United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

330 - Contour Farming Implementation Requirements

Producer: _____ **Project or Contract:** _____

Location: _____ **County:** _____

Farm Name: _____ **Tract Number:** _____

Practice Location Map

(showing detailed aerial view of where practice is to be installed on farm/site, showing all major components, stationing, relative location to any landmarks, and survey benchmarks)

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____ Cover Sheet

____ Specifications

____ Drawings

____ Cost Estimate and Project Bid Form

____ Operation & Maintenance

Utility Safety / One-Call System Information

On the map, delineate the contour baseline(s), correction areas, and stable outlets for concentrated flow.

Description of work:

_____

NRCS Review Only

Designed By: _____ **Date:** _____

Checked By: _____ **Date:** _____

Approved By: _____ **Date:** _____

330 - Contour Farming
Implementation Requirements

The Practice Purpose(s):

_____ Reduce sheet and rill erosion.

_____ Reduce transport of sediment, other solids and the contaminants attached to them.

_____ Increase water infiltration

Site Planning Conditions for the Dominant Critical Soil Map Unit/Component			
Planning Map Unit/Component	**Planning Slope %**	**Planning Length of Slope (ft)**	**Percent Absolute Contour Row Grade Planned**

Maximum and Minimum Contour Row Grades	
Maximum Contour Row Grade (Percent)	**Maximum Contour Row Grade (Percent)**
The crop rows shall have sufficient grade to ensure that runoff water does not pond and cause unacceptable crop damage.	The maximum row grade shall not exceed: (a) one-half of the up-and-down hill slope percent used for conservation planning, or (b) 10 percent, whichever is less. Up to a 25-percent deviation from the design row grade is permitted within 150 feet of a stable outlet.

Minimum Tillage Ridge Heights and In-Row Plant Spacing		
Row spacing greater than 10 inches	**Row spacing 10 inches or less**	**No Tillage Planting**
The minimum ridge height shall be 2 inches during the period of the rotation that is most vulnerable to sheet and rill erosion	The minimum ridge height shall be one inch for close-grown crops, such as small grains. Plant height shall be at least 6 inches high and the spacing between plants within the row shall not be greater than 2 inches during the time most vulnerable to sheet and rill erosion.	No minimum ridge height

Corrections Areas: Where field operations begin to converge between two non-parallel contour baselines, establish a correction area that either is permanently in sod, established to an annual close-grown crop.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

_____ Perform all tillage and planting operations parallel to contour baselines or terraces, diversions, or contour buffer strip boundaries where these practices are used, provided the applicable row grade criteria are met.

_____ Where terraces, diversions, or contour buffer strips are not present, maintain contour markers on grades that, when followed during establishment of each crop, will maintain crop rows at designed grades. Contour markers may be field boundaries, a crop row left untilled near or on an original contour baseline or other readily identifiable, continuous, lasting marker. All tillage and planting operations shall be parallel to the established marker. If a marker is lost, re-establish a contour baseline within the applicable criteria set forth by this standard prior to seedbed preparation for the next crop.

_____ Farming operations should begin on the contour baselines and precede both up and down the slope in a parallel pattern until patterns meet. Where field operations begin to converge between two non-parallel contour baselines, establish a correction area that either is permanently in sod, established to an annual close-grown crop.

_____ Where contour row curvature becomes too sharp to keep machinery aligned with rows during field operations, establish sod turn strips on sharp ridge points or other odd areas as needed.