

CROPLAND

Planning Resource Management Systems

Successful resource management on cropland is the correct application and maintenance of those practices that will meet the needs of the cropland ecosystem – soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources – and the objectives of the land user.

Quality criteria that must be met on cropland for each resource concern are explained in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide. A Resource Management System (RMS) is developed by selecting a combination of the ESSENTIAL, FACILITATING, and SUPPORTING practices whose combined effects will meet the criteria for each resource. Essential practices are required as the minimum to meet an RMS.

ESSENTIAL Practices – Managing growing plants and/or managing their residues is the foundation upon which the cropland RMS is built. Increased soil organic matter is essential for improved soil quality, and will also improve air quality and water quality. Improved plant and animal health also result. The following practices are essential and are always planned in the RMS.

Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328)
Nutrient Management (Code 590)

Pest Management (Code 595)
Appropriate Residue Management Practice 1

FACILITATING Practices – These practices facilitate the application and effectiveness of the essential practices. They are useful on cropland in all major land resource areas (MLRA's) of the state.

Cover Crop (Code 340)

Long-Term No-Till (Code 778)

SUPPORTING Practices – These are supporting practices and are planned when necessary to meet objectives including erosion control, soil quality improvements, water quality improvements, air quality improvements, and wildlife habitat needs.

Contour Farming (Code 330)
Cross-Slope Farming (Code 330-A)
Cross-Wind Stripcropping (Code 589B)
Diversion (Code 362)
Field Border (Code 386)
Filter Strip (Code 393)
Grassed Waterway (Code 412)
Land Smoothing (Code 466)

Residue Mgt., No-till & Strip Till (Code 329A)
Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)
Stripcropping, Contour (Code 585)
Stripcropping, Field (Code 586)
Terrace (Code 600)
Waste Utilization (Code 633)
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Estab. (Code 392)

1Must include either Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344), Residue Management, No-till and Strip Till (Code 329A), Cover Crop (Code 340) or another appropriate residue management practice.