Conservation crop rotation on recently converted CRP grass/legume cover for wind erosion

Conservation Practice 328: Conservation Crop Rotation

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Soil Erosion

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

**Enhancement Description**

Implement a crop rotation management system on crop land acres that have recently converted from CRP grass/legume conservation cover to annual planted crops. Crop rotation minimizes disturbance resulting in a Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) less than 10 and reduces soil erosion from wind to below soil tolerance (T) level. The current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies must be used to document the rotation, soil erosion estimate, and STIR calculations. *This enhancement is limited to acres where the conversion event took place not more than 2 years prior. Enhancement not applicable on hayland.

**Criteria**

- This enhancement is limited to acres where the conversion from CRP grass/legume conservation cover to an annual crop took place not more than 2 years prior to enrollment in CSP. This enhancement is not applicable on hayland.

- Crops shall be grown in a planned sequence as outlined in Plans and Specifications. The crop rotation shall include a minimum of three different crop types. 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.

• Select crops, a tillage system, and cropping sequences that will produce sufficient and timely quantities of biomass or crop residue which, in conjunction with other practices in the management system, will reduce soil erosion from wind to below soil tolerance (T) level (average annual soil loss).

• Determine the amount of biomass or crop residue needed by using current approved erosion prediction technology.

• Crop management minimizes soil disturbance resulting in a Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (STIR) less than 10 for the crop rotation (management STIR value).
Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

☐ Prior to implementation, provide NRCS with the planned crop rotation and tillage operation(s) used for each crop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Planned Crops (in sequence)</th>
<th>Length of Crop Rotation (years)</th>
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☐ 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.

☐ As needed, provide additional assistance to the participant as requested.
Prior to implementation, verify the enhancement is planned for acres where the conversion from CRP grass/legume conservation cover to annual cropland took place no more than 2 years prior to enrollment in CSP. **Date of Conversion:** ____________

Prior to implementation, verify the enhancement is not planned on hayland.

Prior to implementation, use information provided from the participant to calculate soil loss estimates and STIR calculations using the current NRCS approved wind and water erosion prediction technologies. The planned rotation must meet the enhancement criteria of a management STIR value of less than 10 and average annual soil erosion from wind less than “T”.

“T” = _______ t/ac/year  Soil erosion = _______ t/ac/year  STIR 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 soil loss estimates and STIR calculations. The applied rotation must meet the enhancement criteria above.

Soil erosion = _______ t/ac/year and STIR 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