Practice: 331 - Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops

Scenario: #1 - Contour Orchards/Vineyards

Scenario Description:

The orchard, vineyard, or other perennial crop is planted so that all operations are on or near the contour to reduce soil erosion and runoff. Additional labor and equipment time is required during establishment to plant on the contour due to shorter rows and more frequent equipment turning. Once established, contouring can improve access to fields, facilitate maintenance, and improve energy efficiency.

Associated practice(s): Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Before Situation:

A 10 acre field with an average 6% slope and 160 foot slope length is actively farmed using methods that are performed parallel to the slope. The row arrangement has long rows and infrequent turning. The annual erosion rates exceed tolerance levels leading to excessive runoff and sedimentation in waterways.

After Situation:

Rows are established on the contour to change the direction of runoff directly downslope to around the hillside to reduce soil erosion and sediment transport. 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. Soil erosion rates are reduced by nearly half and may be below tolerance depending on the rotation and sedimentation is reduced.

Scenario Feature Measure: acre

Scenario Unit: Acre

Scenario Typical Size: 10

Scenario Cost: $307.56 **Scenario Cost/Unit:** $30.76

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	$40.86	1	$40.86
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	$41.42	3	$124.26
Equipment Operators, Light	232	Includes: Skid Steer Loaders, Hydraulic Excavators <50 HP, Trenchers <12”, Ag Equipment <150 HP, Pickup Trucks, Forklifts, Mulchers	Hour	$23.74	6	$142.44