

**TN 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)*

<b>Index</b>
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**

<b>Designed By:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Checked By:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

## TN 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.
- Reduce transport of contaminants found in solution runoff.
- 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	
<p><b>Minimum Contour Row Grade (Percent)</b></p> <p>The crop rows shall have sufficient grade to ensure that runoff water does not pond and cause unacceptable crop damage.</p>	<p><b>Maximum Contour Row Grade (Percent)</b></p> <p>The maximum row grade shall not exceed one-half of the up-and-down hill slope percent used for conservation planning with a maximum 2 percent row grade. Up to a 25-percent deviation from the design row grade is permitted within 150 feet of a stable outlet.</p>

Minimum Tillage Ridge Heights and In-Row Plant Spacing		
Row spacing greater than 10 inches	Row spacing 10 inches or less	No Tillage Planting
<p>The minimum ridge height shall be 2 inches during the period of the rotation that is most vulnerable to sheet and rill erosion</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>No minimum ridge height</p>

**Critical Slope Length:** A contour farming layout shall not occur on a hill slope that is longer than the critical slope length, unless supported by other practices (e.g. terraces, diversions) that either reduce slope length below the critical length or reduce overland flow velocities.

**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.

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### **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. It may be useful to capture the baseline coordinates with a GPS so they can easily be re-established if lost.

Farming operations should begin on the contour baselines and proceed 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. Avoid mowing, spraying, or machinery usages on sod areas to prevent tracking and rutting.