

## **Conservation Stewardship Program's – *National Organic Program (NOP)* *Crosswalk***

Essential to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is the use of conservation activities which provide additional environmental benefit(s). Of the activities (i.e., enhancements, bundles and practices) contained in the Activity List from which producers can select, a large proportion have a high likelihood of adoption by organic producers or those who are interested in transitioning to organic. Following is an explanation of CSP conservation activities which can aid the process of “transitioning” to organic farming or in maintaining NOP “certified” organic status. In the following document, NRCS uses the terms “organic transition” to describe the process of coming into NOP compliance, and the term “transitioning period” for the time period between a farmer’s decision to become organic and his/her completion of the organic transition.

Note: Conservation activities included in this document are viewed as top priority activities that can *substantially* assist organic/transitioning producers to meet the requirements of the NOP standard, and which organic producers are *most likely* to integrate into their farming system. Activities not listed are considered to only make minor contributions toward the NOP standard or are less likely to be adopted. Additionally, bundles are not included since they are an aggregate of individual enhancements.

National Organic Program	Conservation Stewardship Program
<p data-bbox="186 235 799 302"><b>§205.200 General – Biodiversity and Natural Resources of the Operation</b></p> <p data-bbox="186 344 837 485">Organic production practices must “conserve biodiversity” and “maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil, water, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife.”</p>	<p data-bbox="889 235 1490 558">All CSP Conservation Activities listed under NOP Standards §205.202 through §205.240 below will help conserve biodiversity and maintain and improve one or more of these natural resources. In addition, the following Conservation Activities can substantially enhance the biodiversity and overall condition of wildlife, woodlands, wetlands, and/or water resources in organic systems:</p> <p data-bbox="889 600 1089 630">Enhancements:</p> <ul data-bbox="889 638 1511 1860" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="889 638 1511 705">• ANM09 – Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat.</li> <li data-bbox="889 714 1511 781">• ANM11 – Patch burning to enhance wildlife habitat</li> <li data-bbox="889 789 1511 856">• ANM21 – Prairie restoration for grazing and wildlife habitat</li> <li data-bbox="889 865 1398 894">• ANM27 – Wildlife-friendly fencing</li> <li data-bbox="889 903 1446 932">• ANM31 – Drainage water management</li> <li data-bbox="889 940 1495 1045">• ANM32 – Extend existing filter strips or riparian herbaceous cover for water quality protection and wildlife habitat</li> <li data-bbox="889 1054 1471 1121">• ANM33 – Riparian buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat</li> <li data-bbox="889 1129 1503 1268">• ANM35 – Enhance wildlife habitat on expired grass/legume covered CRP acres or acres with similar perennial vegetated cover managed as hayland</li> <li data-bbox="889 1276 1463 1415">• ANM36 – Enhance wildlife habitat on expired tree covered CRP acres or acres with similar woody cover managed as forestland</li> <li data-bbox="889 1423 1511 1491">• ANM37 – Prescriptive grazing management system for grazed lands</li> <li data-bbox="889 1499 1463 1604">• ANM38 – Retrofit water facility for wildlife escape and enhanced access for bats and bird species</li> <li data-bbox="889 1612 1479 1717">• ANM41 – Multi-species native perennials and native self-seeding annuals for biomass/wildlife habitat</li> <li data-bbox="889 1726 1463 1793">• ANM63 – Harvest crop in a manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape*</li> <li data-bbox="889 1801 1398 1860">• PLT06 – Renovation of Windbreak, Shelterbelt, or Hedgerow</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLT17 – Creating forest openings to improve hardwood stands</li> <li>• PLT21 – Forest stand improvement pretreating vegetation and fuels preceding a prescribed fire</li> <li>• WQT08 – Decrease irrigation water quantity or conversion to non-irrigated crop production</li> </ul> <p>Conservation Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPS 338 Prescribed Burning</li> <li>• CPS 380 Windbreak Shelterbelt</li> <li>• CPS 386 Field Border</li> <li>• CPS 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover</li> <li>• CPS 391 Riparian Forest Buffer</li> <li>• CPS 395 Stream Habitat Improvement and Management</li> <li>• CPS 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment</li> <li>• CPS 643 Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats</li> <li>• CPS 644 Wetlands Wildlife Habitat Management</li> <li>• CPS 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management</li> <li>• CPS 647 Early Successional Habitat Development/Management</li> <li>• CPS 657 Wetland Restoration</li> </ul>
--	---

