

Supplemental payment activity –CCR 98 –Improved Resource Conserving Crop Rotation (IRCCR)



Enhancement Description

Improving a resource-conserving crop rotation means strengthening an existing resource-conserving crop rotation to further:

1. Reduces erosion;
2. Improves soil fertility and soil health;
3. Interrupts pest cycles; and
4. In applicable areas, reduces depletion of soil moisture or otherwise reduces the *need* for irrigation.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland

Benefits

Improved resource-conserving crop rotations provide:

- Substantial aboveground residue and extensive root systems resulting in controlled erosion, improved soil health and carbon sequestration into soil organic matter.
- Improved soil condition and deep root channels resulting in enhanced water infiltration and soil moisture holding capacity; all of which reduce runoff losses as well as the frequency and amount of irrigation required.
- Improved soil biological activity for enhanced soil health via green manures and rhizodeposition (i.e., root exudates; fine root sloughing).
- Biological N fixation by legumes for soil fertility.
- Disrupted pest and weed life cycles by varying plant families and timing of field management activities

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all crop land use acres with an existing resource-conserving crop rotation. The enhancement does not apply to permanent hayland, orchards, or vineyards.

Criteria

Enrich the current resource-conserving crop rotation with sufficient diversity in plant family and species as well as timing and type of field operations to further reduce the weed and pest populations. The improved rotation plan should reduce anticipated needs for pesticides, cultivation, or other pest/weed control measures.



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The improved resource conserving crop rotation shall include at least one of the following to the current rotation:

1. An additional growing year for perennial crops.
2. A perennial (grass or grass/legume) crop substituted for a row crop.
3. If current perennial crop is a legume, change to perennial grass or grass/legume.

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when the current resource conserving crop rotation includes one of the above additions on the land use acre.

Documentation Requirements

1. The beginning resource-conserving crop rotation.
2. The improved resource- conserving crop rotation.

List current crop rotation(s) and improved resource conserving activity as applicable for each rotation to receive supplemental payment:

Beginning rotation#1: _____

Fields: _____ Years_____

Improved rotation#1:

Beginning rotation#2: _____

Fields: _____ Years_____

Improved rotation#2:



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Beginning rotation#3: _____

Fields: _____ Years _____

Improved rotation#3:

Records:

- a. Crop rotation records by field
- b. Photographs of representative fields showing the phase of the rotation for the activity
- c. Seed tags and receipts (if applicable)