

## **2007 MINNESOTA EQIP CONSERVATION PRACTICE PAYMENT DOCKET**

The EQIP Conservation Practice Payment Docket lists practices that have been authorized for payments under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Minnesota. The docket lists the payment rates and limits and the program specific provisions for various practices.

The docket consists of three parts, Program Provisions, General Provisions and Specific Provisions. The Program and General Provisions list the requirements that are applicable to all or multiple practices. The Specific Provisions list the component codes, payment rates and limits, practice lifespans and specific provisions for each docket practice.

EQIP conservation payments are only authorized for practices listed in the docket. Non-docket practices required for the implementation of a docket practice shall be considered components of and subsidiary to the docket practice. Conservation payments for components will be included with the docket practice.

### **Conservation Practice Payment Methods:**

#### **1. Cost Share Payments**

- a. **AC – Average Cost:** Average cost for each practice or component have been established at the state level. Where adequate cost data can be obtained, average costs may be developed at a county, watershed or other defined area as approved by the State Conservationist. Offices may submit updated cost information at any time, however, cost lists will not change once any contracts have been obligated in ProTracts.

Payments based on Average Costs do not require the participant to submit bills or receipts. Offices are to follow state policy regarding collection of actual costs to support average cost development.

- b. **FR - Flat Rate:** The unit payment shall be the amount listed in the docket.

#### **2. Incentive Payments**

- a. **One Time Incentive Payment** - Payment is made upon certification of practice implementation.
- b. **Annual Incentive Payment** - Payment is made annually for a specified number of years (up to a total maximum of 3 years) upon certification that the practice is being implemented.

3. EQIP funds may be combined with other funds. The total payment to the landowner shall not exceed the total cost of implementing the practice. EQIP does not pay for the same practice on the same land as any other USDA conservation program. The participant should consult other program rules for maximum payment and other limitations.

### **Docket Modifications:**

Individual Field Offices may request that NRCS Field Office Technical Guide conservation practices not listed in the docket be added and practices listed in the docket be removed upon review and approval by the State Conservationist. Written justification must be included in requesting a practice be added to or removed from the docket. Justification should include why the addition or removal of the practice is required, including evidence that the practice has potential to address the resource concern, an estimate of the amount of EQIP funds to be allocated using the practice, and identification of who will provide technical assistance for implementing the practice.

## **PROGRAM PROVISIONS**

1. Conservation Practice Payments are authorized for practices:
  - a. Implemented following the contents of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.
  - b. Implemented following the a) general provisions and b) specific provisions for each practice included in the docket.
  - c. **Where positive environmental benefits from the benchmark condition can be documented. Payments are not authorized for, or on, existing, in place practices.**
  - d. Starting Practices – Applicants who start a practice before the contract is approved by the NRCS causes the applicant to be ineligible for EQIP financial assistance for that practice. A waiver may be granted if the practice has not been started at time of application and the practice has not been started until after the waiver is granted (see EQIP manual for further guidance).
2. The cost share rate for 2007 EQIP contracts is 50% of the average cost as listed in this docket, unless specified otherwise in the docket.
  - a. On a very limited basis, a request can be made to the State Conservationist to exceed the 50% maximum cost share rate. This request must be made in writing by the District Conservationist and forwarded through the respective Area Office. The request must document reasons related to natural resource concerns and applicant specifics. Since the decision by the State Conservationist may affect the allocation of funding, the request must be submitted prior to any contract approvals.
3. For certified Limited Resource Farmers the cost share rate will be set at 90%. Payments for practices with a Flat Rate (FR) or Incentive Payment will not change. For Beginning Farmers the cost-share rates will be the same as posted in this docket.
4. Any contract with a total obligation of EQIP payments greater than \$150,000 must be signed in ProTracts by the Regional Assistant Chief.
5. Technical assistance through technical service providers (TSP) may be paid through EQIP contracts for FY 2007.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The minimum length of a contract is 1 year beyond the completion of the final practice.
2. An approved participant may choose to obtain the technical assistance required to implement their EQIP contract from **EITHER** USDA **OR** a Technical Service Provider (TSP). If the participant chooses to have USDA perform the technical assistance, non-USDA personnel through a public agency partner or private sector consultant may provide parts of those services. If the participant chooses to hire a TSP certified by the NRCS, to perform the technical assistance, the maximum amount of USDA reimbursement for that assistance is the amount listed in the EQIP contract. All services provided by a TSP are done independently. Consultations or concurrence of USDA staff is not required. TSP costs in excess of the contract amount are the responsibility of the producer.
3. Pesticides used, as a component of any practice, will be state approved for the use involved. These pesticides will also be applied according to registered uses, label directions, and other applicable federal or state regulations.
4. Soil testing - Any practice, which includes the application of liming materials, commercial fertilizer, and/or manure shall be prescribed based on a soil test no older than three years old and from a soil testing laboratory shown on Minnesota Department of Agriculture's list of approved Soil Testing Laboratories. Application rates of lime, commercial fertilizer, and manure shall be based on University of Minnesota recommendations, or from North Dakota's or South Dakota's Land Grant University.
5. Liming Materials - Lime refers to Agricultural Liming Material (ALM). All liming material must meet the label information required by Minnesota Statue Section 18C.545 and include the following: 1) ALM type and;

