

## **CROP**

### **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 of the resource concerns is explained in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide. A Resource Management System (RMS) is developed by selecting a combination of the ESSENTIAL, plus the DESIRABLE or NEEDED practices, or both, 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.

Appropriate Residue Management Practice <sup>1</sup>	Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
Nutrient Management (590)	Pest Management (595)

**DESIRABLE 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 (340)

**NEEDED Practices-** These are NEEDED 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.

Alley Cropping (311)	Grassed Waterway (412)
Contour Buffer Strips (332)	Land Smoothing (466)
Contour Farming (330)	Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C)	Stripcropping (585)
Diversion (362)	Terrace (600)
Field Border (386)	Waste Utilization (633)
Filter Strip (393)	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)

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<sup>1</sup>Must include Residue Management, Seasonal (344), Residue Management, No Till/ Strip Till/ Direct Seed (329) or another appropriate residue management practice.