

2015 Conservation Stewardship Program

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS for NORTH CAROLINA

Items checked below are required conditions of enhancement activities you selected for your CSP enrollment.

Water Quality Enhancements

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL04 | <p><i>Plant tissue tests and analysis to improve nitrogen management.</i></p> <p>Corn stalk and/or other crop leaf tissue sampling must be completed in accordance with NCDA Agronomic Division standards. Technical guidance on submitting plant tissue samples is available at the NCDA Agronomic Division website: http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrplant.htm</p> <p>Crop realistic yield expectations (RYE) and corresponding nitrogen application rates are available on a per county, per soil basis at: http://yields.soil.ncsu.edu/</p> <p>Crop Nitrogen recommendations resulting from the use of plant tissue testing must not exceed NCSU RYE-based or sufficiently documented yield based recommendations per NC NRCS 590 standard criteria.</p> <p>NOTE: NCSU Dept of Soil Science does not currently recognize the Corn Stalk Nitrate Tests (CSNT) as a proven nitrogen management yield enhancement or nitrogen use efficiency technique for corn produced in NC climates and soils. As such, there are no NCSU-developed specifications for use of CSNT in corn nitrogen management in NC.</p> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL10 | <p><i>Plant a cover crop that will scavenge residual nitrogen.</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="407 317 1490 1163"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="407 317 581 506">Cover Crop Species</th> <th data-bbox="581 317 784 506">Planting Rates minimum drilled rates*</th> <th data-bbox="784 317 1170 506">Latest Planting Dates by Physiographic Region 1. Coastal Plains 2. Piedmont 3. Mountains</th> <th data-bbox="1170 317 1490 506">Earliest Kill Dates by Physiographic Region 1. Coastal Plain 2. Piedmont 3. Mountains</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 506 581 617">Oats</td> <td data-bbox="581 506 784 617">80 lbs/ac (2.5 bu/ac)</td> <td data-bbox="784 506 1170 617">1. Sept.30(bcast) Oct.30(drill) 2. Sept.20(bcast) Oct.20(drill) 3. Sept.15(bcast) Oct.15(drill)</td> <td data-bbox="1170 506 1490 617">1. April 1 2. April 1 3. April 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 617 581 728">Cereal Rye</td> <td data-bbox="581 617 784 728">85 lbs/ac (1.5 bu/ac)</td> <td data-bbox="784 617 1170 728">1. Sept.30(bcast) Oct.30(drill) 2. Sept.20(bcast) Oct.20(drill) 3. Sept.15(bcast) Oct.15(drill)</td> <td data-bbox="1170 617 1490 728">1. April 1 2. April 1 3. April 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 728 581 840">Wheat</td> <td data-bbox="581 728 784 840">90 lbs/ac (1.5 bu/ac)</td> <td data-bbox="784 728 1170 840">1. Sept.30(bcast) Oct.30(drill) 2. Sept.20(bcast) Oct.20(drill) 3. Sept.15(bcast) Oct.15(drill)</td> <td data-bbox="1170 728 1490 840">1. April 1 2. April 1 3. April 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 840 581 951">Barley</td> <td data-bbox="581 840 784 951">72 lbs/ac (1.5 bu/ac)</td> <td data-bbox="784 840 1170 951">1. Sept.30(bcast) Oct.30(drill) 2. Sept.20(bcast) Oct.20(drill) 3. Sept.15(bcast) Oct.15(drill)</td> <td data-bbox="1170 840 1490 951">1. April 1 2. April 1 3. April 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 951 581 1062">Sorghum Sudangrass</td> <td data-bbox="581 951 784 1062">35 lbs/ac (1 bu/ac)</td> <td data-bbox="784 951 1170 1062">1. May 31(bcast) Jun 30(drill) 2. May 31(bcast) Jun 20(drill) 3. May 15(bcast) Jun 15(drill)</td> <td data-bbox="1170 951 1490 1062">1. September 1 2. September 1 3. September 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 1062 581 1163">Forage Radish</td> <td data-bbox="581 1062 784 1163">8 lbs/ac</td> <td data-bbox="784 1062 1170 1163">1. Sept.25(drill) 2. Sept.20(drill) 3. Sept.15(drill)</td> <td data-bbox="1170 1062 1490 1163">winter kill will occur</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="386 1167 1516 1346"> *All seeding rate recommendations are for pure live seed (PLS) *If broadcast, rates should be increased at least 15%. If aerially seeded, increase rates at least 30%. *Nitrogen application rate for the crop following the cover crop should be reduced only if advised to do so by an NCDA Agronomist, CCA, or