

## **Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition Plan Criteria Practice/Activity Code (138) (No.)**

### **1. Definition**

A “Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition” is a conservation activity plan documenting decisions by producers/growers who agree to implement a system of conservation practices which assist the producer to transition from conventional farming or ranching systems to an organic production system. The Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition” will:

- a. Meets NRCS quality criteria for soil erosion, water quality, plant condition, and other identified natural resource concerns
- b. Develops the linkage between the conservation practices planned to the National Organic Program requirements for organic farming. This will assist the grower to develop their Organic System Plan (OSP) as defined in the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Standards ([www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop))
- c. Complies with federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations and permit requirements
- d. Documents the producer’s objectives and decisions for practice implementation during the transition period

**Note:** The plan may be used by producers to help support their efforts to become a certified operation, but this plan may not be used as a replacement for an Organic System Plan (OSP) as required by the National Organic Program.

### **2. The following are “planning considerations” for the planner to consider during the conservation plan development process for organic operations or those operations transitioning to organic:**

- Identification of natural resource concerns to be addressed
- Producers objectives and goals related to organic production
- Fertility, Soil Quality and Erosion Control (NOP Part §205.203 and §205.205)
- Cover crops and cover crop management, hedgerows, and/or artificial structures for beneficial insects, pollinators, bats, and raptors or other diversified plantings in annual and perennial crops;
- Consideration of wildlife-friendly cover crops;
- List of planned nutrient applications (incorporated, foliar, soil inoculants, compost);
- Results (as appropriate) for: soil tests, tissue tests, microbiological tests, crop quality testing;
- Method and frequency of fertility management monitoring;
- Methods of erosion control and documentation:
- Erosion prediction printouts for before and after the planned system using approved erosion prediction tools such as RUSLE2 and/or WEPS when applicable.
- Crop rotation (NOP Part §205.205)

- a. Practices to maintain or improve soil organic matter content;
  - b. Practices to manage deficient or excess nutrients and support nutrient cycling;
  - b. Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops;
  - c. Address erosion control.
- Pest Management (NOP Part §§205.206)
  - a. Substances used for controlling insects or disease;
  - b. Biological controls (including encouraging and managing bats and raptors);
  - c. Pest control materials and reason for use;
  - d. Synthetic pesticides used in or around facilities where organic products are stored;
  - e. Beneficial predators and parasites;
  - f. Pollinator habitat and pollinator protection.
- Locations of sensitive resource areas to include:
  - a. Rivers, streams, drains, surface waters, coastal waters, wetlands, wells, groundwater, drains, grassed waterways and buffers;
  - b. Sensitive plant species and/or essential fish and wildlife (including invertebrates) habitat (on and off-site), and food plots;
  - c. Drinking water sources.
- Livestock (NOP Part §205.236 to §205.239)
  - a. Livestock, poultry, breeds, gender, numbers, hatch or purchase dates;
  - b. Crops grown for organic livestock feed;
    - a. Livestock Feed - access to pasture for all ruminants;
    - b. Drinking Water Source;
  - c. Operations producing both Organic and Non-organic livestock. Separation between organic and non-organic livestock.
  - d. Manure Management - Storage and application techniques, application rates, number of acres manure applied to, and when applied.
- Biodiversity - conservation plants, habitat for birds, pollinators, bats, beneficial insects, natural areas restored or protected, and wildlife friendly farm practices

### 3. Transition to Organic Farming Plan Criteria

This section establishes the minimum criteria to be addressed in the development of Transition to Organic System Plan developed by a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP).

