Conservation Enhancement Activity E328137Z

Leave standing grain crops unharvested to benefit wildlife cover and shelter

Conservation Practice 328: Conservation Crop Rotation

Applicable Land Use: Crop (Annual & Mixed)

Resource Concern Addressed: Fish & Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat

Enhancement Life Span: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

Implement a crop rotation which allows a portion of grain crops to be left in fields unharvested to provide food and cover for wildlife during winter months.

Criteria

- Crops shall be grown in a planned sequence as outlined in plan. The crop rotation shall include a minimum of three different crops. 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 the crops and crop management activities that provide cover and shelter for the targeted wildlife species using an approved habitat evaluation procedure.

- Leave a minimum ½ acre of unharvested, standing grain crops for each 40 acres of cropland. Unharvested plots shall be located in a single location on the 40 acre unit and additional plots shall be located on different 40 acres. This enhancement is to be planned, contracted, and implemented on an entire field, not just the unharvested acres.
• Locate the unharvested plots adjacent to permanent cover such as brushy fencerows, field borders, forest land, or wetlands (this does not include newly established vegetation).

• Leave unharvested crops standing over winter until it is time to prepare the soil for planting the next crop.
**Documentation and Implementation Requirements**

**Participant will:**
- Prior to implementation, provide NRCS with the planned crop rotation.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Planned Crops (in sequence)</th>
<th>Length of Crop Rotation (years)</th>
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- Prior to implementation, develop a map showing planned location(s), crop type(s), and acreage of crops to be left unharvested.
- During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes in crops, crop rotation, or unharvested areas to verify the planned system meets the enhancement criteria.
- During implementation, take photos of all unharvested plots. Photos must indicate field location and date.
- 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.
- After implementation, make map showing implemented location(s), crop type(s), and acreage of crops that were left unharvested each year available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.
- After implementation, make photos of unharvested plots available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

**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 technical assistance in selecting crops for cover and shelter according to the approved habitat evaluation procedure.
- As needed, provide additional assistance to the participant as requested.
During implementation, evaluate planned changes in crops, crop rotation, or unharvested areas to verify the planned system meets the enhancement criteria.

After implementation, review map showing implemented location(s), crop type(s), and acreage of crops that were left unharvested each year to verify implementation of the enhancement.

After implementation, review photos of unharvested plots to verify implementation of the enhancement.

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 __________________________