other crop protection specialist to account for the recycling of N by the cover crop. *Additional species may be approved by State Agronomist or Water Quality Specialist. </p> | Cover Crop Species | Planting Rates minimum drilled rates* | Latest Planting Dates by Physiographic Region 1. Coastal Plains 2. Piedmont 3. Mountains | Earliest Kill Dates by Physiographic Region 1. Coastal Plain 2. Piedmont 3. Mountains | Oats | 80 lbs/ac (2.5 bu/ac) | 1. Sept.30(bcast) Oct.30(drill) 2. Sept.20(bcast) Oct.20(drill) 3. Sept.15(bcast) Oct.15(drill) | 1. April 1 2. April 1 3. April 1 | Cereal Rye | 85 lbs/ac (1.5 bu/ac) | 1. Sept.30(bcast) Oct.30(drill) 2. Sept.20(bcast) Oct.20(drill) 3. Sept.15(bcast) Oct.15(drill) | 1. April 1 2. April 1 3. April 1 | Wheat | 90 lbs/ac (1.5 bu/ac) | 1. Sept.30(bcast) Oct.30(drill) 2. Sept.20(bcast) Oct.20(drill) 3. Sept.15(bcast) Oct.15(drill) | 1. April 1 2. April 1 3. April 1 | Barley | 72 lbs/ac (1.5 bu/ac) | 1. Sept.30(bcast) Oct.30(drill) 2. Sept.20(bcast) Oct.20(drill) 3. Sept.15(bcast) Oct.15(drill) | 1. April 1 2. April 1 3. April 1 | Sorghum Sudangrass | 35 lbs/ac (1 bu/ac) | 1. May 31(bcast) Jun 30(drill) 2. May 31(bcast) Jun 20(drill) 3. May 15(bcast) Jun 15(drill) | 1. September 1 2. September 1 3. September 1 | Forage Radish | 8 lbs/ac | 1. Sept.25(drill) 2. Sept.20(drill) 3. Sept.15(drill) | winter kill will occur |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL18 | <p><i>Non-chemical pest management for livestock</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Producers should consult local Extension livestock specialists and/or livestock organizational specialists as ‘technical experts’ in order to get more information on specific pest targets for the particular type of livestock raised, as well as information on the types of non-chemical management effective for the types of pests identified. As identified ‘technical experts’, Extension livestock or organizational specialists may prepare or concur in the written plan addressing basic pest management considerations. ○ Producers should consult local Extension and/or livestock organizational specialists to determine which specific enhancement criteria non-chemical pest management activities would be effective for managing targeted pests. Selected non-chemical control methods must be documented and incorporated into the written plan. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL19 | <p><i>Transition to ORGANIC Grazing Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The NRCS 528 prescribed grazing standard is available on the NC EFOTG | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| Species | Growth periods | Target Grazing Height (in.) | | Grazing recovery period (days) | Comments |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | Start grazing | Stop grazing | | |
| <i>Bermudagrass (Common, hybrid & seeded varieties)</i> | Apr-May | 4-6 | 2-3 | 21-30 | |
| | Jun-Jul | 4-6 | 2-3 | 10-21 | |
| | Aug-Sep | 4-6 | 2-3 | 20-40 | |
| | Frosted | 3+ | 2-3 | Spring | Any frosted grazing should be done prior to leaf deterioration |
| <i>Bermudagrass (overseeded with small grain)</i> | Feb-Mar | 8-10 (small grain) | 3-4 | 21-30 | Target heights directed toward small grain |
| | Apr-May | 6-8 | 2-3 | 14-21 | Control small grains so Bermuda can emerge |
| | Jun-Jul | 3-5 | 2-3 | 10-21 | |
| | Aug-Sep | 3-5 | 2-3 | 21-30 | |
| | October | 3-5 | 1-2 | 45-90 | Graze Bermuda close during late Sept to allow emergence of overseeded small grain |
| | Nov-Jan | 6-8 (small grain) | 3-4 | 45-90 | Don't allow small grain grazing until target height reached |
| <i>Kentucky Bluegrass w/ white clover</i> | Mar-May | 4-6 | 2-3 | 14-30 | If clover is White Dutch, then may graze to 1.5" |
| | Jun-Aug | 6-8 | 2-4 | 30-45 | |
| | Sep-Oct | 6-8 | 2-3 | 21-45 | |
| | Nov-Feb | 4-6 | 2-3 | Spring | |
| <i>Crabgrass and associated warm season species</i> | May-Jun | 6-8 | 2-3 | 14-30 | |
| | Jul-Aug | 6-8 | 2-3 | 14-30 | |
| | Sep-Oct | 4-6 | 1-2 | Replant in Spring | Summer growth may be grazed in fall; quality may be limiting |
| <i>Fescue or Orchardgrass dominant with or without ladino clover</i> | Feb-Mar | 4-6 | 2-3 | 30-45 | |
| | Apr-Jun | 6-8 | 3-4 | 14-30 | |
| | Jul-Aug | 6-8 | 3-4 | 30-60 | |
| | Sep-Oct | 6-8 | 2-3 | 21-35 | If clover mix is "stockpiled", clover may be shaded if canopy reaches 10-12" prior to grazing |

