

Practice	Unit	Cost Share Rate/Unit	NRCS Code
Conservation Tillage	Acre		329
Cover Crops	Acre		
Grass Waterways	Linear Feet		412
Concentrated Flow Area Seedling	Acre		
Vegetative Buffer	Acre		
Nutrient Management	Acre		590
Wetland Restoration	Acre		657
Treatment Wetlands	Sites		656
Water and Sediment Control Basin	Each		
Contour Farming	Acre		330
Field Borders	Acre		
Vertical Manure Injection	Acre		
Prescribed Grazing	Acre		528
Strip Cropping	Acre		
Filter Strip/Wall	Each		393
Roof Gutters	Linear Feet		558
Waste Storage	Each		313
Milkhouse Waste Treatment	Each		629
Conservation/Project Technician			
Agronomist			

Conservation Tillage

The residue and tillage management no-till/ strip till/direct seed practice addresses the amount, orientation, and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year-round. Crops are planted and grown in narrow slots or tilled strips established in the untilled seedbed of the previous crop.

This practice includes maintaining most of the crop residue on the soil surface throughout the year, commonly referred to as no-till, zero till, slot plant, row till, strip till, or just the generic term, conservation tillage. The common characteristic of this practice is that the only tillage performed is a very narrow strip prepared by coulters, sweeps, or similar devices attached to the front of the planter. Benefits to soil include increasing organic matter, improving soil tilth, and increasing productivity as the constant supply of organic material left on the soil surface is decomposed by a healthy population of earthworms and other organisms. Operations and maintenance for this practice includes evaluating the crop-residue cover and orientation for each crop to ensure the planned amounts, orientation, and benefits are being achieved. Weeds and other pests must be monitored to ensure pest populations do not exceed thresholds.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1254958.pdf

Cover Crops

Cover crops such as cereal rye, oats and winter wheat are planted as soon as possible after harvest on fields where residue will not adequately protect the soil from wind and water erosion during winter and spring. Cover crops can also be used on sandy soils to reduce nitrate leaching. In some situations, a cover crop can be planted after the last cultivation to provide a longer growing period.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/technical/cp/?cid=nrcs142p2_020771

Grass Waterway



A grassed waterway is a shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to convey surface water at a non-erosive velocity using a broad and shallow cross section to a stable outlet.

A natural drainage way is graded and shaped to form a smooth, shallow channel and then planted to sod- forming grasses. The drainage way carries runoff water from the field and the grass prevents the water from forming a gully. The vegetation may also trap some

sediment washed from cropland, absorb some chemicals and nutrients in the runoff water, and provide cover for small birds and animals.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/technical/cp/?cid=nrcs142p2_020778

Concentrated Flow Area Seeding/Critical Area Planting

A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land (including forest land) and environmentally sensitive areas.

The purposes of this practice are the following: (a) to protect water quality by filtering and removing sediment, organic matter, pesticides, sediment-borne phosphorus and other pollutants from sheet flow¹ runoff and subsurface flow through deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification or other processes; (b) to eliminate row crop production and associated pollutants adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas; and (c) to protect and stabilize the riparian zone and reduce flood water velocity.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd388622&ext=pdf

Vegetative Buffer

Nutrient Management

Nutrient Management Planning manages the amount, form, placement, timing and application of animal manure, commercial fertilizer, biosolids, and other plant nutrients used in production of agricultural products to maintain soil productivity, achieve optimum yield goals and prevent loss to the environment.

The 590 practice includes development of a nutrient budget for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium for each crop grown in the crop rotation. The nutrient budget will include all applied and residual nutrients. Soil tests and manure test results will be used to develop site-specific nutrient recommendations. The Phosphorus Index (P-Index) will be used, when required, to identify areas of potential for P loss to the environment and to develop appropriate tactics to reduce the risk.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/home/?cid=nrcs142p2_018168

Wetland Restoration

Wetland restoration is a way to return a former or degraded wetland to a condition that is a close approximation of its original condition.