**§205.201 Organic Production and Handling System Plan**

An organic production or handling system plan must include:

- (1) A description of practices and procedures to be performed and maintained, including the frequency with which they will be performed;
- (5) A description of the management practices and physical barriers established to prevent [...] contact of organic production and handling operations and products with prohibited substances.

A Conservation Plan developed for a CSP contract is not intended to serve as an Organic Production and Handling System Plan (OSP). However, any of the CSP Conservation Activities (Enhancements, Bundles, or Practices) implemented during the transition period can help verify the producer has met NOP Certification requirements, and should be included in the OSP submitted when the producer applies for organic certification.

**§205.202 Land requirement**

There are no land use criteria in the NOP rules. Organic certification can be obtained on cropland, pasture, range, and forest lands provided they meet the following two criteria.

1. Prohibited Substances - the land had no prohibited substances, as listed on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances, applied for a period of three years immediately preceding harvest of the crop.
2. Buffer Zones - field(s) have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones, such as runoff diversions and activities that intercept windborne particles, 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

CSP individual and land eligibility requirements do not directly address the NOP land requirement regarding prohibited substances; however, several of the following conservation activities reduce the need for fertilizers and crop protection materials, thus assisting the transitioning grower to eliminate NOP-prohibited substances for the required three year period.

Enhancements:

- CCR98 – Improved resource conserving crop rotation
- CCR99 – Resource conserving crop rotation
- ENR10– Using nitrogen provided by legumes, animal manure and compost to supply 90 to 100 percent of the nitrogen needs
- ENR12 – Use of legume cover crops as a nitrogen source
- PLT15 – Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat
- SQL04 – Use of cover crop mixes
- SQL05 – Use of deep rooted crops to breakup soil compaction
- SQL09 – Conversion of cropped land to grass-based agriculture
- SQL11 – Cover cropping in orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial horticultural crops
- SQL12 – Intensive cover cropping in annual crops
- SQL13 – Forest stand improvement for soil health
- SQL16 – High species diversity grazing lands
- SQL18 – Soil health crop rotation
- SQL19 – Management for rangeland soil health
- WQL10– Plant a cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen
- WQL18 – Non-chemical pest management for livestock
- WQL19 – Transition to ORGANIC grazing systems

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WQL20 – Transition to ORGANIC cropping system</li> <li>• WQL28 – Biological suppression and other non-chemical techniques to manage brush, weeds and invasive species</li> <li>• WQL30 – Integrated pest management for ORGANIC farming</li> <li>• WQL33 – Use of non-chemical methods to kill cover crops</li> </ul> <p>Conservation Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPS 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation</li> <li>• CPS 340 – Cover Crop</li> <li>• CPS 386 – Field Border</li> </ul> <p>NOP rules require that buffer zones be established to protect organic fields from contamination by prohibited substances from off farm activities. CSP buffer enhancement activities can be used to establish new buffers or improve the efficacy of existing buffers to conform to what the certifying agent requires, improve habitat for beneficial insects and pollinators, and/or manage buffers for wildlife purposes. CSP buffer activities that can be established during the transition period to create or enhance buffer zones include:</p> <p>Enhancements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANM32 – Extend existing filter strips and riparian herbaceous cover for water quality protection and wildlife habitat</li> <li>• ANM33 – Riparian buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat</li> <li>• ANM39 – Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife habitat</li> <li>• ANM40 – Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat</li> <li>• ANM51- Establish and maintain early successional, naturally occurring vegetation in ditches and ditch bank borders for wildlife habitat and water quality protection</li> <li>• PLT06 – Renovation of Windbreak, Shelterbelt, or Hedgerow</li> </ul>
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PLT15 – Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat</li><li>• PLT18 – Increasing on-farm food production with edible woody buffer landscapes</li></ul> <p>Conservation Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CPS 380 – Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment</li><li>• CPS 386 - Field Border</li><li>• CPS 650 – Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation</li></ul>
--	---