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| | | | Nov-Jan | 4-6 | 2-3 | 45-90 | |
| | | <i>Fescue (<70%) mixed with bermuda or crabgrass</i> | Feb-Mar | 4-6 | 2-3 | 30-45 | Grazing height of mix during the summer is dictated by climate-favored species. Shorter "stop" heights will favor Bermuda/crabgrass, taller will favor fescue |
| | | | Apr-Jun | 6-8 | 2-3 | 14-30 | |
| | | | Jul-Aug | 6-8 | 3-4 | 21-45 | |
| | | | Sep-Oct | 6-8 | 2-3 | 21-35 | |
| | | | Nov-Jan | 4-6 | 2-3 | 45-90 | |
| | | <i>Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Big Bluestem</i> | Apr-Jun | 14-18 | 5-7 | 21-30 | Allow plants to reach seed head stage during establishment year prior to grazing |
| | | | Jul-Aug | 18-22 | 5-7 | 21-40 | |
| | | | Sep-Oct | 16-20 | 8-12 | Spring | |
| | | Adapted from Forage Facts Sept 2005. Revised July 2012 (complete reference available eFOTG Section I) | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL20 | <p><i>Transition to ORGANIC Cropping Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refer to USDA NOP for requirements. Additional USDA NOP information is available at: http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/NOP | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL25 | <p><i>Split applications of nitrogen based on PSNT</i></p> <p>NCDA Agronomic Services Division is not currently providing PSNT-based nitrogen recommendations.</p> <p>Thus, the producer would be responsible for finding a private testing lab to complete PSNT analysis and provide N recommendations. Labs that run nitrate tests may also do the PSNT test.</p> <p>The following is a link to NCDA-recommended literature for producers interested in this enhancement: http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/418/418-016/418-016.pdf</p> | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL26 | <p><i>Reduce the concentrations of nutrients imported on farm</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For proper crediting of on-farm grown livestock feed, consult NCSU guidance for feed types and amount needed for proper livestock nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Livestock management information, including nutrition management, is available at: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/categories/agriculture-food/animal-agriculture/ | | | | | |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Producers should also consult local NC CES specialists for specific informational requests on livestock nutrition and use of on farm grown feeding materials and techniques. ● For documenting crop specific nitrogen needs based on Realistic Yield Expectations, consult the NCSU Soils Nutrient Management site at: http://yields.soil.ncsu.edu/ ● For crop specific P & K recommendations, producers should consult soil test results provided by NCDA or private lab. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL27 | <p><i>Drainage Water Management for nutrient, pathogen, or pesticide reduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This enhancement is for implementing drainage water management techniques outside the typical crop production season. The terminology used in the enhancement job sheet to described this period of time is ‘non-cropping season’. ● This is one of the few enhancements that references meeting criteria in a Conservation Practice Standard as being required to implement the enhancement activity. NC NRCS practice 554 criteria must be met in order for the enhancement to be considered complete ● Although the enhancement criteria requires water levels to be managed at ‘no more than 6 inches below the ground surface’, the NC 554 practice standard recommends water table management during the typical winter season at 12-24” below the ground surface. ● According to NC standard 554, the practice is applicable to agricultural lands with surface or subsurface drainage systems that are adapted to allow management of drainage discharges. Thus, in order to be eligible for the enhancement, the producer must have drainage systems in place that can be managed to meet the enhancement criteria. ● Where the intent of enhancement implementation is to reduce cropland nitrate leaching losses, at least 50% of the cropland enrolled must have a Nitrogen Leaching Index > 10 as determined through RUSLE 2 or NC FOTG Sec II NLI Maps. Where the NLI > 10, it is recommended that additional mitigating conservation practices be included in the conservation plan to reduce nitrate losses from enrolled cropland. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL28 | <p><i>Biological Suppression and Other Non-Chemical Techniques to Manage Brush, Herbaceous Weeds, and Invasive Species</i></p> <p>In North Carolina, biological control techniques that have been identified as being effective for brush suppression include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specific insect species introduced to control identified woody brush species in pastureland. (Example: multiple weevil species have been identified as effective in control of thistle.) Use of NCSU entomology specialists’ published or consultative recommendations to match herbaceous weed |

