

A. CROPLAND (row crop, orchard, etc)						
NOP Rule	National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations	Payment Schedule Considerations
205.202	Land Requirements: (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.	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health, and Vigor	327 Conservation cover, 386 Field Borders, 393 Filter Strips, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers and increase distances between organic and nonorganic crops to protect against airborne or surface contamination by prohibited substances or other nonorganic operations.	Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation.
205.203	Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard: (a) 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.	Soil Erosion	*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion, *Wind Erosion	327 Conservation Cover, 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 332 Contour Buffer Strip, 330 Contour Farming, 331 Contour Orchards and other Fruit Areas, 340 Cover Crop, 342 Critical Area Planting, 588 Cross Wind Ridges, 589 Cross Wind Trap Strips, 386 Field Border, 393 Filter Strip, 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, 412 Grassed Waterway, 603 Herbaceous wind Barriers, 345 Residue and Tillage Management - Mulch Till, 329 Residue and Tillage Management - No Till, 346 Residue and Tillage Management - Ridge Till, 344 Residue and Tillage Management - Seasonal, 557 Row Arrangement, 585 Strip Cropping, 609 Surface Roughening, 600 Terrace, 601 Vegetation Barriers, 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Develop a system of conservation practices and management to address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent).	Include estimated incurred costs associated with implementation of this practice such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc. Consider increased cost associated with planting material that may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Consider Forgone Income (FI) cost category for land taken out of production tied to average yield loss. If cover crop is not replacing a production crop, FI is not applicable.

Attachment D

Guidance for Selection of Conservation Practices to Support Organic Operations

NOP Rule	National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations	Payment Schedule Considerations
205.203	<p>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard: (b) The producer must manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials; (c) 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 by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.</p>	Water Quality	<p>*Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water</p>	328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 393 Filter Strips, 590 Nutrient Management	Establish a crop rotation that recycles nutrients and/or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address crop nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules.	<p>Include estimated incurred costs associated with implementation of this practice such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc. Consider increased cost associated with planting material that may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Consider Forgone Income cost category for land taken out of production tied to average yield loss. If cover crop is not replacing a production crop, FI is not applicable.</p>
205.204	<p>Seeds and planting stock practice standard. (a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor</p>	<p>The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops: 515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those: (i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern. EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials.</p>	All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).	<p>Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation.</p>

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205.205	<p>Crop rotation practice standard. 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:</p> <p>(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>	Soil erosion Soil condition Water Quality	<p><u>Soil Erosion:</u> *Ephemeral Gully *Irrigation Induced *Sheet and Rill *Wind <u>Soil Condition:</u> *Compaction *Damage from Sediment Deposition *Organic Matter Depletion <u>Water Quality:</u> *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water</p>	328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Offer alternatives which include a suite of conservation practices needed to maintain or increase soil organic matter, manage nutrients, reduce erosion, and mitigate pest pressures.	Consider cost associated with acquisition of technical knowledge, which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Also consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.
205.206	<p>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard. (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants</p>	328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Implement a system of practices to mitigate pest pressures.	Consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.

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B. FOREST LAND						
205.202	<p>Land Requirements: (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.</p>	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health, and Vigor	394 Firebreak, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers and increase distances between organic and nonorganic crops to protect against airborne or surface contamination by prohibited substances or other nonorganic operations.	Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation.
205.203	<p>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard: (a) 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>	Soil Erosion	*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion, *Wind Erosion	342 Critical Area Planting, 383 Fuel Break, 384 Forest Slash Treatment, 379 Multi Story Cropping, 394 Firebreak, 393 Filter Strip, 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, 490 Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 654 Road-Trail-Landing Closure 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin, 655 Forest Trails and Landings, 666 Forest Stand Improvement,	Develop a system of conservation practices and management to address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent).	Include estimated incurred costs associated with implementation of this practice such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc. Consider increased cost associated with planting material that may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Consider Forgone Income cost category for land taken out of production tied to average yield loss. If cover crop is not replacing a production crop, FI is not applicable.