**§205.203 Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard**

Key to organic farming principles is growing crops without the use of synthetic fertilizer. NOP rules provide the criteria that must be followed in order to be considered as “Certified Organic.” These criteria are:

- Use tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve soil quality and minimize soil erosion
- Manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and application of plant and animal materials
- Manage plant and animal materials to improve soil quality using:
  - raw animal manures that are incorporated into the soil prior to harvest of crops; time period depends on type of crop grown
  - composted materials that adhere to strict C:N ratios, temperatures, composting period, and turning schedule
  - non-composted plant materials can be applied at any time
- Manage plant and animal materials and crop nutrients in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by nutrients, pathogens, heavy metals, or NOP-prohibited substances.

Organic production relies on the producer's ability to manage the crop production system in a manner that builds soil fertility, while providing crop nutrients without the use of synthetic fertilizers. This is accomplished by adopting practices that improve soil quality (increasing organic matter and soil biological activity), control erosion, and cycle nutrients. The CSP offers several activities that will allow an organic producer or someone transitioning to organic to improve the current production system and associated environmental benefits.

Soil quality improvement activities can help a producer meet NOP rules 205.203 a & b. The following activities affect all CSP resource concerns in a positive manner, and each can help the transitioning grower meet NOP requirements regarding soil quality and soil conservation when implementing during the transition period.

Enhancements:

- CCR98 – Improved resource conserving crop rotation
- CCR99 – Resource-conserving crop rotation
- SQL01 – Controlled traffic system
- SQL04 – Use of cover crop mixes
- SQL05 – Use of deep rooted crops to breakup soil compaction
- SQL08– Intercropping to improve soil quality and increase biodiversity
- SQL09 – Conversion of cropped land to grass-based agriculture
- SQL11 – Cover cropping in orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial horticultural crops
- SQL12 – Intensive cover cropping in annual crops
- SQL18 – Soil health crop rotation

Conservation Practices:

- CPS 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation
- CPS 329 – Residue and Tillage Management – No till, Strip-till, Direct-



	<p>Seed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPS 340 – Cover Crop</li> <li>• CPS 345 – Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till</li> <li>• CPS 484 – Mulching</li> </ul> <p>Nutrient management activities help a producer meet NOP rules 205.203 b, c &amp; d. These activities affect all CSP resource concerns in a positive manner, but have the most significant impact on water quality.</p> <p>Enhancements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ANM32 – Extend existing filter strips and riparian herbaceous cover for water quality protection and wildlife habitat</li> <li>• ANM33 – Riparian buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat</li> <li>• ANM39 – Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife habitat</li> <li>• CCR98 – Improved resource conserving crop rotation</li> <li>• CCR99 – Resource-conserving crop rotation</li> <li>• ENR10– Using nitrogen provided by legumes, animal manure and compost to supply 90-100 percent of the nitrogen needs</li> <li>• ENR12 – Use of legume cover crops as a nitrogen source</li> <li>• WQL04– Plant tissue tests and analysis to improve nitrogen management</li> <li>• WQL10 – Plant a cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen</li> <li>• WQL20 – Transition to ORGANIC cropping system</li> <li>• WQL22 – On-farm composting of farm organic waste</li> <li>• WQL26 – Reduce the concentration of nutrients imported on farm</li> <li>• WQL27 – Drainage water management for nutrient, pathogen, or pesticide reduction</li> <li>• WQL31 – Land application of treated manure</li> </ul>
--	--

