

## FSH FAQs for Kansas

### Acronyms/Definitions

Farmers for Soil Health (FSH)

Signing Incentive Payment (SIP)

Transition Incentive Payment (TIP)

DTN FSH Enrollment Site - Farmer will create credentials to select fields and preliminary data for enrollment in the SIP and/or TIP programs.

DTN Document Verification Page - Farmer will use the credentials used for enrollment to log in and input additional required information for qualification in the FSH program.

### Qualification/Eligibility

1. Does a farmer have to plant cover crops on the enrolled field for 3 consecutive years to remain eligible for the entire \$50/acre?

Yes, participating farmers must plant cover crops on the enrolled field in three consecutive years to earn the \$50/acre incentive. Participants will receive \$25, \$15, and \$10 per acre in contract years one, two, and three, respectively. Please note that wheat growers may opt out of planting cover crops for any one of the three years and still receive the 2 highest payments (\$25 and \$15) for the years they plant cover crops. See question 3 for more information.

2. Are farmers who have other crops in their rotations in addition to corn and soy eligible?

Row crop farmers must use corn and soy in their rotations on their farm to be eligible for FSH enrollment, but not necessarily on every field every year.

Sample scenarios of fields that would be eligible include:

- An enrolled field is double cropped (multiple crops grown on the same field in a single year) and one of the crops is the marketed commodity
- Multiple fields within an FSA farm ID are enrolled; the marketed commodity is grown within the contract period on some, but not necessarily on all of the acres
- An enrolled field grows the marketed commodity once as part of a multi-year crop rotation and the contract covers multiple years, so the marketed commodity will be grown on the enrolled field at some point within the contract

3. Do winter wheat farmers qualify? If so, what's the structure/expectations for the contract timeline, payment schedule, etc.?

Farmers who have wheat in their rotation qualify for FSH. Regardless of which year they plant wheat in their contract, farmers will receive \$25 for the first contract year that they plant cover crops and \$15 in the second year that they plant cover crops. Farmers will not be paid for the fall when winter wheat is grown.

4. If a farmer previously planted cover crops but the cover crop did not meet NRCS practice standards, are they eligible for TIP?

Yes, the field would qualify for TIP.

5. What happens if a farmer signs up and later is unable to continue/needs to drop out?

Farmers are able to drop out of the program but will not receive payments for the crop years in which they did not plant cover crops. They will not need to pay incentives back that they have already received. The producer should notify FSH that they no longer qualify for the FSH payment. The producer is responsible for checking the attestations upon enrollment confirming they are not receiving other federal payments for the cover crops on that particular field.

6. Are the cover crops allowed to be grazed with this opportunity? Or bailed for feed?

According to NRCS Cover Crop Practice Standards in Kansas, cover crops can be grazed but cannot be hayed.

7. Do different types of tillage management impact eligibility?

Tillage management type does not impact a farmer's ability to meet the NRCS Cover Crop Practice Standard. However, gathering tillage information is necessary for the overall environmental benefit of GHG reduction for the FSH project.

Additionally, while tillage practices do not impact farmers' eligibility to receive payments through FSH, they could impact farmers' ability to receive additional payments in the FSH marketplace from end users seeking additional sustainability attributes.

8. What if a farmer does not have a valid email address?

A valid email address is required to create an account and enroll, so a valid email is required to participate in the program. State TA providers can assist farmers, as needed, in creating an email account.

9. What if a producer starts farming new ground that had a cover crop on it with the former producer?

The field goes with the producer, so this producer would qualify.

10. Can you get SIP payments on last year's cover crops? And receive payment three years in a row?

A producer can receive SIP payments for 2024 fall planted cover crops if they enroll before March 1, 2025. Then, they can continue receiving SIP payments if they enroll in FSH each year.

## **Enrollment**

11. Is there an enrollment video demonstration?

DTN tutorial guides and videos can be accessed at the DTN Enrollment Help Page <https://enrollmenthelp.dtn.com/> by clicking Getting Started and FAQ. Here you will find helpful

information on topics including creating an account, enrollment, adding fields, splitting fields, and review of the enrollment summary page.

