

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

TERRACE, LEVEL

(ft.)

CODE 600

1. Scope

Work shall consist of constructing the level terrace including the ridge, channel (if applicable), internal blocks and end closures.

2. Location

The location of the level terrace shall be as shown on furnished drawings or as staked in the field.

3. Public and private utilities

Utilities are defined to be overhead and underground power or communication lines, and pipelines. All utilities discovered to be in the work area are shown on the drawings or sketches. However, the absence of indicators on the drawings or sketches does not assure the nonexistence of utilities in the work area. The contractor is alerted to conduct his/her own search and discovery for utilities in order to lessen or avoid potential damages. The owner/operator shall complete TX-ENG-80, UTILITIES INVENTORY prior to layout or any ground disturbance and return it to an NRCS representative.

4. Site preparation

All dead furrows, ditches, or gullies shall be filled before constructing the terrace or shall be part of the construction. All old terraces, fence rows, hedge rows, trees, and other obstructions shall be removed, as necessary, to install a farmable system.

5. Materials

Materials for earthfills shall be obtained from excavation immediately above or below the terrace ridge or from other designated areas, and shall be free of objectionable materials such as brush, roots, and rock particles that endanger the performance of the terrace.

6. Placement of earthfill

Level terraces shall be constructed to the dimensions specified on the drawings or as staked in the field. All fills shall be full-bodied with cross section conforming

to that specified at all stations. Top of the constructed ridge shall not be lower at any point than the design elevation including freeboard plus the specified overbuild for settlement. All elevation readings taken to determine terrace dimensions shall be taken in a person's footprint that has had their full weight in it.

*End closures shall be constructed as specified in **Section 9, Construction details**, as shown on the drawings, and/or as staked in the field. The end closure and internal blocks are a part of the terrace system and shall be constructed as specified above before the terraces are considered complete.*

Maximum constructed end closure spill elevation shall be the constructed terrace elevation minus freeboard and settlement.

End closures and internal blocks shall be specified as full or partial. Full end closures and blocks shall be set 0.3 foot below the design elevation. Any end closure or block lower than a full block shall be considered a partial block.

End closures should be constructed approximately perpendicular to the terrace ridge. End closures shall have a base width equal to or greater than the design base width of the basin terrace ridge.

Construction equipment shall be routed over the fill to provide compaction such that no bridging results. The top and side slopes of the ridge, end closures, fill areas and excavated areas shall be finished to a smoothness so the surface can be readily traveled upon by farm type equipment.

The terrace ridge height shall include an adequate settlement factor. Allowance for settlement shall be 5 percent for motorgraders and similar equipment, 10 percent for dozers, disk plows and similar equipment, and 20 percent for elevating graders, belt machines, and similar equipment.

Internal blocks shall be installed as required to minimize damage from breaks or to prevent changes in watershed drainage.

7. Land forming

Land forming of the terrace interval, terrace channel and all borrow areas is required as part of terrace construction. These areas are to be finished to a smoothness that can be readily traveled upon by farm type equipment. Land forming shall meet all of the following requirements:

- (a). Borrow areas on both sides of the terrace shall be filled and/or shaped to blend with slopes above and below the terrace, or as specified in **Section 9, Construction details**, or as shown on attached drawings. Any depression at the bottom of the terrace back slope created during terrace construction shall be filled or shaped so that drainage will be away from the terrace.*
- (b). Gullies, concentrated flow areas and/or washes in the terrace interval shall be filled and/or shaped sufficiently to allow unimpeded farming operations.*
- (c). Grade along terrace alignment shall be within + 0.2 feet of a level grade.*

8. Measurement

Measurement for the amount of terraces completed will be determined by measuring the length, in feet, of each terrace ridge or channel as applicable.

Terrace end closures and internal blocks will be considered additional terrace ridge and included in the total terrace length.

9. Construction details

Attachment TX-ENG-80, UTILITIES INVENTORY