	<p>Conservation Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CPS 328 Conservation Crop rotation</li><li>• CPS 393 Filter Strip</li><li>• CPS 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover</li><li>• CPS 391 Riparian Forest Buffer</li></ul>
--	---

**§205.204 Seeds and planting stock practice standard**

NOP rules require producers use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock except that:

- Non-organically produced, untreated seeds and planting stock may be used when organic planting material of an equivalent variety is not available.
- Non-organic seeds and planting stock treated with a synthetic substance allowed on the National List may be used when an equivalent organic or untreated variety is not available,
- Planting materials treated with NOP-prohibited substances may be used if the application of these substances is required by Federal or State phytosanitary regulations.

Documentation as to the source of planted materials is required in the Organic System Plan.

While the CSP has no specific requirements to use organically grown seeds, seedlings and/or plant stock, there is no prohibition on their use in conservation activities that require the establishment of vegetative cover or planting of trees and/or shrubs. Organic producers must comply with NOP rules regarding seeds and planting stock when implementing any activity that entails establishment of production crops, cover crops, buffer/habitat vegetation or native plants. Criteria for buffer enhancements include the use of grasses and/or forbs that are best suited for wildlife and site conditions, and they encourage use of native plant species. This is true for the selection of plants used for establishing habitat for beneficial species and pollinators. Conservation activities that encourage use of native plants include:

Enhancements:

- ANM03 – Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15 percent or more of the herbage dry matter productivity
- ANM21 – Prairie restoration for grazing and wildlife habitat
- ANM23 – Multi-species native perennials for biomass / wildlife habitat
- ANM32 – Extend existing filter strips for riparian herbaceous cover for WQ and wildlife habitat
- ANM33 – Riparian buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat
- ANM39 – Extending riparian forest buffers for water quality protection and wildlife habitat
- ANM40 – Extending existing field borders for water quality protection and wildlife habitat
- PLT15 – Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat
- PLT18 – Increasing on-farm food production with edible woody buffer landscapes

**§205.205 Crop rotation practice standard**

NOP rules require a crop rotation be followed and documented in the Organic System Plan. A crop rotation includes but is not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions applicable to the operation:

- maintain or improve soil organic matter content;
- provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops;
- manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and
- provide erosion control

Note: In perennial crops such as orchards, alley cropping, intercropping, and hedgerows provide desired biodiversity in lieu of crop rotation.

A conservation crop rotation plays a pivotal role in developing a conservation plan. It can help mitigate the negative effects of tillage, increase soil organic matter, provide nutrients and control erosion, all criteria the NOP rules require of the crop rotation. CSP evaluates the crop rotation in the resource inventory process. CSP offers conservation activities that will encourage a higher environmental benefit from crop rotations, and that will help the producer meet NOP crop rotation requirements when implemented during the organic transitioning period. These activities are:

Enhancements:

- CCR98 – Improved resource conserving crop rotation
- CCR99 – Resource-conserving crop rotation
- ENR12 – Use of legume cover crops as a nitrogen source
- SQL04 – Use of cover crop mixes
- SQL05 – Use of deep rooted crops to break up soil compaction
- SQL12 – Intensive cover cropping in annual crops
- SQL18 – Soil health crop rotation
- WQL10 – Plant a cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen
- WQL20 – Transition to ORGANIC cropping system
- WQL30 – Integrated pest management for ORGANIC farming
- WQL33 – Use of non-chemical methods to kill cover crops

Conservation Practices:

- CPS 328 Conservation Crop Rotation
- CPS 340 Cover Crop

The following conservation activities can perform the NOP-mandated functions of crop rotation (soil quality, pest management, nutrient management, erosion control) in perennial crops such as orchards and vineyards.