12. Where can I contact DTN for help with enrollment?

DTN help desk: <https://enrollmenthelp.dtn.com/>

DTN help desk form: <https://enrollmenthelp.dtn.com/feedback/>

Throughout enrollment, click on the “?” in the top left to navigate to the help desk.

13. What data and forms are required for enrollment?

See the [Enrollment](#) page on the FSH website.

See Pages 6-7 of this document for a list of documents developed by the Kansas FSH Team.

14. Can a farmer add multiple fields in one enrollment process?

In the DTN FSH enrollment site, producers have the ability to add multiple fields all in one process. You can learn more about [How to Add a Field](#) with this video tutorial.

A farmer can also add multiple rented or leased fields with multiple landowners. The enrolled farmer or tenant should be listed as an operator on the FSA-156ez form required to be uploaded.

It should be noted that a farmer cannot edit their field boundary on the platform. This feature existed for a short period during year 1 of enrollment but was removed due to confusion and errors.

15. Since enrollment is done on a field basis, will the farmer have to go through the same enrollment process in years 2 and 3 for that field?

The farmer will not be required to re-enroll TIP fields in years 2 and 3. The farmer should ensure that their information is up to date in their Document Verification Page each year, including details such as the cover crop species planted, date planted, termination date, etc. Farmers must reupload a current year subsidiary print for each year of their contract.

16. How do the farmers access and upload the subsidiary print?

Subsidiary print is available through the FSA office and will need to be current for the year the payment will be processed. Either the farmer or the TA can upload this document through the TA portal.

17. Is enrollment continuous or are there deadlines for batching, etc.?

Enrollment is continuous, with a cut-off period for enrollment in each year’s cover crop season. For the 2024-2025 cover crop season, the cut off is February 28, 2025. The final enrollment year will be 2026.

18. What are the acreage limits for FSH enrollees?

There are no acreage limits for TIP or SIP.

19. Should producers mark down their specific species or use the “Mix” option for a multi-species mix?

It is recommended to use the “Mix” option in the drop down.

20. When do farmers sign a data use policy? Where can we see that policy?

Upon clicking “Enroll Now”, a prompt on the screen reads “By selecting Create Account, you agree to our [DTN] [Terms of Service](#) and have read and acknowledged our [DTN] [Privacy Statement](#).”

Note: EIN or SSN information is encrypted and sent to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to enable payment processing. DTN cannot read or use your EIN or SSN. All other data will not be shared beyond the program and the marketplace is an opt-in option. See Section 1619 per NFWF below:

*“Section 1619 protected farmer data provided to DTN will be made available to NFWF for payment processing and reporting to USDA. This data will not be otherwise disclosed and will be deleted at the closure of the Farmers for Soil Health award, unless the farmer provides DTN consent to keep the data. Farmer participation in other opportunities, such as the Marketplace Platform, may be conditioned on farmer consent to data release.”*

## Verification

21. Does every FSH participant go through verification? What is required for verification?

Each FSH participant will be verified remotely with satellite/remote sensing technology. A small subset of FSH participants will be randomly selected for further field-level verification. The farmer will be notified via email from DTN after random selection that their field was selected.

22. Will farmers know if initial verification was completed on their farm and if they pass/failed?

From September through May, DTN will remotely verify all enrolled fields by satellite imagery. During that time, farmers will receive an email from DTN indicating their verification or lack thereof.

23. Who will issue their payment, and when? Who will communicate that?

For farmers whose fields were verified remotely and passed, NFWF will issue their payment within 4 weeks of verification. For farmers that have not been verified successfully by satellite imagery, the TA portal will be used to capture necessary documents required to verify those fields.

24. What information should a farmer have if they plan to use bin run seed for their cover crops?

Farmers should be mindful that bin run seed is of good quality and doesn't contain foreign material. Additionally, if selected for further verification, they'll need paperwork for their cover crop seed. It's encouraged to complete a germination test and ensure the results are above 85%. Ideally, this is done at a seed lab, as they'll also test for and likely clean the seed of foreign material, as well as provide documentation of the germination test, helpful for verification.