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| | | <p>species to insect species that may provide control is required to meet activity criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grazing animals, such as goats, have been found to be effective in control of brush species. <p>Fungal and bacterial agents have been found to be effective plant pathogens for control of brush species. For lethal plant community diseases to occur, a virulent pathogen and proper environment must be present. Introduction of fungal and bacterial agents must also occur at the correct plant growth stage to achieve control. Use of NCSU plant pathology specialists' published or consultative recommendations to implement a system of microbial control is required to meet activity criteria.</p> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>WQL29</p> | <p><i>High level integrated pest management to reduce pesticide environment risk.</i></p> <p>In North Carolina, 'High-level IPM' will be carried out using the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An IPM strategy must be implemented and documented that incorporates Prevention, Avoidance, Management, and Suppression (PAMS) techniques as explained in enhancement criteria, NRCS IPM standard 595, and NRCS Agronomy Tech Note 5 <i>Pest Management in the Conservation Planning Process</i>. ○ For the identified environmental risk (Leaching, Solution runoff, Adsorbed Runoff, or Drift) a combination of IPM techniques identified in NRCS Agronomy Tech Note 5 having mitigation values adding up to a total mitigation score of at least 45 must be implemented to complete the enhancement activity ○ It is recommended that the NC Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning and the 595 Job Sheet Excel Workbook be utilized to determine and document the levels of mitigation needed, and the additional mitigation techniques needed to meet the required enhancement score of 45. ○ Economic thresholds for pest control must be identified. Crop-specific Information on identifying economic thresholds for pest control in NC is available at: http://ipm.ncsu.edu ○ Because pesticide water quality risk must be mitigated to apply the enhancement activity, pesticide environmental risk analysis must be conducted (WIN-PST is accepted) ○ Pesticide application records and records of specific management techniques used to reduce pesticide environmental risk must be kept (reduced-risk pesticide use, biological control methods, etc.). |