	<p>Enhancements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLT22 – Multi-story cropping, sustainable management of non-timber forest plants</li> <li>• PLT06 – Renovation of windbreak, shelterbelt, or hedgerow for wildlife habitat.</li> <li>• PLT15 – Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat</li> <li>• PLT18 - Increasing on-farm food production with edible woody buffer landscapes</li> <li>• SQL08 – Intercropping to improve soil quality and increase biodiversity</li> <li>• SQL11 – Cover cropping in orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial horticultural crops</li> </ul> <p>Conservation Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPS 380 – Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment</li> <li>• CPS 386 – Field Border</li> <li>• CPS 391 – Riparian Forest Buffer</li> <li>• CPS 650 – Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation</li> </ul>
--	--

**§205.206 Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard**

NOP rules require producers to use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases. Practices include:

- crop rotation and soil and nutrient management practices
- sanitation measures
- cultural practices that enhance crop health, including using resistant varieties

Pests may be controlled using mechanical or physical methods, including:

- augmentation or introduction of predators and parasites of the pest species
- development of habitat for natural enemies of pests
- nonsynthetic controls such as lures, traps, and repellents

Weeds may be controlled through:

- mulching using biodegradable materials
- mowing
- livestock grazing
- hand weeding and mechanical cultivation
- flame, heat, or electrical methods
- plastic or other synthetic mulches provided they are removed from the field

Disease problems may be controlled by:

- management practices that suppress the spread of the disease
- application of non-synthetic biological, botanical, or mineral materials

NOP-allowed pest control substances may be used only when the above measures prove insufficient.

Managing pests on an organic farm relies primarily on ecologically based cultural and biological practices. The NOP pest, weed, and disease management practices all align with the Integrated Pest Management components of prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression that are the foundation of NRCS pest management policy. CSP evaluates existing pest management activities in the resource inventory process. CSP offers the following conservation activities that encourage producers to achieve a higher environmental benefit and that will help producers meet NOP pest, weed, and disease management requirements when implemented during the transition period. These enhancements are:

Enhancements:

- CCR98 – Improved resource conserving crop rotation
- CCR99 – Resource-conserving crop rotation
- PLT15 – Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat
- SQL04 – Use of cover crop mixes
- SQL11 – Cover cropping in orchards, vineyards and other woody perennial horticultural crops
- SQL12 – Intensive cover cropping in annual crops
- SQL18 – Soil health crop rotation
- WQL20 – Transition to ORGANIC cropping system
- WQL30 – Integrated pest management for ORGANIC farming
- WQL33 – Use of non-chemical methods to kill cover crops

Conservation Practices:

- CPS 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation
- CPS 340 – Cover Crop
- CPS 386 – Field Border
- CPS 484 – Mulching

<p><b>§205.207 Wild-crop harvesting practice standard</b></p> <p>The NOP allows for the harvest of “Wild Crops” that are collected or harvested from a site that is not maintained under cultivation or other agricultural management, which includes forested acres.</p> <p>NOP practice requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wild crop that is intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic must be harvested from a designated area that has had no prohibited substance, as set forth in §205.105, applied to it for a period of three years immediately preceding the harvest of the wild crop.</li> <li>• A wild crop must be harvested in a manner that ensures that such harvesting or gathering will not be destructive to the environment and will sustain the growth and production of the wild crop.</li> </ul>	<p>CSP has added non-industrial private forest as an eligible land use. Manipulation of the forest species composition, structure, and canopy cover to achieve a desired native plant community that facilitates the sustainable management of native non-timber forest plants is supported with conservation activities. These plants can include species that are considered “wild crops” by the NOP rule. Management activities include pruning, selective thinning, and the introduction of new species, all of which are allowable under the NOP rules. The following activities will help the producer meet NOP livestock feed requirements when implemented during the transition period.</p> <p>Enhancements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLT18 – Increasing on-farm food production with edible woody buffer landscapes</li> <li>• PLT22 – Multi-story cropping, sustainable management of non-timber forest plants</li> </ul>
<p><b>§205.236 Origin of livestock</b></p> <p>NOP rules require livestock products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic must be from livestock under continuous organic management from the last third of gestation or hatching.</p>	<p>The CSP rules exclude developed areas from the farm such as farm headquarters, ranch sites, barnyards, feedlots, manure storage facilities, machinery storage areas, and material handling facilities from being eligible for program participation. The rules also have no provisions related to livestock origin, breeding, hatching, or rearing except as to how these activities might impact eligible lands.</p>