### **Sustainability Marketplace**

25. Who is eligible to enter into the FSH Sustainability Marketplace?

Once launched, only FSH enrolled acres qualify for the sustainability marketplace. In the future, additional programs may coordinate with FSH and be eligible to enter the marketplace.

### **Stacking**

26. Can the FSH project be stacked with other public programs? State funding, federal funding (EQIP), etc.?

Participants cannot receive federal funds from multiple sources for the same practices on the same acres (e.g. cover crop cost-share through EQIP or CSP and FSH) at the same time. Federal funding sources can fund different practices on the same acres at the same time.

27. If a farmer has previously enrolled in federal cost share, such as RCPP, are they eligible for the \$2/dollar SIP after their RCPP contract has expired? What about for TIP?

Participants cannot receive federal funds from multiple sources for the same purpose on the same acres (e.g. cover crop cost-share through EQIP or CSP and FSH) at the same time. If a producer previously received federal funding for cover crops, but will not any longer, they can enroll in FSH. If the producer planted cover crops in the crop year preceding FSH enrollment, they are only eligible for the Signing Incentive Payment (SIP). If the producer previously received cost share for acres cover cropped but stopped using cover crops on those acres for at least 1 year prior to FSH enrollment, they would be eligible for the Transition Incentive Payment (TIP).

## **Required Documents for Enrollment and Verification**

- ***FSA Subsidiary Print***

- What: Current year subsidiary print will be required for each crop year that the producer receives payment
- Why: Determine Highly Erodible Land Conservation/Wetland Conservation (HELWC/WC) Compliance. Producers must be listed as “certified” for in the AD-1026 section and “compliant” in all conservation compliance sections.
- Ensure that the “Foreign Person” field indicates “Not Applicable.”
- How: Producers can request a copy of their subsidiary print from their USDA service center or sign the FSH Producer Record Release Authorization to allow FSH partners to retrieve the subsidiary print on the producer’s behalf.

- ***W-9***

- What: A current W-9
- Why: Enable Farmer for Soil Health’s fiscal agent, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, to process farmer incentive payments.
- Note: When completing W-9s, the producer needs to ensure the entity information (name and address) on the W-9 is listed EXACTLY the same as how it is shown on the FSA forms and FSH enrollment platform. The W-9 must also be signed and dated between the time of enrollment and payment.

- ***FSA Maps***

- What: Current FSA Tract Map for each enrolled field
- Why: Enable FSH to verify and report farm, tract, and field numbers and acreage.
  - ♣ FSH will report farm, tract, and field numbers to USDA. USDA will use the field numbers to confirm eligibility, verifying their conservation compliance and foreign person status, and checking whether the field has received duplicate payments for the same practices on the same

land from Farm Bill conservation programs or other climate smart commodity projects.

- ♣ FSH will use FSA maps to report field crop acreage in addition to the planted cover crop acreage, which producers define through FSH enrollment.
  - How: Producers can request a copy of their FSH maps from their USDA Service Center or sign the FSH Producer Record Release Authorization to allow FSH partners to retrieve the FSA Maps on the producer's behalf.
- **FSA-156 EZ**
  - What: Current year Form FSH-156 EZ
  - Why: FSH will use this to report to USDA of the enrollee's total farmland and cropland acreage. Additionally, the form will be used to confirm whether a producer is the owner, operator, or other producer.
  - How: Producers can request a copy of their FSA-156 EZ from their USDA Service Center or sign the FSH Producer Record Release Authorization to allow FSH partners to retrieve the FSA-156 EZ on the producer's behalf.

### ***Possible Additional Verification Documents***

The producer will be contacted if any of the items below are needed.

- FSA-578
- Copies of cover crop seed tickets
- Copy of germination report if using bin-run cover crop seed
- Photos of the growing cover crop