United States Department of Agriculture

CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E328J

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Improved crop rotation to provide benefits to pollinators

Conservation Practice 328: Conservation Cropping System

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Improve the existing crop rotation by adding pollinator friendly crops into the rotation. The crop rotation shall include a minimum of three different crops in a minimum five-year crop rotation. Each year, the pollinator friendly crop will be planted on a minimum of 5% of cropland acres contained within the agricultural operation. Use of insecticides is limited for the pollinator friendly crop.

Criteria

- Crops will be grown in a planned sequence over a five-year rotation. The crop rotation shall include a minimum of three different crops in a minimum five-year crop rotation.

- The crop rotation must include at least one pollinator friendly. For these criteria, a pollinator friendly cover crop is considered a different crop. A pollinator friendly crop is defined as a crop, planted for harvest or as a cover crop, which provides nectar for pollinators and other beneficial insects. Examples of pollinator friendly crops are canola, sunflowers, clovers, and borage. To meet the purpose and definition of a pollinator friendly crop, these "flowering" crops must be allowed to bloom prior to harvest or termination. **<REFER TO STATE SPECIFIC LIST OF POLLINATOR FRIENDLY CROPS>**

- Each year the enhancement is planned, the pollinator friendly crop will be planted on a minimum of 5% of cropland acres contained within the agricultural operation. Plan/contract the actual acres planted to the pollinator friendly crop.
- Where applicable, plan suitable crop substitutions when the planned crop cannot be planted due to weather, soil conditions, or other local situations.
- Foliar systemic insecticides may not be applied to the pollinator friendly crop.
- Insecticides may not be applied during crop bloom period of the pollinator friendly crop.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- ☐ Prior to implementation, provide NRCS with the current and planned crop rotation for all cropland acres on the operation. **<REFER TO STATE SPECIFIC LIST OF POLLINATOR FRIENDLY CROPS>**
- ☐ Prior to implementation, as needed, NRCS can provide technical assistance in selecting pollinator crops for the crop rotation or substitute species that would meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- ☐ Prior to implementation, provide maps for review by NRCS of the planned crop rotation, including areas which will include the pollinator friendly crops. Each year the enhancement is planned, at least 5% of the cropland acres on the operation must be planted to a pollinator friendly crop.

Current Management Rotation (complete table for each rotation)

Field	Current Crops (in sequence)	Planting Date	Harvest Date

Planned Management Rotation including Pollinator Friendly Crops (complete table for each rotation)

Field	Planned Crops (in sequence)	Planting Date	Harvest Date	Acres in rotation

- ☐ During implementation, maintain records of any insecticide applications to the pollinator friendly crop, including timing, material/product, application rate, and crop stage.

Field	Crop	Insecticide Applied	Application Date	Application Rate	Crop Stage

- ☐ During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes in crop rotation, insecticide applications, or management to verify the planned system meets the enhancement criteria.
- ☐ After implementation, if changes were made, complete the tables above to document the applied crop rotation for the contract period and provide to NRCS for review.
- ☐ After implementation, provide insecticide application records to NRCS for review to verify implementation meets the enhancement criteria.

NRCS will:

- ☐ As needed, provide technical assistance in selecting pollinator crops for the crop rotation or substitute species that would meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- ☐ As needed, provide additional assistance to the participant as requested.
- ☐ Prior to implementation, verify the crop rotation meets the criteria of the enhancement. The rotation must include a minimum of three different crops in a five-year crop rotation and each year the enhancement is planned the pollinator friendly crop must be planted on a minimum of 5% of cropland acres contained within the operation. *Plan/contract the actual acres planted to the pollinator friendly crop.*
- ☐ During implementation, evaluate any planned changes in crop rotation, insecticide applications, or management to verify the new system meets the enhancement criteria.

- ☐ After implementation, if there were any changes to planned rotation or management evaluate the applied crop rotation using information provided from the participant to verify the applied rotation meets the enhancement criteria.
- ☐ After implementation, review insecticide application records to verify implementation meets the enhancement criteria.

NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____Contract Number_____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

_____ _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature Date

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IDAHO SUPPLEMENT TO
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Addtional Documentation Requirements

- The following is a list of common pollinator crops in Idaho. This is not an all inclusive list. If you are considering using a pollinator crop that is not found on this list, approval must be obtained from the State Agronomist prior to including it in a CSP contract.

Alfalfa	Kale
Artichokes	Kohlrabi
Arugula	Lavendar
Asparagus for seed	Lupins
Birdsfoot trefoil	Mustard
Broad beans/Fava Beans	Okra
Broccoli	Peppermint
Cabbage	Phacelia
Carrot seed	Pumpkins, squash, and gourds
Cauliflower	Rapeseed (including canola)
Chillies and peppers	Safflower
Clovers, sainfoin	Sunflower
Collards	Turnips
Garbs/chick peas	Vetch

- Allow Pollinator crops to flower for a minimum of 2 weeks; OR be terminated at harvest; OR mow/terminate just prior to seed set.