

## DEFINITION

A planned sequence of crops grown on the same ground over a period of time which is referred to as the rotation cycle.

## PURPOSE

- » Reduce sheet, rill and wind erosion
- » Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content
- » Reduce water quality degradation due to excess nutrients
- » Improve soil moisture efficiency
- » Reduce plant pest pressures
- » Provide feed and forage for domestic livestock
- » Provide food and cover habitat for wildlife, including pollinator forage, and nesting

## PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Develop plans and for each field or treatment unit according to the Criteria and Operation and Maintenance requirements of this standard. Specifications shall describe the requirements to apply this practice to achieve the intended purpose. The following items will be documented as a minimum:

- » Field number and acres,
- » Purpose(s) of the crop rotation,
- » The sequence of crops to be grown,
- » The crop types to be grown,
- » Tillage type and dates of each operation,
- » Length of time each crop/crop type will be grown in the rotation, and
- » Total length of rotation
- » Suitable crop substitutions to address weather, soil conditions, market, or other situations that may prevent the planned crop from being planted.



## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Rotations shall provide for acceptable substitute crops in case of crop failure or shift in planting intentions for weather related or economic reasons. Acceptable substitutes are crops having similar characteristics that will accomplish the purpose of the original crop.

Acceptable substituted crops are those that offset the crop residue levels and do not increase soil loss or decrease Soil Condition Index. Examples may include: increasing hay in rotation, small grains for row crops, corn grain rather than corn for silage, or corn grain in place of soybeans. Always make certain RUSLE2 shows the soil loss is acceptable and the Soil Condition Index has not been reduced.

Evaluate the rotation and the crop sequence to determine if the planned system is meeting the planned purposes.



## CONSERVATION CROP ROTATION

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Planner: \_\_\_\_\_

### PRACTICE PURPOSE

Reduce sheet, rill and wind erosion

Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content

Reduce water quality degradation due to excess nutrients

Provide food and cover habitat for wildlife, including pollinator forage, and nesting

Reduce plant pest pressures

Provide feed and forage for domestic livestock

Improve soil moisture efficiency

Producer:	Tract:	Tract:	Tract:				
	Fields:	Fields:	Fields:				
**List all fields that share this tillage/rotation:							
<b>Year in rotation:</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>7th</b>
<b>Crop</b>							
<b>Notes:</b>							
<b>Corn Production</b>			<b>Alfalfa/Hay Production</b>			<b>Other crop (details) Crop Name:</b>	
Planter type: _____			Seeding: Direct seed With nurse crop			Seeding date: _____	
Row spacing: _____			Seeding: Straight alfalfa Grass mix			Harvest date: _____	
Planter attachments (coulters, etc.): _____			Seeding: Spring Fall			Planter type: _____	
Other residue removal (gleaning, etc.): _____			If nurse crop: Forage Grain			Row spacing: _____	
			Alfalfa/Hay seeding rates:			Residue removed: Yes No	
<b>Small Grain Production</b>			<b>Soybean Production</b>				
Used as cover crop: Yes No			Row spacing: Narrow (-10) Wide (+10)				
Seeding date: _____			No till: Yes No Type of drill/planter: _____				
Planter type: _____			Double disk w/ coulters Double disk w/ coulters & airway				
Used as forage: Yes No Date removed: _____			Single disk Single disk & airway				



**PRACTICE CERTIFICATION**

Contract Number	Contract Item Number (CIN)	Tract Number	Field Number(s)	Acres Planned	Actual Acres Applied (NRCS USE ONLY)

**COST SHARE DOCUMENTATION**

Before payment can be made, the following information is required to be in the case file:

- ⇒ Location map with fields and acres identified
- ⇒ Photographs of crops being grown
  - » Statement “photo was taken in the field by \_\_\_\_\_ (name)”
  - » Date photo was taken in the field
  - » Statement of what the photo represents if clarification is needed
- ⇒ Field verification is documented and certified planner verified “as installed” this practice meets the NRCS standards and specifications

**Practice Certification (NRCS USE ONLY)**

I certify that the practice as installed is complete and meets the applicable Wisconsin NRCS Conservation Practice Standard and all applicable practice specifications. Any changes to the original practice design have been approved and are documented on the original practice design “as installed.”

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Certified Planner (print)
(sign)
Date

