



EQIP Participant

EQIP Contract Number

Purpose: To grow crops in a rotation on the same field to reduce erosion, improve soil condition, manage plant pests and maintain the balance of plant nutrients.

- This practice will be applied with other conservation practices in order to reduce erosion to tolerable levels and maintain soil quality using the latest NRCS erosion and soil quality prediction tools.
- All soil amendments, mulches and other products and practices will be consistent with National Organic Program (NOP) standards.
- For non-certified organic acres, a producer “self certification” letter must be signed stating the producer’s intent to become a certified organic operation.
- Current certified organic producers must provide a copy of their Organic System Plan (OSP).

NRCS will:

- Assist participants in preparing a residue management and cropping sequence which meet the goals of the practice.
- Assist participants in preparing soil loss and soil condition evaluations for each field enrolled. The Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation and Wind Erosion Equation, as appropriate, will be used for this purpose.
- Provide information and technical assistance for facilitating practices such as contouring, terracing, vegetative buffers and other conservation practices that may be needed to meet soil conservation objectives.

Participant will:

- Ensure that the requirements of the National Organic Program (NOP) will be followed for implementation of this practice.
- Provide a cropping sequence including anticipated crop yields, residue management, provisions for the application of mulches, composts, manures and other soil amendments that affect soil quality.
- Plant all crops within accepted planting dates using accepted methods.
- Provide information about planned planting and harvest dates, methods and field operations.
- Tillage/irrigation worksheet will be submitted as a basis for NRCS to prepare appropriate erosion
- and soil quality evaluations. This will include two worksheets, one describing the current system and one for the proposed system.
- Control erosion in areas of concentrated flow with grassed waterways or other suitable erosion control measures.
- Manage field operations, cover crops, and/or mulching to insure that soil loss from sheet, rill, and wind erosion is controlled and soil condition is maintained or improved.
- Perform one of the following activities if a positive soil condition index cannot be achieved:
 - Utilize a minimum of two crops if one of the crops is a perennial lasting at least two years, or;
 - Utilize a minimum of two annually seeded crops with a cover crop that is not harvested following one of the crop years (no silage, hay or crop residue may be removed from this system), this may include a summer fallow if seeded to a cover crop, or;
 - Grow a minimum of three annually seeded crops where at least ½ the rotation consists of high residue crops.
- Certify, annually, the actual tillage operations performed, crops grown, cover crops and soil amendments used.

The per acre payment will be made annually for three consecutive years that the practice is carried out. *****Annual implementation will be considered complete and payment made when the final crop of the year has been harvested and appropriate records submitted.**

I understand the requirements of this Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) practice and my questions concerning the practice and payment have been answered. I further understand that a failure to adhere to the above requirements may jeopardize any and all payments.

Participant Signature

Date

