



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E328106I

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Improved resource conserving crop rotation for soil organic matter improvement

Conservation Practice 328: Conservation Crop Rotation

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Soil Quality Degradation

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Improve an existing Resource Conserving Crop Rotation. Must enrich and 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 as outlined in Plans and Specifications.
- 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). For purposes of these criteria a cover crop is considered a different crop.
- Where applicable, plan suitable crop substitutions when the planned crop cannot be planted due to weather, soil conditions, or other local situations.
- 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)



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

Documentation Requirements

- Complete the Following Table to document the Existing Resource Conserving Crop Rotation

<i>Field (s)</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Crops to be grown</i>	<i>Length each crop grown in the rotation</i>	<i>Crop Sequence</i>	<i>Total Length of Rotation (years)</i>



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Conservation Crop Rotation, 328, Implementation Requirements document must be completed for Improved Resource Conserving Crop Rotation per the Plans and Specifications for the planned purpose.
- The current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies must be used to document the crop rotation, soil erosion estimate, and SCI calculation.