Land Smoothing (466)

Land smoothing is removing irregularities on the land surface with earth-moving equipment.

Practice Information

Land smoothing is classified as “rough grading” and does not require a complete grid survey. Irregularities are smoothed to the degree required for installation of other conservation practices and farming activities.

Land smoothing is used to improve surface drainage, provide for a more effective use of precipitation, provide for more uniform planting and cultivation, improve equipment operation and efficiency, improve terrace alignment, and facilitate contour cultivation.

Land smoothing creates a more level area for crop production. It is used where depressions, mounds, old terraces, turn-rows, and other surface irregularities interfere with the application of needed soil and water conservation and management practices.

Land smoothing will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

Common Associated Practices

Land Smoothing (466) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Dike (356); Structure for Water Control (587); Drainage Water Management (554); and Surface Drain, Field Ditch (607).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.