United States Department of Agriculture

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: Soil; 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.

- 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) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
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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.

- ☐ Prior to implementation, verify that the crop rotation includes at least two different crops in a minimum three-year crop rotation.

- ☐ 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

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# WYOMING SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

## E328B

### Additional Criteria for Wyoming

In addition to the criteria specified in the National Job Sheet E328B the following addition criteria apply to Wyoming:

- In addition to the criteria specified in the National job sheet above, the following additional criteria apply in Wyoming:

  Wyoming acceptable perennial crops

  1. Perennial alfalfa (grown for forage or seed)
  2. Clovers or other perennial legumes for forage or seed
  3. Perennial grass or combination grass/legume or grass/forb mixture

Producer must have an approved existing resource conserving crop rotation

- Implementation of this enhancement must meet all “general criteria” and “additional criteria related to the applicable practice purpose” listed in the NRCS conservation practice standard for the conservation crop rotation (328) practice.