- A. Completed the “CAP\_138\_Cropland\_Template.dotx” template provided for Cropland Acres and the “CAP\_138\_Grazing\_Template.dotx” provided for grazing acres. The template includes the following required items:**

Background and Site Information Element

- Name of owner/operator;
- Farm location and mailing address of the grower;

- Soils Map and soil map units descriptions using the Web Soil Survey <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm> as a minimum printout the Soil Report > AOI Inventory> Map Unit Descriptions
- Digital Conservation plan map with:
  1. Streams, surface waters, surface drainage, and wetlands on or adjacent to site
  2. Property lines
  3. Required setbacks
  4. Field boundaries, name/number, acres, and land use
  5. Map scale
  6. Structural practices located on Map
  7. Legend
  8. Grower Name, County, State
- Total acres of the plan
- Producer's Objectives and Goals
- Resource evaluations for soil erosion, soil quality, water quality, plant condition, and other local concerns identified.
- Planned conservation practices to address soil erosion, soil quality, water quality, plant condition, and other local resource or human concerns.

**B. Typical Conservation Practice Standards to Transition to Support Organic Transition Plan” (138)” (include Reference to the NOP for each planned practice – See Attached - NRCS Practice and NOP Reference Table):**

- a) Document the planned conservation practices. When any of the following practices are used in this plan the site specific specifications shall be developed in the attached template, in a NRCS approved Jobsheet, or separate plan.
  - Alley Cropping (311)
  - Cover Crop (340)
  - Conservation Cover (327)
  - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
  - Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647)
  - Field Border (386)
  - Filter Strip (393)
  - Hayland Management (512)
  - Hedgerow Planting (422)
  - Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)
  - Mulching (484)
  - Pasture and Hayland Planting (512)
  - Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345)
  - Residue Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (329)
  - Residue Management, Ridge Till (346)
  - Residue Management, Seasonal (344)

- Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643)
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395)
- Stripcropping (585)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)
- Windbreak/Shelter Belt Establishment (380)

b) For all other practices the practice shall be documented for the planned amount, the fields where the practice is to be applied, and the planned year of application. Below are some of the typical conservation practices that may be planned:

- Nutrient Management (590)
- Integrated Pest Management (595)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Terrace (600)
- Water Harvesting Catchment (636)
- Forest Stand Improvement (666)
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Land Smoothing (466)
- Terrace (600)
- Grassed Waterway (412)
- Other Engineering type practices

### C. References

- USDA National Organic Program (NOP - [www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop))
- California Certified Organic Farmers (<http://www.ccof.org/>)
- USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide  
[http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg\\_locator.aspx](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx) , Select State, Select Section 4 Conservation Practices
- ATTRA Organic Documentation Forms, Organic Crop and Livestock Workbooks (<http://www.attra.org/>)

### 4. Deliverables for the Client – a hardcopy of the plan that includes:

- Complete Hardcopy of the client’s plan (“CAP\_138\_Cropland\_Template.dotx” template provided for Cropland Acres and the “CAP\_138\_Grazing\_Template.dotx” for the Grazing Acres) with appropriate practice specifications (or jobsheets) for the (list in 3. B, a above) planned practices. **Optional:** If a Conservation Plug-in/Cplanner version is used the Conservation Plan Map, the Soils Map, and Planned Conservation Practices can be deleted from the Plan Template”.
  - Completed the appropriate templates “CAP\_138\_Cropland\_Template.dotx” template provided for Cropland Acres and the “CAP\_138\_Grazing\_Template.dotx” provided for the Grazing Acres for **Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition (138)**

- Soils Map and soil map units descriptions using the Web Soil Survey <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm> as a minimum printout the Soil Report > AOI Inventory> Map Unit Descriptions
- Resource assessment results (wind and water erosion, soil quality, water quality, plant condition, water quantity, and others identified resource concerns that may be needed) – complete in the template or add printouts from assessment tool (RUSLE2 or WEPS)
- For identified management practices listed (in 3. B, a) above, provide the site specific specifications on how each practice will be applied; when the practice will be applied, and the extent (acres or number) that will be applied.
- For other practices listed (in 3. B., b) above, document when the practice will be applied and extent, field number, and, when appropriate, location on the conservation plan map.
- Digital Conservation plan map with;
  - a. Streams, surface waters, surface drainage, and wetlands on or adjacent to site
  - b. Property lines
  - c. Field Boundaries, name/number, acres, and land use
  - d. Map scale
  - e. Structural practices located on map
  - f. Legend
  - g. Grower Name, County, State

