

# Improved Resource Conserving Crop Rotation (RCCR)

FY2026 (formally E328B)



## Description

Improve an existing Resource Conserving Crop Rotation, which must already include at least one resource conserving crop as determined by the State Conservationist in a minimum three-year crop rotation (WA-Agronomy TN22). The crop rotation will reduce soil erosion (water and wind), improve soil health, improve soil moisture efficiency, and reduce plant pest pressures.

## Criteria

- Crops grown in a planned sequence consisting of, at minimum, two different crops in a minimum three-year crop rotation. Rotation must include AT LEAST one resource conserving crop (refer to WA-Agronomy Technical Note 22). 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 management Soil Conditioning Index (SCI) calculated using current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies.
- Design the crop rotation to provide sufficient diversity in plant family and species, as well as timing and type of field operations to suppress the weed, insect, and pathogen pest(s) of concern. Use land grant university or industry standards to determine a suitable crop rotation.
- 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.
- Improved Resource Conserving Crop rotation includes at least one of the following (refer to WA-Agronomy Technical Note 22):
  - Additional growing year for a perennial resource conserving crop
  - Perennial resource conserving crop (grass or grass/legume) substituted for a row crop
  - If the current perennial resource conserving crop is a legume, amend or change crop to achieve a perennial grass or grass/legume crop.

## Resource Conserving Crops:

### Perennial Grasses

Sandberg Bluegrass  
Kentucky Bluegrass  
Big Bluegrass  
Basin Wildrye  
Perennial Ryegrass  
Orchardgrass  
Tall Fescue  
Hard Fescue  
Sheep Fescue  
Tall Wheatgrass  
Beardless Wheatgrass  
Snake River Wheatgrass  
Siberian Wheatgrass  
Bluebunch Wheatgrass  
Thickspike Wheatgrass  
Mountain Brome  
Timothy

### Perennial Legumes

Red Clover  
White Clover  
Alfalfa  
Sainfoin

\* Refer to WA-Agronomy Technical Note 22 for entire resource conserving crop list





## Documentation & Implementation Requirements

### Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, provide NRCS with the planned crop rotation and tillage operation(s) used for each crop within the rotation, demonstrating meeting CPS 328, Conservation Crop Rotation, and the above stated criteria. Note all improvements to the existing Resource Conserving Crop Rotation.
- Prior to implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes in crops, crop rotation, or field operations to verify the planned system meets the enhancement criteria.

### NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical assistance in selecting crop rotations or substitute crops meeting the criteria of the IRCCR enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, verify the crop rotation includes at least two different crops in a minimum three-year crop rotation, meeting CPS 328-Conservation Crop Rotation
- Prior to implementation, verify the crop rotation includes at least one resource conserving crop (refer WA-Agronomy Technical Note 22).
- Prior to implementation, use the 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:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Prior to 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 the information provided from the participant to calculate the management SCI value to document the applied rotation met the enhancement criteria.
  - **Management SCI Value:** \_\_\_\_\_ **OM subfactor value:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Participant Acknowledgment of required criteria to implement a Resource Conserving Crop Rotation

Participant:

Date:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and documented on RCCR/IRCCR WA-Supplement prior to implementation.

NRCS Design Approval:

Date:

I have reviewed all submitted documentation from the participant and have determined the participant has implemented the RCCR per CPS 328 and criteria stated above.

NRCS Implementation Approval:

Date:

Job Approval Authority:

