United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

South Dakota
SD-FS-77

Common Agronomic Conservation Practices of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Developing a conservation plan for healthier, productive cropland can lead to long-term economic and environmental sustainability. Conservation practices can be combined to address specific resource concerns on each operation. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a principle program of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for delivering financial assistance to private landowners. Please contact your local NRCS office for conservation planning, technical and/or financial assistance.

Conservation Crop Rotation—328

Conditions Where Practice Applies: all cropland land where annually-planted crops make up at least one-third of the crop sequence (time basis).

Payment Schedule:

Activity Description	Unit	EQIP Payment Rate Traditional	EQIP Payment Rate HU	EQIP Initiative Traditional	EQIP Initiative HU
Standard Rotation, High Value Crop	Acres	$13.12	$26.24	$18.37	$31.49
Irrigation to Dryland Rotation, High Value	Acres	$30.49	$60.97	$42.68	$73.17
Organic Rotation	Acres	$0.00	$0.00	$18.01	$30.06

Limitations:

1. Standard Rotation, high value crop—add a new crop type or perennial to existing crop rotation. Crop types include:
   A. Warm season grass-corn, sorghum, millet, warm season perennial grass, etc.
   B. Cool season grass-wheat, barley, oats, cool season perennial grass, etc.
   C. Warm season broadleaf-soybean, sunflower, alfalfa, etc.
   D.Cool season broadleaf-field pea, flax, canola, etc.
2. Irrigation to Dryland Rotation—conversion of an irrigation cropping system to a non-irrigated (dryland) cropping system.
3. Organic rotation—eligible only through the Organic Initiative.
4. If a cover crop is added to a crop rotation, payment will be made through Cover Crop (340).
5. If an additional crop type is added to an existing crop rotation and will be followed by a cover crop, then both practices are eligible for payment. Payment for incorporating a cover crop will be made through Cover Crop.
6. Payment is based on contracted acres and must adhere to the conservation practice standard for the length of the contract. Contratually, the annual payment will be initiated one the practice has been implemented and will continue for a period of three years.
7. Ineligible for payment if the management practice has been previously implemented on the land unit.

Payment Documentation:

For documentation requirements, refer to the practice standard and all associated documentation requirements outlined in the Field Office Tech Guide (FOTG).

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Cover Crop – 340

Conditions Where Practice Applies: All lands requiring vegetative cover for natural resource protection and or improvement.

Payment Schedule:

Activity Description	Unit	EQIP Payment Rate Traditional	EQIP Payment Rate HU	EQIP Initiative Traditional	EQIP Initiative HU
Cover Crop—Single Species	Acres	$23.31	$42.73	$31.08	$50.50
Cover Crop—Multiple Species	Acres	$33.96	$58.22	$43.66	$67.92
Organic Cover Crop	Acres	$0.00	$0.00	$69.58	$98.57

Limitations:

1. Cover crop planted for the purpose of improving/increasing livestock forage production must be considered a secondary purpose.
2. If additional crop type is added to an existing crop rotation and will be followed by a cover crop, then both practices are eligible for payment. Payment for the additional crop type in the crop rotation will be made through Conservation Crop Rotation (328).
3. Cover crops cannot be hayed or terminated using fall full width tillage (strip-till is allowed).
4. Cover crops must be terminated in less than one year.
5. Organic Cover crop—only eligible through the Organic Initiative.
6. Ineligible for payment if the management practice has been previously implemented on the land unit. Management records from the last five years must be reviewed to determine eligibility.

Payment Documentation:

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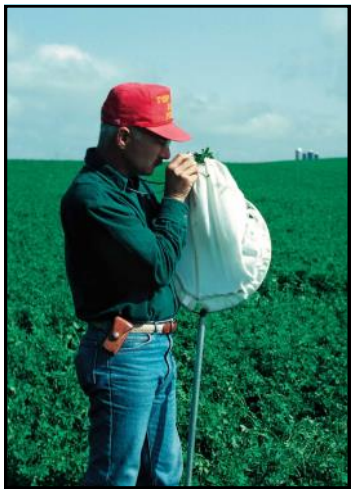

Integrated Pest Management – 595

Conditions Where Practice Applies: On all lands where pests will be managed.

