



Row Arrangement

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

(Code 557)

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

Definition

Tillage, planting, and other farming operations performed perpendicular to or near the contour of the prevailing slope (cross slope) of the field slope.

**Purposes (check all that apply)**

- To reduce sheet and rill erosion.
- To reduce transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants.

Condition where practice applies

This practice applies on sloping land where crops are grown. Row arrangement is most effective on slopes between 2 and 10 percent. This practice will be less effective in achieving the stated purpose(s) on slopes exceeding 10 percent. The practice is not well suited to excessively rolling topography having a high degree of slope irregularity because of the difficulty meeting row grade criteria.

Baseline(s): A baseline is the cross slope line(s) laid out in the field to establish tillage and planted row patterns. Assistance to establish the baseline(s) will be provided by the NRCS/SWCD local field office. Once established maintain the baseline(s). A narrow strip of grass (1-5 feet wide) or markers will help to maintain the baseline(s).

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(Code 557)**Maximum In-Row Grade(s)**

Field(s) and field slope	Maximum In-Row Grade for Row Arrangement

Headland, End Rows, Field Edges

Headlands or end rows that are steeper than the maximum row grade criteria stated above shall have a cover-management condition similar to an unmowed legume crop or established to permanent field borders.

Operation and Maintenance

1. Perform all tillage and planting operations parallel to cross slope baselines or *terraces, diversions, or contour buffer strip* boundaries where these practices are used, provided the applicable row grade criteria are met.
2. Where *terraces, diversions, or contour buffer strips* are not present, maintain markers on grades that, when followed during establishment of each crop, will maintain crop rows at designed grades. Markers may be field boundaries, a crop row left untilled near or on an original cross slope 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.
3. Farming operations should begin on the cross slope baselines and proceed both up and down the slope in a parallel pattern until patterns meet. Where field operations begin to converge between two non-parallel baselines, establish a correction area that is either permanently in sod, established to an annual close-grown crop, or is in a cover-management condition similar to an unmowed legume.
4. Where cross slope row curvature becomes too sharp to keep machinery aligned with rows during field operations, establish sod turn strips on sharp ridge points or other odd areas as needed.
5. Renovate *field borders* as needed to maintain at least 65 percent ground cover. Maintain adequate field border width to allow farm implements room to turn.

Questions concerning these specifications should be directed to the NRCS/SWCD office (phone)

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