



Helping
People
Help the
Land

National
Organic
Program
and the
Organic
Initiative

Change this ... to This



Our Common
Goal

What is Organic Production?

Principles of Organic Production:

- ◉ Manage the farm as a system
- ◉ Healthy soils grow healthy crops
- ◉ Enhance biodiversity
- ◉ Closing the input loop
- ◉ Naturally-based inputs
- ◉ Traceability



Process based, not performance based

National Organic Program

- The National Organic Program identifies the requirements to be a certified organic producer and describes the development of a Organic System Plan
- Visit the NOP at www.ams.usda.gov/nop



What's in it for me?

The Organic Initiative offers:



- Planning assistance which will support the organic system plan development
- Payments to implement conservation practices which support organic farming

Who Can Apply?

The Organic Initiative is available to:

- ◉ Farmers transitioning to organic production and
- ◉ Farmers who may already be certified organic farms
- ◉ Organic farmers who are exempt from certification



It starts with a Plan!

While a Conservation Plan is not a complete Organic System Plan (OSP), many of the requirements of an OSP are addressed through the conservation planning process.

Your local NRCS field office will assist you in developing a conservation plan for FREE!

NOP Requirements and NRCS Assistance

Major Areas of Assistance for Crop Producers

- Boundary and Buffer Zones
- Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrients
- Crop Rotation
- Pest, Weed and Disease Management

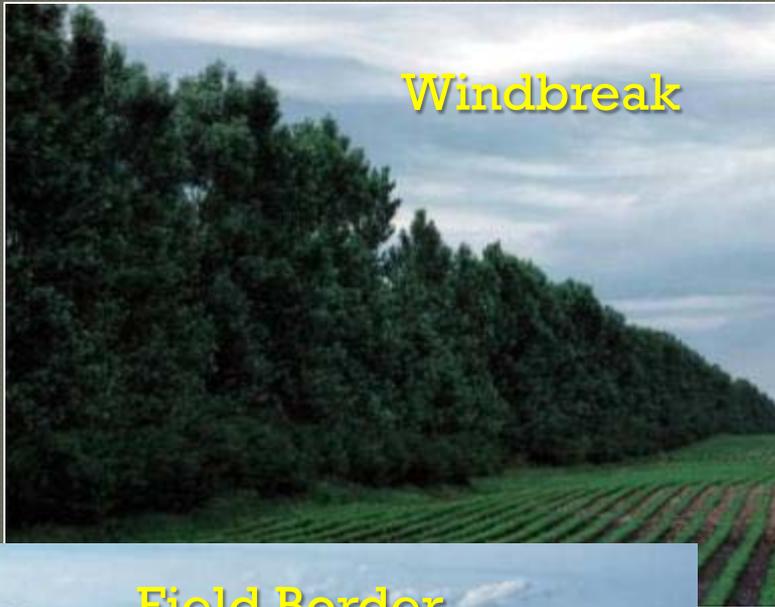


Boundary and Buffer Zones

- NOP 205.202 requires defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management

Buffers

Windbreak



Field Border



Conservation buffers protect water quality, provide pollinator habitat, and provide a barrier to the migration of prohibited substances.

Filter Strip



Hedgerow



M-88

Field 1
32.3 ac
Pastured Cropland

Hedgerow
Planting

Windbreak

House

Barn

Filter Strip

Field Border



Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrients

- NOP 205.203 states that the producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of the soil and minimize soil erosion

Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrient

Cropping practices will improve soil organic matter and reduce pest pressure.