- 2) ALM quality rating (minimum pounds of effective neutralizing power (ENP) per ton). The University of Minnesota soil test reports provide ALM recommendations in pounds of ENP per acre.
6. Land enrolled in other conservation programs is eligible under EQIP provided EQIP does not pay for the same practice on the same land as any other USDA program. CRP land may only be offered for enrollment during the last year of the CRP contract and no EQIP practice may be applied until after the CRP contract has ended. Other program rules may prohibit the use of EQIP funds. See also 440-V- CPM 516.62f.
  7. NRCS Wetland Policy as found in the General Manual 190, Part 410 must be followed. This policy provides direction to the agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This policy prohibits NRCS from providing technical or financial assistance to participants that will adversely affect wetlands, unless the lost functions are fully mitigated.
  8. As a requirement of eligibility, participants are required to perform upland treatment actions, according to Minnesota Conservation Planning Policy, and adequately address potential adverse impacts to conservation practices. Adverse impacts to conservation practices could include, but are not limited to, increased siltation by water and/or wind borne soils, excessive runoff, degradation of vegetation practice components by pesticides transported in runoff and sediment, and degradation of wildlife habitat.
  9. Participants wanting to perform practices on land they do not own, or to install practices that require permits are responsible for obtaining easements, permits, right-of-way, water rights or other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practices. Expenses incurred due to these items are not cost shared. The permission from the authority must be in writing and a copy must be provided to the NRCS field office prior to installation being made on the practice.
  10. **Incentive Payment Restrictions:** Each practice listed with an incentive payment has a maximum acreage limit on which the incentive can be earned. This restriction applies regardless of the number of EQIP contracts held by a participant. Additionally, operating units contracted for incentive payment practices are not eligible for payments for the same practice in future EQIP contracts. Furthermore, each practice's maximum acreage limit applies to the separate and distinct operation, regardless of the number of participants or entities on each contract. Payments made to an operation may be split among any number of designated participants.
    - a. **Example #1:** A participant requests and completes the Organic Conservation Crop Rotation incentive practice. The participant receives the annual incentive payment for each year as designated in the contract. The participant is not eligible to receive the organic incentive payment under any other EQIP contract. The participant may apply for and receive payments on different incentive practices (other than Organic Conservation Crop Rotation) in subsequent EQIP contracts.
    - b. **Example #2:** Husband and wife producers are recognized by FSA as separate entities for FSA's definitions. As such, each applies for, and receives, approval for an individual EQIP contract. However, for EQIP incentive payment purposes, the District Conservationist must determine them as separate and distinct farming operations in order for each to receive the maximum incentive payment. Otherwise, as a single operation (not a separate and distinct operation), the sum of the 2 contracts cannot exceed the maximum acreage limit for the practice. **Separate and distinct operations should use separate and distinct equipment, separate and distinct management and separate and distinct decision-making.**
  11. Materials – New materials must be utilized in the construction of practices, unless PRIOR approval has been granted by the State Conservation Engineer. The State Conservation Engineer has granted approval for specific used material as provided by specific practice provisions in this docket.
  12. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Requirements. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes a manure or wastewater storage or treatment practice will provide for the development and implementation of a CNMP. Consult EQIP Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Requirements (**EQIP Docket Pages MN515.P.162-38**) for details. Review the requirements with applicants interested in a waste management facility. In Minnesota the CNMP shall be developed prior to construction of the following practices:
    - a. Anaerobic digester (Code 366)

