

Practice Descriptions and Payment Rates

1. Practice 340: Cover Crop

- Phase 1 – Nesting Cover Program (with Phase 2 option¹ in spring 2022)
 - i. Planting of legumes or legume-grass mixtures expected to perform best on each property.
 - ii. Termination of the cover crop (if desired) is allowed and recommended 2–3 weeks before planting rice.
 - iii. Payment Rate ranges from \$51-\$63 per acre.

2. Practice 644A: Variable Drawdown (High and Low intensity)

- High Intensity Variable Drawdown
 - i. Fields are not typically flooded after harvest, but the producer is willing to apply water immediately post-harvest and maintain the water depth between 4-8 inches until February 10.
 - ii. “Variable drawdown” begins on February 10, with a minimum starting depth of 4 inches of water.
 - iii. Payment Rate \$50.55 per acre.
- Low Intensity Variable Drawdown
 - i. Fields are typically flooded after harvest and water maintained through January.
 - ii. “Variable drawdown” process begins on February 10.
 - iii. Payment Rate \$15.70 per acre

3. Practice 644C: Seasonal Flooding with Gradual Drawdown

- Water is applied between July 1 and September 15 and held for 14 days at a depth of 2–4 inches, followed by gradual draining over a 14-day period. If mosquito vector control measures larvae exceeding threshold then all boards will be pulled.
- Field is not disturbed for at least 30 days (not planted, harvested, worked, or sprayed) during practice duration.
- Vegetation management: Prior to flooding, at least 80% of the vegetation is removed/harvested. The field surface can be baled, burned, chopped, stomped, rolled. These actions should leave a relatively level surface, while the grade is still maintained to drain the field.
- If multiple fields are used, flooding will occur across an entire field, and additional fields will be flooded sequentially every other week in accordance with a water management plan.
- Payment Rate \$120.92 per acre.

¹ Phase 2 Option: For those who use this Phase I practice and have good cover the following spring, there will be an option for an additional habitat “rental payment” on acres that are not planted due to water cuts or other factors.

4. **Practice 644D: Forage Management for Waterbirds**

- No-till, No-chop

- i. Rice stubble is left standing after harvest.
- ii. Postpone all post-harvest soil and residue management activities until after January 1, including flooding.
- iii. Stripper-header harvesters are not allowed for this practice due to reduced waste grain remaining after harvest.
- iv. Payment Rate \$13.36 per acre.

- Residue Management with Boards-in

- i. Following harvest, fields are prepared by chopping, stomping, light disking/ chiseling, burning, or baling that leaves at least 60% residue on the surface of the soil.
- ii. Disking/ chiseling must be followed by a roller.
- iii. Place boards into the check boxes within two weeks of harvest and maintain in place until at least February 1. Take necessary measures to minimize leakage of water control structures (pack with dirt, etc.).
- iv. Payment Rate \$13.36 per acre.