Cover Crop



**Conservation
Cropping Rotation**

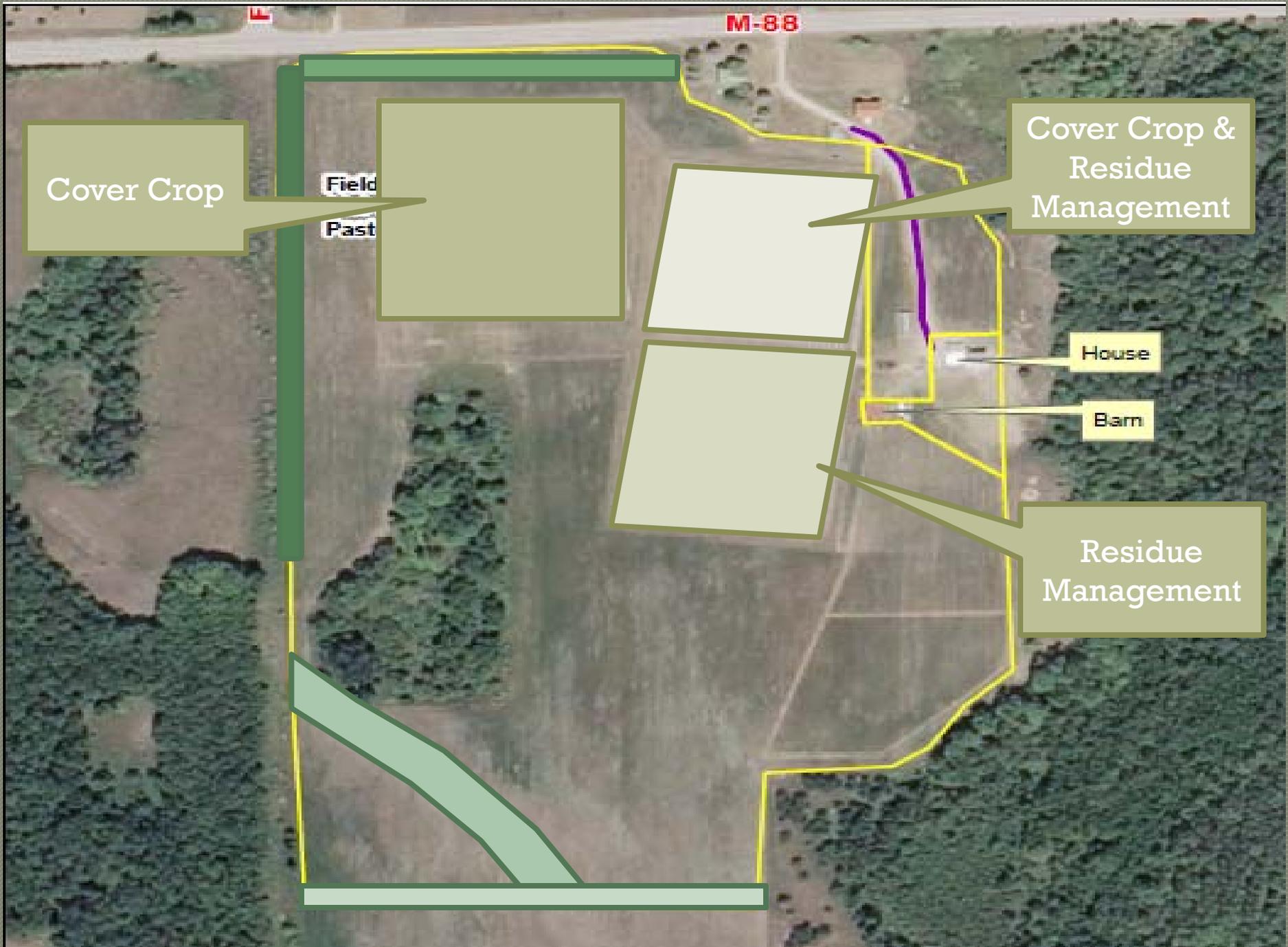


Residue Management



Mulching





M-88

Cover Crop

Field
Past

Cover Crop &
Residue
Management

House

Barn

Residue
Management

Crop Rotation

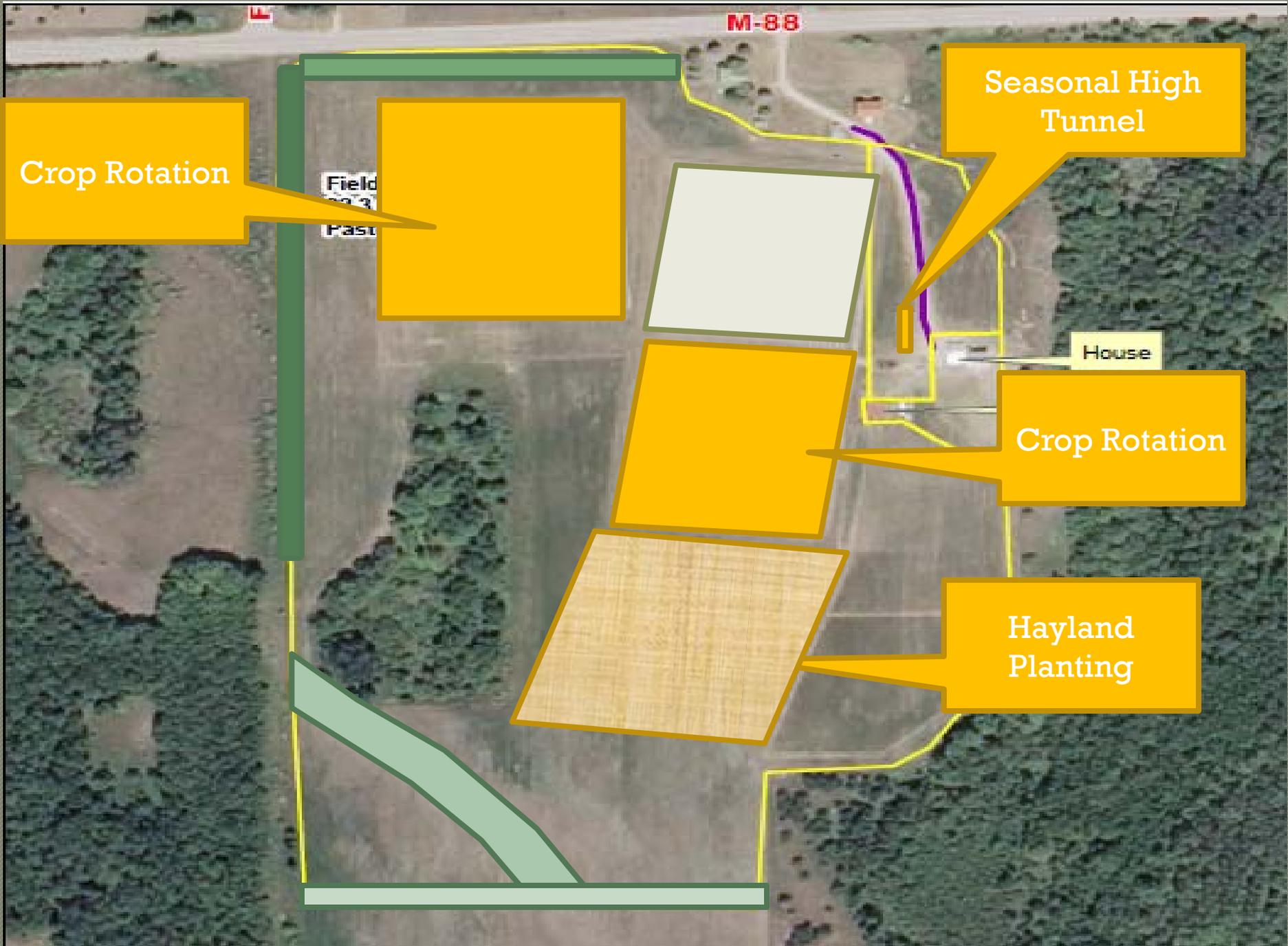
NOP 205.205 states that the producer must implement a crop rotation that provide the following functions:

- Improve soil organic matter content
- Provide for pest management
- Manage plant nutrients
- Provide erosion control.

Crop Rotation

Cropping practices will improve soil organic matter and reduce pest pressure.