## 5. Deliverables for NRCS Field Office:

- Complete hardcopy and electronic copy of the client’s plan (MsWord copy of the “Plan Template”) with appropriate practice specifications (or jobsheets) for the (list in 3. B, a above) planned practices. **Optional:** If a Conservation Plug-in/Cplanner version is used the Conservation Plan Map, the Soils Map, and Planned Conservation Practices can be deleted from the Planned Template”.
  - Completed the appropriate templates “CAP\_138\_Cropland\_Template.dotx” template provided for Cropland Acres and the “CAP\_138\_Grazing\_Template.dotx” provided for the Grazing Acres for **Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition (138)**
  - Soils Map and soil map units descriptions using the Web Soil Survey <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm> as a minimum printout the Soil Report > AOI Inventory> Map Unit Descriptions
  - Resource assessment results (wind and water erosion, soil quality, water quality, plant condition, water quantity, and others identified resource concerns that may be needed) – complete in the template or add printouts from assessment tool (RUSLE2 or WEPS)

- For identified management practices listed (in 3. B, a) above, provide the site specific specifications on how each practice will be applied; when the practice will be applied, and the extent (acres or number) that will be applied.
- For other practices listed (in 3. B., b) above, document when the practice will be applied and extent, field number, and, when appropriate, location on the conservation plan map.
- Digital Conservation plan map with;
  - a. Streams, surface waters, surface drainage, and wetlands on or adjacent to site
  - b. Property lines
  - c. Field Boundaries, name/number, acres, and land use
  - d. Map scale
  - e. Structural Practices Located on Map
  - f. Legend
  - g. Grower Name, County, State

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
<b>A. CROPLAND (row crop, orchard, etc)</b>					
205.202	<b>Land Requirements:</b> (c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health and Vigor	327 Conservation cover, 386 Field Borders, 393 Filter Strips, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers and increase distances between organic and non-organic crops to protect against airborne or surface contamination by prohibited substances or other non-organic operations.
205.203	<b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard:</b> (a) The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion.	Soil Erosion	*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion, *Wind Erosion	327 - Conservation Cover, 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 332 - Contour Buffer Strip, 330 Contour Farming, 331 Contour Orchards and other Fruit Areas, 340 Cover Crop, 342 Critical Area Planting, 588 Cross Wind Ridges, 589 Cross Wind Trap Strips, 386 Field Border, 393 Filter Strip, 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, 412 Grassed Waterway, 603 Herbaceous wind Barriers, 345 Residue and Tillage Management - Mulch Till, 329 Residue and Tillage Management - No Till, 346 Residue and Tillage Management - Ridge Till, 344 Residue and Tillage Management - Seasonal, 557 Row Arrangement, 585 Strip Cropping, 609 Surface Roughening, 600 Terrace, 601 Vegetation Barriers, 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Develop a system of conservation practices and management to address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent).
205.203	<b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard:</b> (b) The producer must manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials; (c) The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.	Water Quality	*Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended	328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 393 Filter Strips, 590 Nutrient Management	Establish a crop rotation that recycles nutrients and or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address crop nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules.

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
			Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water		
205.204	<b>Seeds and planting stock practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.	Plant Condition	*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health and Vigor	The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops: 515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those: (i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern.  EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials.	All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).
205.205	<b>Crop rotation practice standard.</b> The producer must implement a crop rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation: (a) Maintain or improve soil organic matter content; (b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops; (c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and (d) Provide erosion control.	Soil erosion Soil condition Water Quality	<u>Soil Erosion</u> *Ephemeral Gully *Irrigation Induced *Sheet and Rill *Wind <u>Soil Condition:</u> *Compaction *Damage from Sediment Deposition *Organic Matter Depletion <u>Water Quality:</u> *Excessive	328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Offer alternatives which include a suite of conservation practices needed to maintain or increase soil organic matter, manage nutrients, reduce erosion, and mitigate pest pressures.