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| | | <p>If a commodity-specific IPM strategy for implementation of PAMS strategies is not available through NCSU or CES guidance, an IPM strategy including the following considerations is required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pest control actions must consider the entire ecosystem to ensure the checks and balances between crops, pests, beneficial organisms, and the physical environment are not disrupted. <p>Consider that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Over reliance on one pest control method can lead to pest resistance, resurgence, and replacement. ✓ Overzealous pest management can severely reduce the effectiveness of natural controls whereby you inherit their role. ✓ A vigorously growing plant can better defend itself against pests than a weak, stressed plant. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Tolerate a pest until its economic threshold has been reached. 3. Understand the pest’s biology and ecology so that causes of the outbreak, not the symptoms can be addressed. 4. Prevention, such as using pest-free seeds and transplants, cleaning tillage and harvesting equipment between fields, irrigation scheduling to avoid situations conducive to disease development, etc. 5. Avoidance, such as using pest resistant varieties, crop rotation, trap crops, etc. 6. Monitoring, such as pest scouting, soil testing, weather forecasting, etc. to help target suppression strategies and avoid routine preventative pest control. 7. Suppression, such as cultural, biological and chemical controls, that can reduce a pest population or its impacts. Chemical controls should be used judiciously in order to minimize environmental risk and pest resistance. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>WQL30</p> | <p><i>Integrated Pest Management for ORGANIC farming</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This enhancement is designed to assist an organic producer in managing pests on his farm through planned use of PAMS strategies, and addressing resource concerns created by current pest suppression methods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An IPM strategy must be implemented and documented that incorporates Prevention, Avoidance, Management, and Suppression (PAMS) techniques as explained in enhancement criteria, NRCS IPM standard 595, and NRCS Agronomy Tech Note 5 <i>Pest Management in the Conservation Planning Process</i>. ○ If there is an identified water quality risk (Leaching, Solution runoff, Adsorbed Runoff) a combination of IPM techniques identified in NRCS |

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| | | <p>Agronomy Tech Note 5 having mitigation values adding up to a total mitigation score of at least 35 (but not less than mitigation required by NRCS Tech Note 5) must be implemented to complete the enhancement activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pesticide environmental risk analysis must be conducted through WIN-PST (<i>Many NOP Allowed Substances are listed in WIN-PST</i>) ○ If the producer is utilizing NOP allowed substances for pest suppression, it may be difficult to establish the water quality resource need for mitigation measures from Ag Tech Note 5, as NOP allowed substances typically have low associated water quality risks. ○ If NOP allowed substance related water quality risks are not established, then the producer may apply the enhancement through implementation of conservation practices having mitigation value up to a minimum of 35 that address an identified resource concern pathway (typically solution runoff or adsorbed runoff) or that implement cultural, biological or mechanical controls as part of the developed PAMS strategies. (Use of cultural, biological, or mechanical pest management alternatives has a mitigation score of 15 in NRCS Agronomy Tech Note 5, conservation practices that have positive mitigation value have varying mitigation values) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL31 | <p><i>Land application of treated manure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No NC specific guidance on effective types of manure treatments is available from NCSU, NCDA, or DENR DWR. • For NC permitted AFOs, producers are responsible for consultation with DWR and a certified Animal Waste Technical Specialist to ensure use of manure treatments are consistent with permit compliance requirements and the Certified Animal Waste Management Plan for the facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WQL32 | <p><i>Apply enhanced efficiency fertilizer products</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Enhanced efficiency” fertilizers are defined as nitrification inhibitors, urease inhibitors, and Nitrogen and Phosphorus controlled release fertilizer materials • NCSU Soil Science does not currently recognize enhanced efficiency fertilizer materials as effective yield enhancement or nitrogen/phosphorus use efficiency techniques in NC climate and soil types. Available NCSU research has shown little yield or nutrient use efficiency effect on corn, wheat, and soybeans. • NRCS cannot provide NC specific specifications nor benefits to NC cropping systems. • NC NRCS 590 standard criteria require crop N recommendations to be based on NCSU-approved Realistic Yield Expectations or sufficiently documented field crop yields. Also, NRCS 590 criteria require P recommendations to be based on NCDA Soil Test |

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| | | <p>recommendations or similar methodologies. N and P recommendations for enhancement implementation from crop consultants, product dealers, or other LGUs may not exceed recommendations per NC NRCS 590 standard criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCSU Soil Science, Crop Science, or NC CES specialists' published and/or consultative recommendations may also be utilized to identify controlled release nitrogen fertilizers. • Producers should be encouraged to discuss crop fertilization options with a qualified crop consulting professional prior to beginning enhanced efficiency nitrogen and phosphorus material applications. • Crop realistic yield expectations (RYE) and corresponding nitrogen application rates are available on a per county, per soil basis at: http://yields.soil.ncsu.edu/, and also through use of the NC Nutrient Management Software. |
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