



Correlation Chart for NRCS Conservation Practices and NOP Requirements

Examples from California NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and USDA’s National Organic Program (NOP) Regulation

Production Practice	NOP Final Rule 7 CFR Part 205, Section and Practice Standard	Wording in NOP Final Rule (Key phrases from the National Organic Program regulation)	NRCS Mission Goals	NRCS Practice Standard (Name and Number)	Definition/Purposes (Highlights from the practice standards)
Natural Resource Conservation	205.200 General	Production practices implemented in accordance with this subpart must maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities		
Natural Resource Conservation	205.2 Terms defined: “Natural Resources of the Operation”	“The physical, hydrological, and biological features of a production operation, including soil, water, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife.”	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities		
Conservation of Biodiversity	205.2 Terms defined: “Organic production”	“A production system that is managed in accordance with the Act and regulations in this part to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity.”	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities		
Cover Cropping	205.203 Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrient Management	The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of the soil; manage soil fertility through rotations, cover crops... maintain or improve soil organic matter.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water	340 Cover Crop	Seasonal cover to reduce erosion, increase soil organic matter, manage excess nutrients, promote biological nitrogen fixation, increase biodiversity, suppress weeds, manage soil moisture.
Crop Rotation (annual crops)	205.2 Terms defined:	“The practice of alternating annual crops on a specific field in a planned pattern	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant	328 Conservation Crop	Growing crops in sequence on the same field to reduce erosion,



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Crop Rotation (annual crops, cont'd)	<p>“Crop Rotation”</p> <p>205.203(b) Soil fertility and crop nutrient practice standard</p> <p>205.205 Crop rotation practice standard</p> <p>205.206 Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</p>	<p>or sequence in successive crop years so that crops of the same species or family are not grown repeatedly without interruption on the same field...”</p> <p>The producer must manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials.</p> <p>The producer must implement a crop rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation: (a) maintain or improve soil organic matter content; (b) provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops; (c) manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and (d) provide erosion control.</p> <p>The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases including but not limited to: (1) Crop rotation...</p>	Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities	<p>Rotation</p> <p>603 Herbaceous wind barriers</p>	<p>maintain or improve soil organic matter content, manage plant nutrients, improve water use efficiency, manage plant pests (weeds, insects, and diseases), provide food for livestock, and food and cover for wildlife.</p> <p>Vegetation established in rows or narrow strips in the field across the prevailing wind direction to reduce soil erosion, protect growing crops, increase plant available moisture, and provide food and cover for wildlife.</p>
Crop Rotation (perennial crops)	205.2 Terms defined: “Crop Rotation”	“...Perennial cropping systems employ means such as alley cropping, intercropping, and hedgerows to	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy	311 Alley cropping Related Practice	Trees or shrubs planted...with crops, or forages produced in the alleys between the rows of



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Crop Rotation (perennial crops, cont'd)	<p>205.203 Soil fertility... (see above)</p> <p>205.205 Crop Rotation practice standard</p> <p>205.206 Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</p>	<p>introduce biological diversity in lieu of crop rotation.”</p> <p>The producer must ... minimize soil erosion.</p> <p>The producer must: (a) maintain or improve soil organic matter content; (b) provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops; (c) manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and (d) provide erosion control.</p> <p>(a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases including but not limited to: (1) Crop rotation... (b)(2) Development of habitat for natural enemies of pests.</p>	Plant & Animal Communities	<p>Standards:</p> <p>386 Field Border</p> <p>380 Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment</p> <p>422 Hedgerow planting</p> <p>704 Agroforestry Planting</p>	woody plants to improve or optimize the economic viability of the operation... to reduce excess surface water runoff and erosion, improve utilization and recycling of soil nutrients ...create habitat for biological pest management, improve crop diversity, quantity, quality and economic returns, enhance aesthetics, increase net carbon storage in the vegetation and soil.
Erosion Control	<p>205.203 Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard</p> <p>205.205 Crop Rotation practice standard</p>	<p>The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion.</p> <p>The producer must ... provide erosion control.</p>	Productive Soils	<p>330 Contour Farming 331 Contour Orchard and other fruit areas 332 Contour Buffer strips</p> <p>Related Practice Standards: 393 Filter Strip 329 A, B, C and 344 Residue Management 344 Residue Management, 350</p>	<p>Tillage, planting, and other farming operations performed on or near the contour of the field slope to reduce erosion and transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants downslope, reduce soil and water loss, to better control and use water, and to operate farm equipment more easily, and enhance wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Related Program regulation (continued from previous column): 586 Stripcropping, 599 A and C</p>



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Erosion Control (cont'd)				Sediment Basin, 386 Field Border, 412 Grassed Waterway, 423 Hillside Ditch, 342 Critical Area Planting, 390 Riparian Herbaceous cover, 484 Mulching, 557 Row Arrangement, 570 Runoff Management (continued in next column)	Cross Wind Ridges, 612 Tree and shrub planting, 601 Vegetative barrier, 603 Herbaceous wind barriers, 741 Vegetative buffer strip, and many others.
Protection of Water Quality	205.202 Land Requirements	Any field or farm parcel from which harvested crops are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as “organic,” must: (a) Have been managed in accordance with the provisions of §§ 205.203 through 205.206; (b) Have had no prohibited substances, as listed in § 205.105, applied to it for a period of 3 years immediately preceding harvest of the crop; and (c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.	Clean & Abundant Water		
Protection of Air Quality	205.203(e)(3)	The producer must not use: Burning as a means of disposal for crop residues produced on the operation: Except, that, burning may be used to	Clean Air; Productive Soils	660 Tree/shrub pruning/smoke reduction	