- b. Composting Facility-Manure (Code 317)
  - c. Waste Facility Cover (Code 367)
  - d. Waste Storage Facility (Code 313)
  - e. Milking Center Wastewater Treatment (Code 719)
  - f. Waste Treatment Strip (Code 635)
13. Producers receiving EQIP funding for one or more of the Waste Storage and Treatment practices listed in item 12 above or for Nutrient Management (code 590) must demonstrate adequate land base for manure applications and insure that nutrients are managed according to NRCS standards on all lands where the producers' manure will be applied, regardless of ownership. This ensures compliance with manure application requirements of State Chapter 7020 Rules. These rules address sensitive areas, application timing, and application rates based on either the nitrogen needs of the crop as determined by nutrient budgeting or on a P205 removal basis.
- a. CNMPs or Strategic Plans for Livestock operations should list total acres necessary to receive manure applications.
  - b. If the producer does not have the necessary acres, he or she must obtain written permission from others to apply or have manure applied to their land according to NRCS requirements.
  - c. Copies of the permissions must be provided to the NRCS filed office prior to construction of the above listed practices or implementation of nutrient management.
  - d. The "USDA-NRCS Agreement to Allow Manure Application" (EQIP Docket Pages **MN515.P.162-52**) should be used to obtain permissions.
  - e. It is the EQIP contract holder's responsibility to insure that manure from their operation(s) is managed according to NRCS requirements on land(s) they do not control.
14. All permanent and temporary vegetative cover components in any practice include the cost for site preparation, seed, and seeding.

## **SPECIFIC PROVISIONS**

### **PRACTICE STANDARD 366 - ANAEROBIC DIGESTER CONTROLLED TEMPERATURE (no)**

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Cost/unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Anaerobic Digester Controlled Temperature	Anaerobic Digester Controlled Temperature	AU	200	AC	50

1. Cost share assistance is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing air and/or water quality problem **and only if a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is developed and implemented.**
2. Consult General Provision 12 for **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.**
3. Consult General Provision 13 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder
4. AU measurement is each 1000# of live weight contributing to the digester.
5. Eligible components are the digester vessel, cover, internal equipment, controls, gas piping and flare.

### **PRACTICE STANDARD 316 - ANIMAL MORTALITY FACILITY (no)**

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Cost/unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Animal Mortality Facility	Incinerators	ea	7000	AC	50
Animal Mortality Facility	Composting Facility for Dead Animals - Roofed	sq ft	40	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is authorized for animal mortality facilities with the following provision
  - a) The dead animals to be composted or incinerated must be produced by the producer's operation and not purchased or provided by outside sources.
  - b) Composting facilities shall be sized for the composting of animal mortalities only. Manure composting shall be done under Practice Standard 317 - Compost Facility.
2. Consult the **Manure and Wastewater Storage and Handling Evaluation Checklist (EQIP Docket Pages MN515.P.162-51)** for details.
3. A CNMP is **NOT** required for an Animal Mortality Facility (316).

