NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

TERRACE

1. Scope

The work shall consist of constructing the terrace channels and ridges and filling and leveling as required by the construction plans.

2. Location

The location of the terrace shall be as shown on the construction plans or as staked in the field.

3. Site Preparation

All dead furrows, ditches, and gullies shall be filled prior to or as a part of construction. Old terraces; fencerows; brush; and tall, standing vegetation shall be removed from the area occupied by the terrace ridge and the area from which the earthen construction material will be taken.

4. Material

Materials for the earthfill shall be obtained from excavation in the channel or other designated areas and shall be free of objectionable materials such as brush, roots, and rock particles that endanger the performance of the terrace.

5. Placement of Earthfill

All terraces. Terraces shall be constructed to the dimensions specified on the construction plans or as staked in the field. All fills shall be full-bodied with the cross section conforming to that specified for all stations. Terrace ridges constructed across gullies or depressions shall be compacted by machinery travel to ensure proper density. The terrace channels, side slopes, ridges, cut areas, and fill areas shall be finished to a smoothness so the surface can be readily traveled upon by farm-type equipment. Topsoil is to be stripped, stockpiled, and spread on disturbed areas or used in the outer portion of terrace ridges to restore soil productivity (when specified in the construction details).

Soil moisture shall be adequate for construction and light compaction. Extremely dry conditions shall require delay of construction until rainfall restores the soil moisture conditions.

Level terraces. Channel blocks (when specified) must be in place before the terrace is considered complete.

Unless otherwise specified, the maximum difference between high and low points in the channel of all level terraces is 0.8 foot. The minimum ridge elevation shall be the average channel elevation plus the design height. When a block is specified, the minimum block elevation shall be the average channel elevation plus the design block height shown on the field sheet.

Any ditch or channel made at the bottom edge of the backslope while moving earth from the backslope into the terrace ridge will be shaped, as necessary, so that drainage from the backslope of the terrace will not flow parallel to it.

6. Outlets

Underground tile outlets are to be installed at locations shown on the drawings or as staked in the field. Refer to Practice Specification Guide Sheet 620, Underground Outlet, for detailed installation requirements.

Terrace outlet structures are to be installed at locations shown on the drawings or as staked in the field. Refer to Practice Specification Guide Sheet 410, Grade Stabilization Structure, for detailed installation requirements.

7. Vegetation

A protective cover of vegetation shall be established on steep backslope and narrow-based terraces when specified in the Construction Details section. Refer to Practice Specification Guide Sheet 342, Critical Area Planting, for detailed seeding requirements.

8. Measurement

Measurement for the amount of terraces completed will be determined by measuring the length of the terrace channel in feet. The measurement shall begin and end where design depth is reached.

9. Construction Details

Instructions to the Designer: The construction tolerance for level terraces can be adjusted for the situation to account for conditions and equipment used for construction. It is suggested that a difference of 0.8 foot between high and low points in the channel be reduced to a difference of 0.4 foot when construction is with a scraper rather than a belt-type terracing machine.