M-88

Seasonal High Tunnel

Crop Rotation

Field 22.3 Past

House

Crop Rotation

Hayland Planting

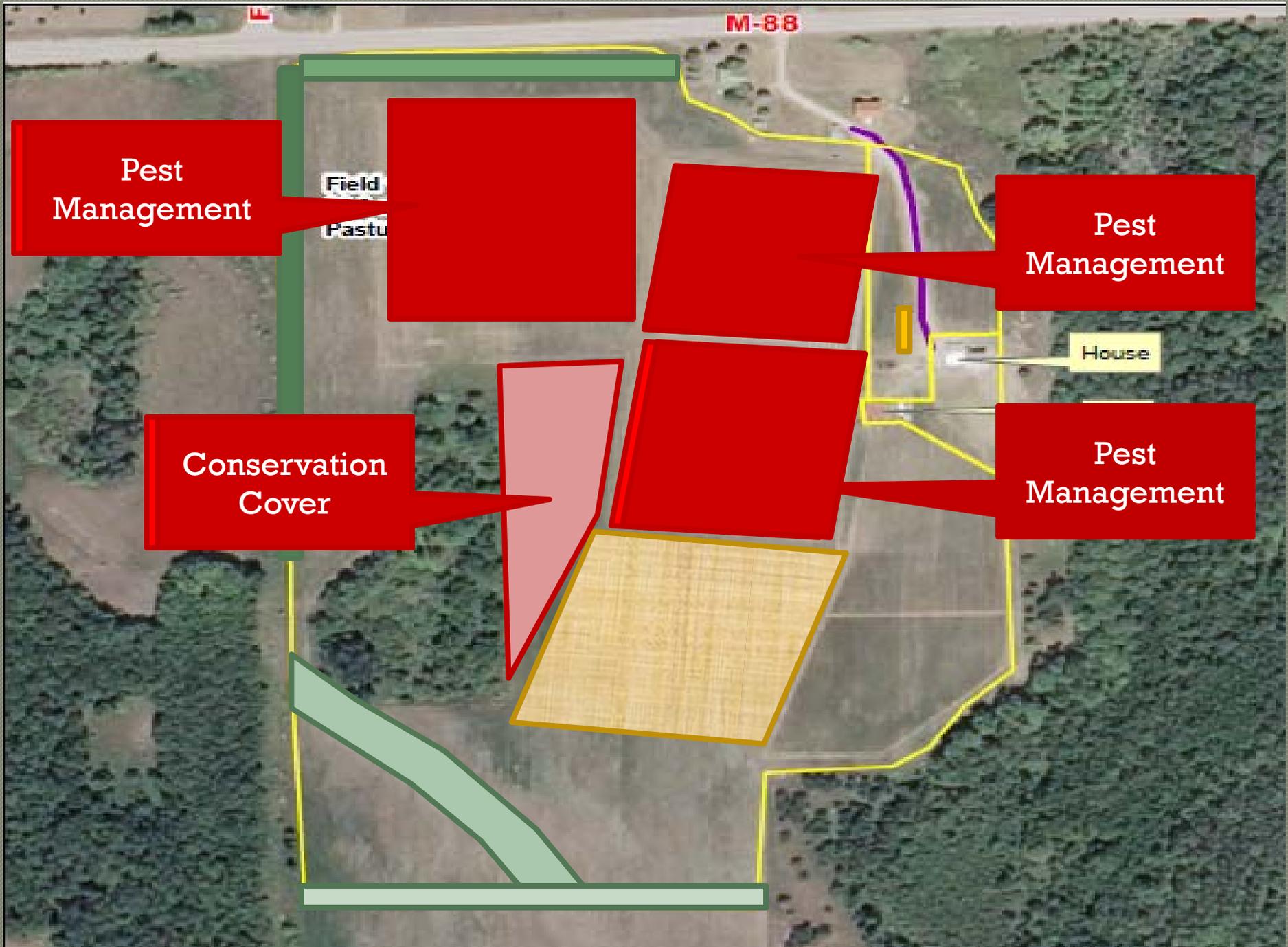
Pest, Weed, and Disease Management

- NOP 205.206 states that you must use management practices to prevent crop pest, weeds, and diseases

Pest, Weed, and Disease Management

Pest management planning and conservation practices will mitigate organic pesticide risks, improve beneficial insects and reduce pest pressure.





M-88

Field
Pastu

Pest
Management

Pest
Management

House

Conservation
Cover

Pest
Management

Management Planning

NRCS offers additional detailed management planning in a number of areas.

Transitioning to Organic Production

Pest Management



Nutrient Management

Irrigation Water Management

Additional Assistance is available in these areas

Animal Agriculture



Many animal practices will help you meet NOP requirements as well as improve soil organic matter and reduce pest pressure, and protect water quality.



Make an Appointment Today!

Go to

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

to find a NRCS office
near you



Helping People Help the Land

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.