



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E328B

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Improved resource conserving crop rotation

Conservation Practice 328: Conservation Crop Rotation

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERNS: Plants

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Improve an existing Resource Conserving Crop Rotation. Must enrich an existing rotation which already includes AT LEAST one resource conserving crop as determined by the State Conservationist in a minimum three-year crop rotation. The crop rotation will reduce soil erosion (water and wind), improve soil health, improve soil moisture efficiency, and reduce plant pest pressures.

Criteria

- Crops shall be grown in a planned sequence. The crop rotation shall include a minimum of two different crops in a minimum three-year crop rotation. Rotation must include AT LEAST one resource conserving crop (refer to State Specific List of Resource Conserving Crops). For purposes of these criteria a cover crop is considered a different crop.
- Crop rotation must produce a positive trend in the Organic Matter (OM) subfactor value, as determined by the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) calculated using current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies. (management SCI value)
- Design the crop sequence to provide sufficient diversity in plant family and species as well as timing and type of field operations to suppress the pest(s) of concern, which



may include weeds, insects, and pathogens. Use land grant university or industry standards to determine a suitable crop sequence.

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- Select crops, varieties of crops, and the sequences of crops based on local climate patterns, soil conditions, irrigation water availability, and an approved water balance procedure.
- Where applicable, plan suitable crop substitutions when the planned crop cannot be planted due to weather, soil conditions, or other local situations.
- The improved resource conserving crop rotation shall include at least one of the following (refer to State Specific List of Resource Conserving Crops):
 - Additional growing year for perennial resource conserving crop
 - Perennial resource conserving crop (grass or grass/legume) substituted for a row crop
 - If current perennial resource conserving crop is a legume, change to a perennial grass or grass/legume crop



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- ☐ Prior to implementation, provide NRCS with the planned crop rotation and tillage operation(s) used for each crop. Note all improvements to the existing Resource Conserving Crop Rotation.

Field	Acres	Planned Crops (in sequence)	Length of Crop Rotation (years)

Field	Crop	Field Operation	Timing of Field Operation (month/year)

- ☐ During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes in crops, crop rotation, or field operations to verify the planned system meets the enhancement criteria.
- ☐ After implementation, if changes to the rotation were made, complete the tables above to document the applied Conservation Crop Rotation for the contract period and provide to NRCS.

NRCS will:

- ☐ As needed, provide technical assistance in selecting crop rotations or substitute crops that would meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- ☐ Prior to implementation, verify that the crop rotation includes at least two different crops in a minimum three-year crop rotation.



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- ☐ Prior to implementation, verify the crop rotation includes at least one resource conserving crop (refer to State Specific List of Resource Conserving Crops).
- ☐ Prior to implementation, verify the planned crop rotation improves the current Resource Conserving Crop Rotation.
- ☐ Prior to implementation, use information provided from the participant to calculate the management Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) value using current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies. Crop rotation must produce a positive trend in the Organic Matter (OM) subfactor value. **Management SCI Value = _____ OM subfactor value = _____**
- ☐ During implementation, evaluate planned changes in crops, crop rotation, or field operations to verify the planned system meets the enhancement criteria.
- ☐ After implementation, if the applied crop rotation is different than the planned crop rotation, use information provided from the participant to calculate SCI value to document that the applied rotation met the enhancement criteria. **Management SCI Value = _____ OM subfactor value = _____**

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

ND CSP Signup 2023

328A NRCS Enhancement Guidance

Resource Conserving Crops* - 328A		
Grasses and Legumes /1	Annual Crops /2	
Alfalfa Big Bluestem Birdsfoot Trefoil Canada Wildrye Cicer Milkvetch Crested Wheatgrass Green Needlegrass Indiangrass Intermediate Wheatgrass Ladino Clover Little Bluestem Meadow Bromegrass Perennial Ryegrass Prairie Sandreed Pubescent Wheatgrass Reed Canarygrass Russian Wildrye Sideoats Grama Switchgrass Tall Wheatgrass Timothy Western Wheatgrass	Annual Ryegrass Barley Millet Oats Rye Sorghum Sorghum-Sudangrass Hybrids Teffgrass Triticale Wheat (all) Winter Wheat	Alfalfa Big Bluestem Birdsfoot Trefoil Canada Wildrye Cicer Milkvetch Crested Wheatgrass Green Needlegrass Indiangrass Intermediate Wheatgrass Ladino Clover Little Bluestem Meadow Bromegrass Perennial Ryegrass Prairie Sandreed Pubescent Wheatgrass Reed Canarygrass Russian Wildrye Sideoats Grama Switchgrass Tall Wheatgrass Timothy Western Wheatgrass

1/ Must be maintained for at least two years (or more) after the seeding year.

2/ These crops must be solid-seeded. Cover crops will be established early enough in growing season (full-season) to provide diversity, planned benefits and cover.

**Additional species will be considered on a case-by-case basis.*

***Resource Conserving Crop Rotation*

Guidelines:

Annual small grain crops or perennial grasses or legumes that typically produce large amounts of above ground biomass are considered resource conserving crops (RCC). Note: Row crops such as corn are not considered resource conserving crops.

No harvesting, haying or grazing of crop residues of the cover crop is permitted on acreage scheduled for 328A, 328D, 328E, 328G.

When a cover crop is planned the cover crop will consist of a mixture of at least 2 species and must be a full-season planting; ie. in place of another crop in the rotation. Cover crops planted after harvest do not meet the rotation criteria.