

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
NEW YORK CONSERVATION PRACTICE GUIDELINE**

CONSERVATION CROP ROTATION

(ACRE)

328

REFERENCE

National Handbook of Conservation Practices–Code 328 Conservation Crop Rotation.

Commonly Associated Processes or Practices

The following conservation practices are commonly used in conjunction with this practice to address natural resource concerns and opportunities in New York. This does not imply that any or all of the listed practices must be included or that others may not be included in a conservation management system (CMS). Consult Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide for assistance in developing CMS.

Note: To determine whether a National or New York Conservation Standard applies to this and any other associated practices, check the following website: www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov. Click on the “eFOTG” icon, and look for the Conservation Standards in Section IV.

Table A: Commonly Associated Processes or Practices

Number	Name	Job/Engineering Sheets
312	Waste Management System	
329A	Residue Management, No-Till and Strip Till	NY Jobsheets 21 and 22
329B	Residue Management, Mulch Till	NY Jobsheets 21 and 22
329C	Residue Management, Ridge Till	
330	Contour Farming	
332	Contour Buffer Strips	
340	Cover Crop	NY Jobsheet 16
344	Residue Management, Seasonal	
362	Diversion	NY ENG 22 and 23
368	Field Borders	
NY393s	Filter Strip – Strip	NY Job Sheets 17 and 19
412	Grassed Waterway	NY ENG 24 and 25
511	Forage and Harvest Management	
585	Stripcropping	
590	Nutrient Management	
595	Pest Management	

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600	Terrace	
606	Subsurface Drainage	NY ENG 28 and 29
607	Surface Drainage	NY ENG 26 and 27
620	Underground Outlet	NY ENG 28 and 29
633	Waste Utilization	
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	
NY748	Record Keeping	

Other References

1. RUSLE Manual and Software
2. Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)
 - 2.1. Water Quality Evaluation (NPURG, WIN-PST)
 - 2.2. FOTG – Section I – Erosion Prediction
3. National Agronomy Manual
4. Cornell Guide for Integrated Field Crop Management (current year)
5. Commercial References
 - 5.1. Seed Manual
 - 5.2. Pesticide Guides
6. Technical Specialists
 - 6.1. State Agronomist
 - 6.2. Area Resource Conservationist
 - 6.3. Cornell Cooperative Extension County Field Crop Agent
 - 6.4. Private or commercial consultants working with the landowner.
7. National Food Security Act Manual
 - 7.1. HEL Conservation Compliance
 - 7.2. Wetlands Conservation Compliance

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resource reviews will be conducted for all ground disturbing practices, components, or other activities, as per the State Level Agreement between NRCS and the New York State Historic Preservation Officer.

INVENTORY AND EVALUATION

Determine landowner/operator crop needs.

Determine watershed and/or water quality objectives

Determine soil types and fertility levels (soil test including pH).

Determine current soil loss from all sources (sheet, rill, concentrated flow, etc.)

Determine plant suitability for soil and climatic conditions as well as applicable livestock needs.

Determine tillage method and time of planting.

PLANNING PROCEDURE

1. Have plan maps with delineated fields, acres, land use, tract number(s) highly erodible and wetland status. Highly erodible land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation Determination (NRCS-CPA-026) and plan map(s).
2. Have soil maps and descriptions.
3. Collect and record the RUSLE percent of slope (S) and slope length (L) in the field. Collect information on concentrated flow sources according to procedures in Section I of the Field Office Technical Guide.
4. Calculate the sheet and rill soil loss rate utilizing RUSLE based on the field data and the desired crop rotation(s) of the landowner. Also, calculate concentrated flow soil loss if applicable.
5. Review total crop needs against acceptable rotations to determine forage balance over time for livestock or market needs. Work with private crop consultants and/or Cornell Cooperative Extension Agents for crop, nutrient, pest, or livestock needs.
6. Evaluate and adjust the rotation based upon weather conditions, crop performance, markets, pesticide carry-over and/or interactions, sheet and rill erosion using RUSLE, concentrated flow erosion, landowner needs, labor, etc.
7. Determine the need for additional practices required to meet resource concerns, management objectives, and landowner needs.
8. Involve the farm operator or decision maker at all stages of inventory and design.

FIELD LAYOUT

This is a management practice that does not require a physical layout. Associated practices included as a part of CMS may require field layout. Refer to applicable guidelines for associated practices.

PRACTICE INSPECTION

1. Benchmark the starting point of the rotation in the conservation plan (NRCS-CPA-68) and on the Conservation Assistance Notes (NRCS-CPA-6 or 6A) or equivalent. Use of NRCS-CPA-53 is optional.

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2. Follow-up with the landowner annually to ensure that the rotation is meeting his/her objectives and the resource concerns addressed in the conservation plan.

FINAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

1. Benchmark in the conservation plan for the year in the rotation.
2. Record notes for rotation implementation on the NRCS-CPA-6/6A.
3. Report rotation in place for the first year of the practice rotation. DO NOT wait for the hay or most conserving crop establishment to report that this practice is in place.
4. Document amounts applied and year applied on the NRCS-CPA-68.

REPORTING

Enter all documentation on the Conservation Plan (NRCS-CPA-68), contract document (NRCS-LTP-11) and Conservation Assistance Notes (NRCS-CPA-6/6A).

Report the practice and applicable components in the NRCS progress reporting system. Be certain to report benefits for all applicable resources and resource concerns as allowed in the NRCS progress reporting system.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Facilities, structures, and practices must be operated and maintained to ensure proper function and longevity. Periodic follow-up with the landowner is essential to ensure that all O&M directions are understood and followed.