**§205.237 Livestock feed**

NOP rules require the producer of an organic livestock operation to provide livestock with a total feed ration composed of agricultural products, including pasture and forage, which are organically produced.

The CSP encourages the management of forage, hay and other livestock feed to improve plant health, diversity, and forage quality. The CSP offers the following conservation activities that encourage producers to achieve a higher environmental benefit and that will help producers meet NOP livestock feed requirements when implemented during the transition period.

Enhancements:

- ANM03 – Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15 percent or more of the herbage dry matter productivity
- ANM25– Stockpiling of forages to extend the grazing season
- ANM29– On-farm forage based grazing system
- PLT02 – Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management
- PLT16 – Intensive rotational grazing
- PLT30 – Monitor pasture health using pasture condition scores (PCS)
- SQL09 – Conversion of cropped land to grass-based agriculture
- SQL16 – High species diversity grazing lands
- SQL19 – Management for rangeland soil health
- WQL19 – Transition to ORGANIC grazing systems

Conservation Practices:

- CPS 511 – Forage Harvest Management
- CPS 512 – Forage and Biomass Planting
- CPS 550 – Range Planting



**§205.238 Livestock health care practice standard**

NOP rules require the producer to establish and maintain preventive livestock health care practices, including:

- selection of species and types of livestock with regard to suitability for site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent diseases and parasites
- provision of a feed ration sufficient to meet nutritional requirements, including vitamins, minerals, protein and/or amino acids, fatty acids, energy sources, and fiber (ruminants)
- establishment of appropriate housing, pasture conditions, and sanitation practices to minimize the occurrence and spread of diseases and parasites
- provision of conditions that allow for exercise, freedom of movement, and reduction of stress appropriate to the species
- performance of physical alterations as needed to promote the animal's welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress

While the CSP does identify animal concerns, including cover, food, and water for domestic livestock, as one of the eight priority resource concerns, it does not directly address livestock health care. However many of the program's conservation activities can provide secondary benefits for livestock health. Activities like rotational grazing encourage pasture rest periods that can help with some parasites, allow free movement of livestock, and improve pasture forage quality. Monitoring of key grazing areas or using tools to evaluate the nutritional status of livestock can be used to determine herd health. The following CSP activities improve livestock health as a secondary benefit, and can help the producer meet NOP livestock health requirements when implemented during the organic transition period.

Enhancements:

- ANM29 – On-farm forage based grazing system
- ANM38 - Retrofit water facility for wildlife escape and enhanced access for bats and bird species
- ANM64 – Managing livestock parturition to coincide with forage availability
- ANM65 – Monitoring nutritional status of ruminant livestock using the NUTBAL System
- PLT02 – Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management
- PLT16 - Intensive rotational grazing
- WQL03 – Rotation of supplement and feeding areas
- WQL18 – Non-chemical pest management for livestock
- WQL19 - Transition to ORGANIC grazing systems
- WQL31 – Land application of treated manure

**§205.239 Livestock living conditions**

NOP rules require the producer of an organic livestock operation to establish and maintain livestock living conditions that accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals, including:

- access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, and direct sunlight suitable to the species, its stage of production, the climate, and the environment;
- access to pasture for ruminants;
- appropriate clean, dry bedding; if the bedding is typically consumed by the animal species, it must comply with the feed requirements of §205.237;
- shelter designed to allow for:
  - natural maintenance, comfort behaviors, and opportunity to exercise
  - temperature level, ventilation, and air circulation suitable to the species
  - reduction of potential for livestock injury

The producer must manage manure so that it optimizes nutrient cycling and does not contaminate crops, soil, or water with nutrients, heavy metals, or pathogens; and must manage pasture and outdoor access areas to protect soil and water quality.