### **PRACTICE STANDARD 360 - CLOSURE OF WASTE IMPOUNDMENT (no)**

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Cost/unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Closure of Waste Impoundment	Closure of Waste Impoundment	ea	7000	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is **NOT** authorized for the removal of manure from abandoned waste facilities.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 317 - COMPOSTING FACILITY (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Composting Facility	Composting Facility - Manure Only	AU	120	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is authorized for manure composting structures with the following provisions.
  - a) The composting facility must be part of a total CNMP.
  - b) The waste to be composted must be produced by the producer’s operation and not purchased or provided by outside sources.
  - c) Cost sharing for compost barns under this practice is limited to the retaining walls needed to contain the compost. Roofs, if eligible are cost shared under Waste Facility Cover and must meet all requirements including abandonment of ALL outdoor lots.
2. AU measurement is each 1000# of live weight contributing to the Compost Facility
3. Consult General Provision 12 for **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.**
4. Consult General Provision 13 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder

**PRACTICE STANDARD 328 - CONSERVATION CROP ROTATION (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Conservation Crop Rotation	Conservation Crop Rotation - One Time	ac	20	FR	100
Conservation Crop Rotation	Organic Conservation Crop Rotation	ac	45	FR	100

**Conservation Crop Rotation**

1. For Conservation Crop Rotation, a one-time incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$20/acre for up to 250 acres. Participants receiving the Organic Conservation Crop Rotation incentive payment are not eligible for the Conservation Crop Rotation Incentive Payment. **See General Provision 10.**
2. Payment is to be made after the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the most conserving crop of the crop rotation is planted.
3. Eligible acres are those where the current rotation is annual crops and is significantly changed to include at least two years or more of rotation legumes, grass and legume mixtures, and other approved green manure and cover crops.
4. Cost sharing is not authorized for Conservation Crop Rotation and Pasture and Hay Planting on the same acreage.

**Organic Conservation Crop Rotation Incentive**

1. Participants are eligible for an incentive payment to convert from conventional agriculture crop production to “Organic Conservation Crop Rotation.” An incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$45 per acre per year, up to 120 acres per year, per operation not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10.**
2. Participants receiving a Conservation Crop Rotation Incentive payment are not eligible for Organic Conservation Crop Rotation Incentive payments. Acreage in any phase of the conversion process is eligible for the incentive payment. However, when transition acres become certified they are not eligible for organic payments in future years. Acreage already certified organic is not eligible. **In addition, producers who are already certified as organic on any acreage are not eligible.**
3. **Annual crops must be included in the crop rotation at least 1 out of the 3 payment years. Oats as a nurse crop is not considered an annual crop. In addition, the overall rotation must include at least 4 out of 7 years (57%) of annual crops.**
4. Cost sharing is not authorized for Organic Conservation Crop Rotation and Pasture and Hay Planting (512) on the same acreage.
5. **Participants eligible for “Organic Conservation Crop Rotation” incentive payments are not eligible for other conservation practices used in the organic farming operation including residue management, cover crop, nutrient management, pest management, and similar practices.**
6. Participants approved for the Organic Conservation Crop Rotation incentive payment must receive an annual letter of compliance from an accredited USDA certifying organic agent and wait until **AUGUST 1** prior to qualifying for payment. Copies of compliance letters are required to document

that the producer has earned this incentive payment. The agent must include proof of USDA certification. Consult “**Organic Conservation Crop Rotation Requirements for EQIP Contracts**” (EQIP Docket pages MN515.P.162-49) and “**2007 Contracts with Organic Incentive Payments**” (EQIP Docket pages MN515.P.162-50) for additional details.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 332 - CONTOUR BUFFER STRIPS (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Contour Buffer Strips	Fertilizer	ac	35	AC	50
Contour Buffer Strips	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Contour Buffer Strips	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses and Legumes	ac	200	AC	50
Contour Buffer Strips	Lime	ton	20	AC	50
Contour Buffer Strips	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Contour Buffer Strips	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses and Forbs	ac	260	AC	50
Contour Buffer Strips	Weed Control - Mechanical - Mowing - Grass Establishment (5x per 24mo)	ac	10	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is available for establishment and management of the area devoted to perennial cover.
2. End rows shall be established as Field Borders (386) or will have soil erosion rates at “T” or less. Buffer areas and field borders will be seeded based on an approved seeding plan.
3. Cost sharing is not authorized for Stripcropping (585), and Contour Farming (330) on acres where Contour Buffer Strips (332) are authorized and planned.
4. Establishment clipping is authorized up to 5 times during the first 24 months.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 330 - CONTOUR FARMING (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Contour Farming	Contour Farming	ac	7	FR	100

