Practice: 330 - Contour Farming

Scenario: #1 - Contour Farming

Scenario Description:

This scenario meets the specifications of the NRCS Contour Farming Standard. Payment reflects the extra labor and initial supervision costs in implementing and following contour farming compared to other methods. More time is usually needed when following contour operations due to more equipment time in shorter rows and more equipment turning. Annual erosion rates for the rotation exceeds tolerance levels. Excessive runoff leads to sedimentation of waterways.

Before Situation:

The typical field size in this geographical region for this scenario.is 30 acres. The Field slope averages 6% while the slope length averages 160 feet. All farming operations on this cropland field including disking, bedding, planting, and cultivation are performed parallel to the slope. This row arrangement usually results in longer rows with less time used for turning. Annual erosion rates for the rotation exceeds tolerance levels. Excessive runoff leads to sedimentation of waterways.

After Situation:

This practice is installed on the entire field. A survey is completed by trained and certified Federal, State, local personnel or consultant to determine and "stake" contour row arrangement. Permanent row markers are established to ensure that this practice is maintained for the life of this practice All field operations including: disking, bedding, planting, and cultivation are performed on the contour which is near perpendicular to the field slope. The farm manager is initially on site to ensure that equipment operator is properly following contour methods. Soil erosion rates are reduced by nearly half and may be below tolerance depending on the rotation. Likewise, sedimentation has been significantly reduced.

Scenario Feature Measure: Acre

Scenario Unit: Acre

Scenario Typical Size: 30

Scenario Cost: $216.00 **Scenario Cost/Unit:** $7.20

Cost Details (by category):

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price ($/unit)	Quantity	Cost
Equipment/Installation						
Truck, Pickup	939	Equipment and power unit costs. Labor not included.	Hour	$37.62	1	$37.62
Labor						
Supervisor or Manager	234	Labor involving supervision or management activities. Includes crew supervisors, foremen and farm/ranch managers time required for adopting new technology, etc.	Hour	$37.40	3	$112.20
Equipment Operators, Light	232	Includes: Skid Steer Loaders, Hydraulic Excavators <50 HP, Trenchers <12”, Ag Equipment <150 HP, Pickup Trucks, Forklifts, Mulchers	Hour	$22.06	3	$66.18