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205.203	<p>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard: (b) The producer must manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials; (c) 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 by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.</p>	Water Quality	<p>*Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water</p>	<p>393 Filter Strips, 384 Forest Slash Treatment, 379 Multi Story Cropping, 381 Silvopasture Establishment, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 590 Nutrient Management, 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment,</p>	<p>Establish a crop rotation that recycles nutrients and/or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address crop nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules.</p>	<p>Include estimated incurred costs associated with implementation of this practice such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc. Consider increased cost associated with planting material that may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Consider Forgone Income cost category for land taken out of production tied to average yield loss. If cover crop is not replacing a production crop, FI is not applicable.</p>
205.204	<p>Seeds and planting stock practice standard. (a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor</p>	<p>The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops: 515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those: (i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern. EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials.</p>	<p>All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).</p>	<p>Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation.</p>

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205.205	<p>Crop rotation practice standard. 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:</p> <p>(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>	Soil erosion Soil condition Water Quality	<p><u>Soil Erosion:</u> *Ephemeral Gully *Irrigation Induced *Sheet and Rill *Wind <u>Soil Condition:</u> *Compaction *Damage from Sediment Deposition *Organic Matter Depletion <u>Water Quality:</u> *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water</p>	311 Alley Cropping, 379 Multi-Story Cropping, 590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Offer alternatives which include a suite of conservation practices needed to maintain or increase soil organic matter, manage nutrients, reduce erosion, and mitigate pest pressures.	Consider cost associated with acquisition of technical knowledge, which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Also consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.
205.206	<p>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard. (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants</p>	666 Forest Stand Improvement, 660 Tree/Shrub Pruning 595 Integrated Pest Management.		Consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.

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C. PASTURE LAND (dairy, cow/calf/stocker/goats/sheep)						
205.202	<p>Land Requirements: (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.</p>	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health, and Vigor	575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 382 Fence, 386 Field Borders, 393 Filter Strips, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers / distances between organic and nonorganic crops to protect against contamination of pollen or other prohibited substances. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilizer must meet NOP.	Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Nontraditional fencing materials may also result in additional cost.
205.203	<p>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard: (a) 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>	Soil Erosion	*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion, *Wind Erosion	528 Prescribed Grazing, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 314 Brush Management, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection	Develop a system of conservation practices and management to address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent). Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilizer must meet NOP.	Include estimated incurred costs associated with implementation of this practice such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc. Consider increased cost associated with planting material that may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Consider Forgone Income cost category for land taken out of production tied to average yield loss.

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205.203	<p>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard: (b) The producer must manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials; (c) 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 by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.</p>	Water Quality	<p>*Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water</p>	<p>528 Prescribed Grazing, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 590 Nutrient Management</p>	<p>Establish forage base and prescribed grazing method that recycles nutrients and/or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address crop nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.</p>	<p>Include estimated incurred costs associated with implementation of this practice such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc. Consider increased cost associated with planting material that may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Consider Forgone Income cost category for land taken out of production tied to average yield loss.</p>
205.204	<p>Seeds and planting stock practice standard. (a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor</p>	<p>The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops: 515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those: (i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern. EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials. 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting</p>	<p>All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).</p>	<p>Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation.</p>

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205.206	<p>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard. (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants</p>	528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 314 Brush Management, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Establish forage base and prescribed grazing method that recycles nutrients and/or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address froage nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.	Consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.

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D. RANGELAND						
205.202	<p>Land Requirements: (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.</p>	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health, and Vigor	575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 382 Fence, 386 Field Borders, 393 Filter Strips, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers / distances between organic and nonorganic forage crops to protect against contamination of pollen or other prohibited substances. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.	Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Nontraditional fencing materials may also result in additional cost.
205.203	<p>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard: (a) 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>	Soil Erosion	*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion, *Wind Erosion	528 Prescribed Grazing, 550 Range Planting, 314 Brush Management, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways,	Develop a system of conservation practices and management to address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent). Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.	Include estimated incurred costs associated with implementation of this practice such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc. Consider increased cost associated with planting material that may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Consider Forgone Income cost category for land taken out of production tied to average yield loss. If cover crop is not replacing a production crop, FI is not applicable.

