



Soil Quality Enhancement Activity – SQL05 – Use of deep rooted crops to break up soil compaction

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

Acceptable Deep Rooted Crops are: Alfalfa; Sweet Clover; Canola; Radish; Turnip; and any Sorghum, Sudangrass or Sudan/Sorghum hybrids seeded early enough in the summer to allow for adequate growth to occur prior to winter.

Example 1: Existing rotation is corn – beans – wheat. A turnip cover crop will be planted after wheat to break up soil compaction.

If cover crops are used they must be planted whenever the crop they are scheduled to follow in the rotation is grown and rotated across all planned acres by the end of the contract period.

Cover Crop Requirements

- Cover crops cannot be harvested or grazed until they have reached physiological maturity to insure adequate root growth to achieve the purpose of the enhancement.
- Cover crops must follow planting dates, seeding rates, method of planting and other requirements in Conservation Practice Standard [340, Cover Crop](#). Specifications will be provided on the [Cover Crop Worksheet \(NE-CPA-7\)](#).

Example2: Existing rotation is continuous corn. Alfalfa will be added to the rotation to break up soil compaction.

Any crop added to an existing crop rotation must be scheduled by the third year and rotated across all planned acres by the end of the contract period.



United States Department of Agriculture
 Natural Resources Conservation Service

NE-SQL05 2012 Ranking Period 1

Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)

Complete the Table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning						To be completed by Producer during certification process	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Tract	Field(s)	Existing Rotation	Planned Rotation with Deep Rooted Crop	Deep Rooted Crop	Acres Planned	Date Planted	Acres Applied
Ex. T1001	1	C-B-W	C-B-W-cc	Turnips	50 Ac.	Aug. 1	50 Ac.

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-6 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 7-8 PRODUCER COMPLETES
C=Corn; B=soybeans/edible beans; W=Wheat; M=Milo; A=Alfalfa; O=Oats; cc=cover crop;
Others=_____

In addition:

If cover crops are added to the rotation complete, sign, and attach [Cover Crop worksheet NE-CPA-7](#) showing the cover crops grown, seeding date, seeding rate, fertilizer applied, and the method and date of termination.

I certify that the enhancement criteria have been met and the required documentation provided to NRCS.

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____