Minnesota	Minnesota EQIP-1	340	Cover Crop	Single Species	Ac	\$74.72
Minnesota	Minnesota EQIP-1	340	Cover Crop	HU-Single Species, Organic	Ac	\$120.47
Minnesota	Minnesota EQIP-1	340	Cover Crop	Single Species, Organic	Ac	\$100.39



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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TEAM Minnesota