CSP rules exclude developed areas from the farm, such as farm headquarters, ranch sites, barnyards, feedlots, manure storage facilities, machinery storage areas, and material handling facilities from being eligible for program participation. The program's focus is on natural resource concerns related to working farmland, e.g. cropland, pasture, range, and forest. Managing livestock access to water, using rotational grazing, planting desirable plant species, and monitoring pasture conditions all contribute to a productive grazing system and improve the living conditions of the livestock. CSP offers conservation activities which encourage producers to achieve a higher environmental benefit and that can be implemented during the transition period. Conservation activities to improve grazing systems are:

Enhancements:

- ANM03 – Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15 percent or more of the herbage dry matter productivity
- ANM25 - Stockpiling of forages to extend the grazing season
- ANM29– On-farm forage based grazing system
- ANM64 – Managing livestock parturition to coincide with forage availability
- ANM65 – Monitoring nutritional status of ruminant livestock using the NUTBAL System
- PLT02 – Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management
- PLT16 – Intensive rotational grazing
- PLT30 – Monitor pasture health using pasture condition scores (PCS)
- SQL09 – Conversion of cropped land to grass based agriculture
- SQL16 – High species diversity grazing lands
- SQL17 – Placement of hay feeding areas on low fertility soils
- SQL19 – Management for rangeland soil health

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WQL03 - Rotation of supplement and feeding areas</li><li>• WQL19 – Transition to ORGANIC grazing systems</li><li>• WQL22 – On-farm composting of farm organic waste</li><li>• WQL26 – Reduce the concentration of nutrients imported onto the farm</li><li>• WQL31 – Land application of treated manure</li></ul> <p>Conservation Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CPS 342 – Critical Area Planting</li><li>• CPS 382 – Fence</li><li>• CPS 528 – Prescribed Grazing</li><li>• CPS 614 – Watering Facility</li></ul>
--	--

**§ 205.240 Pasture practice standard**

NOP rules require the producer of an organic livestock operation to demonstrate through their organic system plan a functioning plan for pasture that:

- Annually provides a minimum of 30 percent of a ruminant’s dry matter intake over the course of the grazing season;
- Plan must included:
  - Type of pasture
  - Cultural and management practices used to ensure pasture of sufficient quality and quantity is available throughout the grazing season
  - Types of grazing methods used
  - Location and type of fences used
  - Soil fertility and seeding systems
  - Erosion control and protection of natural wetlands and riparian areas

The CSP encourages the management of forage, hay and other livestock feed to improve plant health, diversity, and forage quality. CSP offers the following conservation activities that encourage producers to achieve a higher environmental benefit and that will substantially help producers meet NOP pasture practice standard requirements when implemented during the transition period.

Enhancements:

- ANM03 – Incorporate native grasses and/or legumes into 15percent or more of the herbage dry matter productivity
- ANM21 - Prairie restoration for grazing and wildlife habitat
- ANM25– Stockpiling of forages to extend the grazing season
- ANM29– On-farm forage based grazing system
- PLT02 – Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management
- PLT16 – Intensive rotational grazing
- PLT30 – Monitor pasture health using pasture condition scores (PCS)
- SQL09 - Conversion of cropped land to grass-base agriculture
- SQL16 – High species diversity grazing lands
- SQL19 – Management for rangeland soil health
- WQL03 – Rotation of supplement and feeding areas
- WQL19 – Transition to ORGANIC grazing systems

Conservation Practices:

- CPS 512 – Forage and Biomass Planting
- CPS 528 – Prescribed Grazing
- CPS 550 – Range Planting