Payment Schedule:

Activity Description	Unit	EQIP Payment Rate Traditional	EQIP Payment Rate HU	EQIP Initiative Traditional	EQIP Initiative HU
Basic Field, One Resource Concern	Acres	$3.58	$7.16	$5.01	$8.59
Advanced Field, All Resource Concerns	Acres	$7.16	$14.32	$10.03	$17.19
Risk Prevention, All Resource Concerns	Acres	$30.92	$61.85	$43.29	$74.21
Small Farm, More Than One Resource concern	Each	$155.31	$310.62	$217.43	$372.74

Limitations:

1. Basic Field, One Resource Concern—pest monitoring techniques and economic thresholds applied on a field level. Includes scouting reports and must complete WIN PST for all pesticides applied.
2. Advanced Field, All Resource Concerns—pest prevention, avoidance, and monitoring techniques and economic thresholds applied on a field level. WIN PST needs to be completed for all pesticides applied. Need to complete PAMS document.
3. Risk Prevention—must use prevention, avoidance, and monitoring techniques to manage pests. No pesticides allowed.
4. Small Farm, More Than One Resource Concern—pest monitoring techniques and pest thresholds applied on small farm/diversified systems to address multiple resource concerns, limited to farms less than 40 acres.
5. Payment is based on contracted acres and must adhere to the conservation practice standard for the length of the contract. Contractually, the annual payment will be initiated once the practice has been implemented and will continue for a period up to three years.
6. Ineligible for payment if the management practice has been previously implemented on the land unit.

Payment Documentation:

For documentation requirements, refer to the practice standard and all associated documentation requirements outlined in FOTG.

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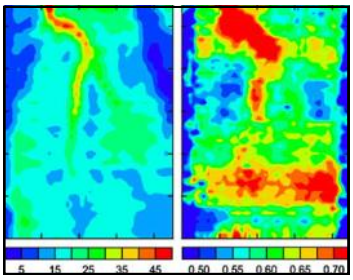

Variable Rate Application Map
(Commercial Fertilizer or Manure)

Nutrient Management – 590

Conditions Where Practice Applies: All lands where plant nutrients and soil amendments are applied.

Payment Schedule:

Activity Description	Unit	EQIP Payment Rate Traditional	EQIP Payment Rate HU	EQIP Initiative Traditional	EQIP Initiative HU
Basic	Acres	$1.15	$2.30	$1.61	$2.76
Basic with Manure	Acres	$3.06	$6.13	$4.29	$7.35
Enhanced	Acres	$5.82	$11.65	$8.15	$13.98
Advanced Precision	Acres	$8.67	$17.34	$12.13	$20.80
Basic Organic	Acres	$0.00	$0.00	$3.33	$6.67

Limitations:

1. Basic—includes composite soil testing, completed nutrient budget, and record keeping. Records demonstrate the implementation of the four R's of the Nutrient Management (590).
2. Basic with Manure—basic system that utilizes manure or compost application with commercial fertilizer applications. Includes composite soil testing, manure or compost analysis, completed nutrient budget, and record keeping.
3. Enhanced—includes soil testing, completed nutrient budget, use of slow release material or nitrification inhibitors, and record keeping.
4. Advanced Precision Nutrient Management - nutrient mngt. techniques above the basic level that utilize specialized precision techniques/tools (variable rate application).
5. Basic Organic—only eligible through the Organic Initiative.
6. Ineligible for payment if the management practice has been previously implemented on the land unit.
7. Nutrient management plan required with nutrients applied in accordance with NRCS standards.
8. Payment is based on contracted acres and must adhere to the conservation practice standard for the length of the contract. Payment can be made up to 3 years once the practice has been implemented.

Payment Documentation:

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Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip/Direct Seed – 329

Conditions Where Practice Applies:
This practice applies to all cropland and other land where crops are planted. This practice includes planting methods commonly referred to as no-till, strip till, direct seed, zero till, slot till or zone till. Approved implements are: no-till and strip-till planters; certain low soil disturbance drills and air seeders; strip-type fertilizer and manure injectors and applicators; in-row chisels; and similar implements that only disturb strips and slots.

Payment Schedule:

Activity Description	Unit	EQIP Payment Rate Traditional	EQIP Payment Rate HU	EQIP Initiative Traditional	EQIP Initiative HU
No-Till/Strip-Till	Acres	$7.40	$12.03	$9.25	$13.88
Organic No-Till/Strip-Till	Acres	$.00	$0.00	$10.18	$14.80

Limitations:
1. Documentation of management requirements must be maintained for each year.
2. Ineligible for payment if the management practice has been previously implemented on land within any portion of the operation. Management records from the last five years must be reviewed to determine eligibility.
3. Organic No Till/Strip Till—only eligible through the Organic Initiative.
4. The payment is based on contracted acres and must adhere to the conservation practice standard for the length of the contract. Payment can be made up to 3 years once the practice has been implemented.

Payment Documentation:
- For documentation requirements, refer to the practice standard and all associated documentation requirements outlined in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).