Natural Resources Conservation Service June 2005

Conservation Crop Rotation

Conservation Practice Job Sheet ***(Code 328)***

For:	Farm #:
Field(s):	Tract #:

Definition
Growing crops in a recurring sequence on the same field.

Purpose (Check all Planned Purposes)
☐ Reduce sheet and rill erosion.

☐ Reduce soil erosion from wind.

☐ Maintain or improve soil organic matter content and tilth.

☐ Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients.

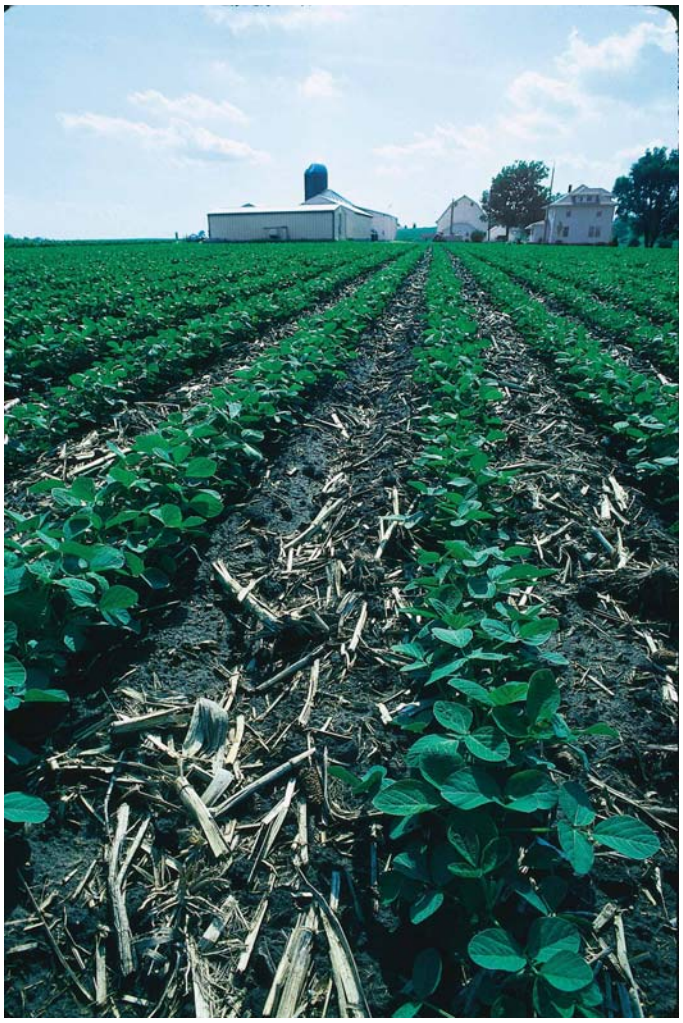
☐ Manage plant pests (weeds, insects, and diseases).

☐ Provide food for domestic livestock

☐ Provide food and cover for wildlife.

Where Used
This practice applies to all cropland and other land where crops are grown, except:

This standard does not apply to pastureland, hayland, or other land uses where crops are grown occasionally only to facilitate renovation or reestablishment of perennial vegetation.



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General Specifications:

1. Crops shall be grown in a planned recurring (rotation), unless a suitable substitution crop is used.
2. Use crops and varieties adapted for your soils and region.
3. Cover and green manure crops may be grazed as long as enough biomass remains for the intended purpose(s).

Year of Crop Rotation	Planned Crop & Yield	Type of Tillage to Establish the Crop - "X" The appropriate type(s)					
		Fall Till	Spring Till	Conventional	Mulch	No Till	Ridge
1		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Possible Crop Substitutions:
In some cases, due to weather, commodity prices, or commodity programs it becomes necessary to substitute different crops into the rotation or a different sequence. **IMPORTANT:** If you want to deviate from the crop rotation in your conservation plan, contact your local NRCS office to discuss suitability.

The following crops may be substituted for a planned crop in the rotation. **HOWEVER**, if erosion control is your purpose, the substituted crop must be planted into the amount of residue cover that will provide equal or greater erosion control as the planned crop specified in the conservation plan. Consult NRCS for specifics. NOTE: when soybeans or corn silage are substituted for corn or a small grain, a wheat or rye cover crop must be established. Small grain cover crops are to be seeded by October 15 in north Jersey; and in the south by November 1st. The cover crop is to be maintained until 10-15 inches tall or until late May, in the following spring.

Planned Crop	Possible Substitute Crop
Corn (Grain)	No-till Soybeans with a cover crop Small grains with at least 30% cover after planting Hay, Meadow, Green manure crop
Soybeans or Corn Silage	Corn (Grain) Small Grains Hay, Meadow, Green manure crop
Small Grains	Corn (Grain) Soybeans or Corn silage with at least 30% cover after planting, and with a cover crop after harvest. Hay, Meadow, Green manure crop
Vegetables	Any of the above

Special Management Provisions for Wildlife Food & Cover:

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Questions concerning these specifications and/or crop substitutions should be directed to the NRCS/SWCD office (phone) .

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