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E. GRAZED LAND						
205.202	<p>Land Requirements: (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.</p>	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health, and Vigor	575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 382 Fence, 472 Access Control, 386 Field Borders, 393 Filter Strips, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers / distances between organic and nonorganic forage crops to protect against contamination of pollen or other prohibited substances. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.	Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Nontraditional fencing materials may also result in additional cost.

Attachment D

Guidance for Selection of Conservation Practices to Support Organic Operations

NOP Rule	National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations	Payment Schedule Considerations
205.203	<p>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard: (a) 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>	Soil Erosion	*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion, *Wind Erosion	528 Prescribed Grazing, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting, 314 Brush Management, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 393 Filter Strips, 590 Nutrient Management 327 - Conservation Cover, 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 332 - Contour Buffer Strip, 330 Contour Farming, 331 Contour Orchards and other Fruit Areas, 340 Cover Crop, 342 Critical Area Planting, 588 Cross Wind Ridges, 589 Cross Wind Trap Strips, 386 Field Border, 393 Filter Strip, 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, 412 Grassed Waterway, 603 Herbaceous wind Barriers, 345 Residue and Tillage Management - Mulch Till, 329 Residue and Tillage Management - No Till, 346 Residue and Tillage Management - Ridge Till, 344 Residue and Tillage Management - Seasonal, 557 Row Arrangement, 585 Strip Cropping, 609 Surface Roughening, 600 Terrace, 601 Vegetation Barriers, 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Develop a system of conservation practices and management to address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent). Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.	Include estimated incurred costs associated with implementation of this practice such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc. Consider increased cost associated with planting material that may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Consider Forgone Income cost category for land taken out of production tied to average yield loss. If cover crop is not replacing a production crop, FI is not applicable.

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Guidance for Selection of Conservation Practices to Support Organic Operations

NOP Rule	National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations	Payment Schedule Considerations
205.203	<p>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard: (b) The producer must manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials; (c) 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 by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.</p>	Water Quality	<p>*Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pathogens in Surface Water *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater *Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water</p>	<p>528 Prescribed Grazing, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 393 Filter Strips, 590 Nutrient Management</p>	<p>Establish forage base and prescribed grazing method that recycles nutrients and/or produces nitrogen and protect soil quality. Implement a nutrient management system that address froage nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.</p>	<p>Include estimated incurred costs associated with implementation of this practice such as seed, fertilizer, amendmets, etc. Consider increased cost associated with planting material that may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Consider Forgone Income cost category for land taken out of production tied to average yield loss. If cover crop is not replacing a production crop, FI is not applicable.</p>
205.204	<p>Seeds and planting stock practice standard. (a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor</p>	<p>The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops: 515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those: (i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern.</p> <p>EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials.</p> <p>512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting.</p>	<p>All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).</p>	<p>Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendmets, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation.</p>

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Guidance for Selection of Conservation Practices to Support Organic Operations

NOP Rule	National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations	Payment Schedule Considerations
205.205	<p>Crop rotation practice standard. 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:</p> <p>(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>	Soil erosion Soil condition Water Quality	<p><u>Soil Erosion:</u> *Ephemeral Gully *Irrigation Induced *Sheet and Rill *Wind <u>Soil Condition:</u> *Compaction *Damage from Sediment Deposition *Organic Matter Depletion <u>Water Quality:</u> *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water</p>	528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting, 314 Brush Management, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.	Consider cost associated with acquisition of technical knowledge, which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Also consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.
205.206	<p>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard. (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.</p>	Plant Condition	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants</p>	528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting, 511 Forage Harvest Management, 314 Brush Management, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.	Establish forage base and prescribed grazing method that recycles nutrients and/or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address froage nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.	Consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.