USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

330 – Contour Farming Implementation Requirements

Producer:		**Project or Contract:**	
Location:		**County:**	
Farm Name:		**Tract Number:**	

Practice Lifespan – 5 years

Practice Purpose(s): (check all that apply)

- ☐ Reduce sheet and rill erosion
- ☐ Reduce sediment transport to surface waters
- ☐ Reduce excess nutrients in surface waters
- ☐ Reduce pesticide transport to surface waters
- ☐ Improve the efficiency of moisture management

Description of work:

Producer Signature:		**Date**	

NRCS Review Only

Designed By:		**Date**	
Checked By:		**Date**	
Approved By:		**Date**	

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Planning Conditions for the Dominant Critical Soil Map Unit/Component Per Field				
Field Number	**Planning Soil Map Unit/Component**	**Planning Slope %**	**Planning Slope Length (ft)**	**Percent Absolute Contour Row Grade Planned**

Maximum and Minimum Contour Row Grades	
Minimum Contour Row Grade (Percent) The crop rows shall have sufficient grade to ensure that runoff water does not pond and cause unacceptable crop damage.	**Maximum Contour Row Grade (Percent)** The maximum row grade must not exceed one-half of the up-and-down hill slope percent used for conservation planning. Up to a 10-percent deviation from the design row grade is permitted within 50 feet of a stable outlet.

Minimum Tillage Ridge Heights and In-Row Plant Spacing		
Row spacing greater than 10 inches	**Row spacing 10 inches or less**	**No Tillage Planting**
The minimum ridge height will be 2 inches during the period of the rotation that is most vulnerable to sheet and rill erosion.	The minimum ridge height will be one inch for close-grown crops, such as small grains. The minimum plant height will be 6 inches and the plant spacing within the row will be no greater than 2 inches during the time most vulnerable to sheet and rill erosion.	The minimum ridge height criteria are not required when the Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Residue and Tillage Management – No Till (Code 329) is used on the contour and at least 50 percent surface residue cover is present between the rows after planting.

Critical Slope Length: Use supporting practices (e.g. terraces, diversions, etc.) when a contour farming layout occurs on a hill slope longer than the critical slope length. Supporting practice(s) used must reduce slope length below the critical length or reduce overland flow velocities.

Corrections Areas: Where field operations begin to converge between two non-parallel contour baselines, establish a correction area (areas in the field where two different contour systems meet) that is permanently in sod or established to an annual close-grown crop.

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OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:

- Perform all tillage and planting operations parallel to contour baselines or terraces, diversions, or contour buffer strip boundaries where these practices are used, provided the applicable row grade criteria are met.

- Where terraces, diversions, or contour buffer strips are not present, maintain contour markers on grades that, when followed during establishment of each crop, will maintain crop rows at designed grades. Contour markers may be field boundaries, a crop row left untilled near or on an original contour baseline or other readily identifiable, continuous, lasting marker.

- All tillage and planting operations shall be parallel to the established marker. If a marker is lost, re-establish a contour baseline within the applicable criteria set forth by this standard prior to seedbed preparation for the next crop.

Specific Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements For Your Practice:

☐ A map(s) showing all fields planned for Contour Buffer Strips is attached. The map shows:

The approximate location of the baselines used to establish the system,

The location of stable outlets for the system

If you have questions about this planned **Contour Buffer Strips** practice contact:

Name:		Tel:		Email:	