

Supplemental payment activity –CCR99–Resource Conserving Crop Rotation (RCCR)



Enhancement Description

Resource-conserving crop rotation means a crop rotation that:

1. Includes at least one resource conserving crop as determined by the State Conservationist;
2. Reduces erosion;
3. Improves soil fertility and tilth;
4. Interrupts pest cycles; and
5. In applicable areas, reduces depletion of soil moisture or otherwise reduces the need for irrigation.

Resource-conserving crop means a crop that is one of the following:

1. A perennial grass;
2. A legume grown for use as forage, seed for planting, or green manure;
3. A legume-grass mixture;
4. A small grain grown in combination with a green manure crop consisting of a grass, legume, forbs, or grass-forbs mixture, whether interseeded or planted in rotation.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland

Benefits

Resource-conserving crop rotations provide:

- Substantial aboveground residue and extensive root systems resulting in controlled erosion, improved soil tilth and carbon sequestration into soil organic matter.
- Improved soil condition and deep root channels resulting in enhanced water infiltration and soil moisture holding capacity; all of which reduce runoff losses as well as the frequency and amount of irrigation required.
- Improved soil biological activity for enhanced soil health via green manures and rhizodeposition (i.e., root exudates; fine root sloughing).
- Biological N fixation by legumes for soil fertility building and reduced energy consumption.
- Disrupted pest and weed life cycles by varying plant families and timing of field management activities

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all annually planted crop land use acres. The enhancement does not apply to permanent hayland, orchards, or vineyards.



Criteria

Design the crop rotation with sufficient diversity in plant family and species as well as timing and type of field operations to reduce the weed and pest populations. The rotation plan should reduce anticipated needs for pesticides, cultivation, or other pest/weed control measures.

The resource conserving crop rotation shall include at least one of the following resource conserving crops:

1. With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a perennial grass grown at least 2 years from time of planting;
2. With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a legume that is grown at least 2 years from time of planting;
3. With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a legume-grass mixture that is grown at least 2 years from time of planting;
4. With at least one other crop in the rotation, include a grass-forbs or legume-grass-forbs mixture, in which at least the grass component of the mixture is grown at least 2 years from time of planting, or
5. With at least two other crops in the rotation, include a small grain grown in combination with a grass, legume, forbs or any grass-forbs mixture that is used as a green manure, whether interseeded or planted after small grain harvest. Neither the small grain residue nor the cover crop shall be harvested or grazed.

Contract Criteria

1. The rotation shall cover at least 3 fiscal years of the CSP contract.
2. The resource conserving crop must be adopted by the third fiscal year of the contract and established or planted on all planned acres prior to the final annual payment.

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when the resource conserving crop rotation is planted on at least 1/3 of the rotation acres.

Documentation Requirements

Planned Resource-Conserving Crop Rotation(s):

List crop rotation(s), resource conserving crops, and cover crops that will follow the specific crops as applicable for each rotation to receive supplemental payment:

Rotation#1: _____ Fields: _____ Years _____
Resource Conserving Crop(s) to be used: _____

Rotation#2: _____ Fields: _____ Years _____
Resource Conserving Crop(s) to be used: _____



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Rotation#3: _____ Fields: _____ Years _____
Resource Conserving Crop(s) to be used: _____

Records:

- a. Crop rotation records by field
- b. Cover crops planted
- c. Photographs of representative fields showing different phases of the rotation
- d. Seed tags and receipts

3. A legume-grass mixture grown at least 1 year after the seeding year (grass\legume mixture must be kept a minimum of 2 crop years) with at least one other crop in the rotation.

The following are examples of a legume-grass mixture that could be used in a qualifying rotation:

Alfalfa / Meadow Brome	Alfalfa / Orchardgrass	Clover / Meadow Brome
Alfalfa / Timothy	Clover / Timothy	Alfalfa/Meadow Fescue

Examples of Resource Conserving Crop Rotations for Option #3:

Corn-alfalfa/timothy, alfalfa/timothy
Spring wheat – alfalfa/brome, alfalfa/brome

4. A grass-forb or legume-grass-forb mixture grown at least 1 year after the seeding year (grass component of the mixture must be kept a minimum of 2 crop years) with at least one other crop in the rotation.

The following are examples of forbs that could be used in a qualifying rotation:

Ironweed	Purple Coneflower	Common Ox-eye
Yellow Coneflower	Black-eyed Susan	Maximillian Sunflower
Buckwheat	Flax	Yellow Mustard
Radish	Rapeseed/Canola	Turnip

Examples of Resource Conserving Crop Rotations for Option #4:

Corn-clover/timothy/radish, soybeans-timothy
Corn-perennial ryegrass/red clover/turnips, soybeans-perennial ryegrass

5. A small grain grown in combination with a grass or legume green manure crop, whether inter-seeded or planted after small grain harvest with at least two other crops in the rotation. Neither the small grain residue nor the cover crop shall be harvested or grazed.

The following are examples of a grass or legume that could be inter-seeded or planted after/with a small grain:

Alfalfa	Berseem Clover	Alsike Clover
Crimson Clover	Hairy Vetch	Kura Clover
Cowpeas	Field Pea	
Ladino Clover	Red Clover	
White Clover	Rye Grass	

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Examples of Resource Conserving Crop Rotations for Option #5:

Spring wheat underseeded with red clover, soybeans and canola

Spring wheat, rye (as a cover), canola, soybeans

Oats underseeded with red clover, corn with a rye cover crop, soybeans