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Protection of Air Quality	205.203(e)(3)	suppress the spread of disease or to stimulate seed germination.			
Nutrient Management and Fertilization	205.203(c) Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard	The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil or water plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water	590 Nutrient Management 633 Waste Utilization Related Practice Standards: 484 Mulching 317 Composting Facility	...supply nutrients for plant production to properly utilize manure or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source, minimize agricultural non-point source pollution, maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of soil. Using agricultural wastes such as manure...and other organic residues; to protect water quality, provide fertility for crop, forage, fiber...and forest products, improve or maintain soil structure...
Pest Management	205.206 Crop Pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.	The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases including but not limited to: (1) crop rotation and soil and crop nutrient management... (2) sanitation measures to remove disease vectors, weed seeds, and habitat for pest organisms, (3) cultural practices that enhance crop health, including selection of plant species and varieties with regard to suitability to site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent pests, weeds and diseases...	Healthy Plant & Animal Communities	595 Pest Management Related Practice Standards: 422 Hedgerow planting 380 Windbreak	Manage agricultural pest infestations (including weeds, insects, and diseases) to reduce adverse effects on plant growth, crop production, and environmental resources. To develop a pest management program that is both consistent with selected crop production goals and environmentally acceptable.
Protection of Natural Areas	205.207 Wild crop harvesting practice	(b) A wild crop must be harvested in a manner that ensures that such harvesting	Healthy Plant & Animal		



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Protection of Natural Areas	standard	or gathering will not be destructive to the environment and will sustain the growth and production of the wild crop.	Communities		
Manure Management	205.203(c) Soil fertility (Composting of raw manure) 205.239(c) Livestock living conditions	Raw animal manure...must be composted unless it is (i) applied to land used for a crop not intended for human consumption; (ii) incorporated into the soil not less than 120 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion has direct contact with soil...(iii) ...90 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion does not have direct contact... The producer of an organic livestock operation must manage manure in such a manner that it does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, heavy metals or pathogenic organisms and optimizes recycling of nutrients.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water	634 Manure Transfer 635 Wastewater Treatment Strip Related Practice Standards: 575 Animal trails and walkways	Manure conveyance system ...to transfer animal manure (bedding material, spilled feed, process and wash water, and other residues... to agricultural land for final utilization. A treatment component of an agricultural waste management system consisting of a strip or area of herbaceous vegetation to improve water quality by reducing loading of nutrients, organics, pathogens, and other contaminants associated with animal manure and other wastes...
Livestock Operations	205.236 Origin of livestock 205.237 Livestock feed	Livestock must be organic from the last third of gestation; dairy for 12 months; poultry from second day of life. Feed must be 100% organic. Ruminants must have access to pasture. Approved synthetic vitamin and mineral supplements are allowed. Feeding animal by-products, urea and manure is prohibited	Healthy Plant & Animal Communities; Working Farms & Ranches	721 Rangeland fertilization 210 Hayland Management 512 Pasture and Hay Planting Related Practice Standards: 528: Prescribed grazing	Establish /prolong life of desirable plant species or plant cover for erosion control, wildlife habitat, to maintain or improve the quality and quantity of forage, protect the soil and reduce water loss. Establish adapted and compatible species, improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health, extend the length of the grazing



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Livestock Operations (cont'd)	205.238 Livestock health care practice standard 205.239 Livestock living conditions	Preventative Health Care Selection of species...suitability for site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent diseases and parasites. Provision of feed rations sufficient to meet nutritional requirements...appropriate housing. Pasture conditions...minimize the occurrence and spread of diseases and parasites. ...allow exercise and freedom of movement...reduction of stress. Performance of physical alterations as needed for the animal's welfare. Administration of vaccines and veterinary biologics are allowed. Must accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals: Access to outdoors, shade, shelter, sun, fresh air... Pasture for ruminants. Appropriate clean, dry bedding.		548 Grazing land mechanical treatment 550 Range Planting 614 Watering Facility 511 Forage Harvest Management	season
Prescribed Grazing	205.239(a) Livestock living conditions	(a) The producer of an organic livestock operation must establish and maintain livestock living conditions which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals, including: (1) Access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, and direct sunlight suitable to the species, its	Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities	528: Prescribed grazing	



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	205.2 Terms defined: "Pasture"	stage of production, the climate, and the environment; (2) Access to pasture for ruminants; "Land used for livestock grazing that is managed to provide feed value and maintain or improve soil, water, and vegetative resources."			
Protection of Soil and Water Quality	205.239(b) Livestock living conditions	(b) The producer of an organic livestock operation may provide temporary confinement for an animal because of: (1) Inclement weather; (2) The animal's stage of production; (3) Conditions under which the health, safety, or well being of the animal could be jeopardized; or (4) Risk to soil or water quality.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities; Working Farms & Ranches		

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