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
			Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water		
205.206	<b>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.	Plant Condition	*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants	328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Implement a system of practices to mitigate pest pressures.
<b>B. FOREST LAND</b>					
205.202	<b>Land Requirements:</b> (c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health and Vigor	394 Firebreak, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers and increase distances between organic and non-organic crops to protect against airborne or surface contamination by prohibited substances or other non-organic operations.
205.203	<b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard:</b> (a) The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion.	Soil Erosion	*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion, *Wind Erosion	342 Critical Area Planting, 383 Fuel Break, 384 Forest Slash Treatment, 379 Multi Story Cropping, 394 Firebreak, 393 Filter Strip, 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, 490 Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 654 Road-Trail-Landing Closure 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin, 655 Forest Trails and Landings, 666 Forest Stand Improvement,	Develop a system of conservation practices and management to address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent).
205.203	<b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient</b>	Water	*Excessive	393 Filter Strips,	Establish a crop rotation

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
	<p><b>management standard:</b></p> <p>(b) The producer must manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials;</p> <p>(c) The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.</p>	Quality	Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water	384 Forest Slash Treatment, 379 Multi Story Cropping, 381 Silvopasture Establishment, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 590 Nutrient Management, 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment,	that recycles nutrients and or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address crop nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules.
205.204	<p><b>Seeds and planting stock practice standard.</b></p> <p>(a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.</p>	Plant Condition	*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health and Vigor	<p>The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops:</p> <p>515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices</p> <p>B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those:</p> <p>(i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern.</p> <p>EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials.</p>	All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).
205.205	<p><b>Crop rotation practice standard.</b></p> <p>The producer must implement a crop</p>	Soil erosion	<u>Soil Erosion</u> *Ephemeral	311 Alley Cropping, 379 Multi-Story Cropping,	Offer alternatives which include a suite of

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
	rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation: (a) Maintain or improve soil organic matter content; (b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops; (c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and (d) Provide erosion control.	Soil condition Water Quality	Gully *Irrigation Induced *Sheet and Rill *Wind <u>Soil Condition:</u> *Compaction *Damage from Sediment Deposition *Organic Matter Depletion <u>Water Quality:</u> *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water	590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	conservation practices needed to maintain or increase soil organic matter, manage nutrients, reduce erosion, and mitigate pest pressures.
205.206	<b>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.	Plant Condition	*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants	666 Forest Stand Improvement, 660 Tree/Shrub Pruning 595 Integrated Pest Management.	
	<b>C. PASTURE LAND (dairy, beef, goats, sheep)</b>				
205.202	<b>Land Requirements:</b> (c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health and Vigor	575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 382 Fence, 386 Field Borders, 393 Filter Strips, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers / distances between organic and non-organic crops to protect against contamination of pollen or other prohibited substances. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.
205.203	<b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard:</b> (a) The producer must select and	Soil Erosion	*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion,	528 Prescribed Grazing, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting,	Develop a system of conservation practices and management to