Its purpose is to restore wetland function, value, habitat, diversity, and capacity to a close approximation of the pre-disturbance conditions by restoring: conditions conducive to hydric soil maintenance, wetland hydrology (dominant water source, hydroperiod, and hydrodynamics), native hydrophytic vegetation (including the removal of undesired species, and/or seeding or planting of desired species), and original fish and wildlife habitats.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs143_026340.pdf

Treatment Wetlands

A treatment wetland is an artificial wetland ecosystem with hydrophytic vegetation for biological treatment of water.

Constructed wetlands are used to treat wastewater and contaminated runoff from agricultural processing, livestock, and aquaculture facilities or for improving the quality of storm water or other water flows. For the constructed wetland to work properly, inlet control is provided to prevent debris from entering the wetland, and outlet control is provided to maintain appropriate water depths for wetland vegetation and the design hydraulic retention time. For waste management systems, a constructed wetland is considered a discharging practice, and therefore, the discharge must either be captured elsewhere in the wastewater treatment system or discharged to the ecosystem in a manner consistent with discharge permit requirements. Wetland plants are established that are suitable for local climatic conditions and tolerant of the contaminated flow the wetland is designed to attenuate. Invasive of nonnative species that could become a problem in the native habitat are not used. A constructed wetland will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd1298030&ext=pdf

Water and Sediment Control Basin

Contour Farming

Contour farming is using ridges and furrows formed by tillage, planting and other farming operations to change the direction of runoff from directly downslope to around the hillslope.

Contour farming is generally used on sloping land where tillage, planting, and cultivation are used to grow annual crops. In a properly designed contour farming system the tillage furrows intercept runoff and allow more moisture to infiltrate into the soil. Contour farming is most effective on slopes between 2 and 10 percent. Conservation benefits may include, but are not limited to: reduced sheet and rill erosion reduced transport of sediment, other solids and the contaminants attached to them increased water infiltration. To maintain the effectiveness of this practice, all tillage and planting operations must be parallel to the established markers.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1254959.pdf

Prescribed Grazing

Prescribed grazing involves managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals.

This practice may be applied as a part of conservation management system to achieve one or more of the following:

- Improve or maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant communities
- Improve or maintain quality and quantity of forage for grazing and browsing animals' health and productivity.
- Improve or maintain surface and/or subsurface water quality and quantity.
- Improve or maintain riparian watershed function.
- Reduce accelerated soil erosion and maintain or improve soil condition.
- Improve or maintain the quantity and quality of food and/or cover available for wildlife.
- Manage fine fuel loads to achieve desired conditions.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs141p2_024145.pdf

Strip Cropping

Growing planned rotations of crops or fallow land with strips of forages or small grains in a systematic arrangement of equal width strips across a field.

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to achieve one or more of the following purposes.

- Reduce soil erosion from water and transport of sediment and other waterborne contaminants.
- Reduce soil erosion from wind.
- Protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles.
- Enhance wildlife and pollinator habitat.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download/?cid=stelprdb1250543&ext=pdf

Filter Strips

A filter strip is an area of permanent herbaceous vegetation used to reduce sediment, organics, nutrients, pesticides, and other contaminant loadings in runoff.

The purpose of a filter strip is to provide a buffer between fields and water bodies and allow for settling out of suspended soil particles, infiltration of runoff and soluble pollutants, adsorption of pollutants on soil and plant surfaces, and uptake of soluble pollutants by plants. Filter strips can also restore, create or enhance herbaceous habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_005975.pdf

Waste Storage

An agricultural waste storage impoundment or containment made by constructing an embankment, excavating a pit or dugout, or by fabricating a structure. Its purpose is to store manure, agricultural by-products, wastewater, and contaminated runoff to provide the agricultural operation management flexibility for waste utilization.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1254945.pdf

Waste Treatment

Waste treatment is the mechanical, chemical or biological treatment of agricultural waste. To use mechanical, chemical, or biological treatment facilities and/processes as part of an agricultural waste management system.

- To improve ground and surface water quality by reducing the nutrient content, organic strength, and/or pathogen levels of agricultural waste.
- To improve air quality by reducing odors and gaseous emissions
- To produce value added byproducts
- To facilitate desirable waste handling, storage, or land application alternatives.

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/Delete/2016-10-1/Archived_629mn_160929.pdf