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
	implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion.		*Wind Erosion	314 Brush Management, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection	address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent). Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.
205.203	<b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard:</b> (b) The producer must manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials; (c) The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.	Water Quality	*Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water	528 Prescribed Grazing, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 590 Nutrient Management	Establish a crop rotation that recycles nutrients and or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address crop nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.
205.204	<b>Seeds and planting stock practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.	Plant Condition	*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health and Vigor	The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops: 515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those: (i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an	All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
				<p>identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern.</p> <p>EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials.</p>	
205.205	<p><b>Crop rotation practice standard.</b> The producer must implement a crop rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation:</p> <p>(a) Maintain or improve soil organic matter content; (b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops; (c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and (d) Provide erosion control.</p>	Soil erosion Soil condition Water Quality	<p><u>Soil Erosion</u> *Ephemeral Gully *Irrigation Induced *Sheet and Rill *Wind <u>Soil Condition:</u> *Compaction *Damage from Sediment Deposition *Organic Matter Depletion <u>Water Quality:</u> *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water</p>	528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 314 Brush Management, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.
205.206	<p><b>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants</p>	528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 314 Brush Management, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
<b>D. RANGELAND</b>					
205.202	<b>Land Requirements:</b> (c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health and Vigor	575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 382 Fence, 386 Field Borders, 393 Filter Strips, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers / distances between organic and non-organic crops to protect against contamination of pollen or other prohibited substances. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.
205.203	<b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard:</b> (a) The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion.	Soil Erosion	*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion, *Wind Erosion	528 Prescribed Grazing, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting, 314 Brush Management, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways,	Develop a system of conservation practices and management to address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent). Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.
205.203	<b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard:</b> (b) The producer must manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials; (c) The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.	Water Quality	*Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of	528 Prescribed Grazing, 550 Range Planting, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection	Establish a crop rotation that recycles nutrients and or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address crop nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
			Pesticides in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water		
205.204	<p><b>Seeds and planting stock practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.</p>	Plant Condition	*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health and Vigor	<p>The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops: 515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those: (i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern.</p> <p>EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials.</p>	All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).
205.205	<p><b>Crop rotation practice standard.</b> The producer must implement a crop rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation: (a) Maintain or improve soil organic matter content; (b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops; (c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and (d) Provide erosion control.</p>	Soil erosion Soil condition Water Quality	<p><u>Soil Erosion</u> *Ephemeral Gully *Irrigation Induced *Sheet and Rill *Wind <u>Soil Condition:</u> *Compaction *Damage from Sediment Deposition *Organic Matter Depletion <u>Water Quality:</u> *Excessive</p>	528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 550 Range Planting, 314 Brush Management, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.

ATTACHMENT					
NOP Rule	National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
			Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water		
205.206	<b>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.	Plant Condition	*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants	528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 550 Range Planting, 314 Brush Management, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.
<b>E. GRAZED LAND</b>					
205.202	<b>Land Requirements:</b> (c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health and Vigor	575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 382 Fence, 472 Access Control, 386 Field Borders, 393 Filter Strips, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers / distances between organic and non-organic crops to protect against contamination of pollen or other prohibited substances. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.
205.203	<b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard:</b> (a) The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion.	Soil Erosion	*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion, *Wind Erosion	528 Prescribed Grazing, 550 Range Planting, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection	Develop a system of conservation practices and management to address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent). Fencing

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
					materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.
205.203	<p><b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard:</b></p> <p>(b) The producer must manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials;</p> <p>(c) The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.</p>	Water Quality	<p>*Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater</p> <p>*Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water</p> <p>*Excessive Salinity in Groundwater</p> <p>*Excessive Salinity in Surface Water</p> <p>*Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water</p> <p>*Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater</p> <p>*Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water</p> <p>*Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater</p> <p>*Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water</p>	<p>528 Prescribed Grazing, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 393 Filter Strips, 590 Nutrient Management</p>	<p>Establish a crop rotation that recycles nutrients and or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address crop nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.</p>
205.204	<p><b>Seeds and planting stock practice standard.</b></p> <p>(a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited</p> <p>*Productivity, Health and Vigor</p>	<p>The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops:</p> <p>515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices</p> <p>B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those:</p> <p>(i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern.</p> <p>EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS</p>	<p>All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).</p>

NOP Rule	<u>National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement</u>	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations
				<p>practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials.</p> <p>512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting.</p>	
205.205	<p><b>Crop rotation practice standard.</b> The producer must implement a crop rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation:</p> <p>(a) Maintain or improve soil organic matter content; (b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops; (c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and (d) Provide erosion control.</p>	Soil erosion Soil condition Water Quality	<p><u>Soil Erosion</u> *Ephemeral Gully *Irrigation Induced *Sheet and Rill *Wind <u>Soil Condition:</u> *Compaction *Damage from Sediment Deposition *Organic Matter Depletion <u>Water Quality:</u> *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water</p>	<p>528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting, 314 Brush Management, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.</p>	Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.
205.206	<p><b>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants</p>	<p>528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting, 511 Forage Harvest Management, 314 Brush Management, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.</p>	Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (non treated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.