1. An annual incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$7/acre/year, up to 250 acres per year per operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10.**
2. All land preparation, planting and cultivation will be done following a specified contour grade.
3. End rows shall be established as Field Borders (386) or will have soil erosion rates at “T” or less.
4. Incentive payments and cost sharing are not authorized for Stripcropping (585) and Contour Buffer Strips (332) on acres where Contour Farming (330) is authorized and planned.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 340 - COVER CROP (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Cover Crop	Cover Crop	ac	30	AC	50

1. Cover crop seeding will be completed based on an approved cover crop seeding and management plan.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 342 - CRITICAL AREA PLANTING (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Critical Area Planting	Earthwork	ac	1000	AC	50
Critical Area Planting	Fertilizer	ac	35	AC	50
Critical Area Planting	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Critical Area Planting	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses and Legumes	ac	200	AC	50
Critical Area Planting	Lime	ton	20	AC	50
Critical Area Planting	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Critical Area Planting	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses and Forbs	ac	260	AC	50
Critical Area Planting	Weed Control - Mechanical - Mowing - Grass Establishment (5x per 24 mo)	ac	10	AC	50
Critical Area Planting	Cover Crop - Temporary Cover - Construction Sites	ac	80	AC	50

1. Critical Area Planting (342) must be completed following an approved establishment and management plan.
2. Critical Area Planting - Earthwork includes earthwork, grading, etc.
3. Temporary Cover - Construction Sites
  - a) The purpose of this component of the practice standard is to provide temporary cover on cropland fields where it is necessary to construct conservation practices during months when an annual crop would normally be growing. Participants are eligible for a one time incentive payment of \$40/acre to allow construction of structural conservation practices to occur from May 30 to September 15. Payment may not be made more than once on the same acres.
  - b) Payments are limited to those acres that would have been planted to an annual row crop. Total payments per contract are not to exceed payment on 10 acres.
  - c) The \$15/acre/year incentive payment for Cover Crop (340) and the \$40/acre Temporary Cover incentive payment **may not** be made on the same acres.
  - d) Payment is limited to those acres where a temporary cover crop is established according to an approved NRCS plan.
5. Establishment clipping is authorized up to 5 times during the first 24 months.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 589C - CROSS WIND TRAP STRIPS (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Cross Wind Trap Strips	Fertilizer	ac	35	AC	50
Cross Wind Trap Strips	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Cross Wind Trap Strips	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses and Legumes	ac	200	AC	50
Cross Wind Trap Strips	Lime	ton	20	AC	50
Cross Wind Trap Strips	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Cross Wind Trap Strips	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses and Forbs	ac	260	AC	50
Cross Wind Trap Strips	Weed Control - Mechanical - Mowing - Grass Establishment (5x per 24 mo)	ac	10	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is authorized for establishing and managing perennial cover in the trap strip, based on an approved seeding plan.
2. Establishment clipping is authorized up to 5 times during the first 24 months.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 402 - DAM (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Dam	Dam - Drainage Area - 0 to 10 Acres	ea	5000	AC	50
Dam	Dam - Drainage Area - 10.1 to 20 Acres	ea	8000	AC	50
Dam	Dam - Drainage Area - 20.1 to 40 Acres	ea	15000	AC	50
Dam	Dam - Drainage Area - 40.1 to 80 Acres	ea	20000	AC	50
Dam	Dam - Drainage Area - 80.1 to 250 Acres	ea	30000	AC	50
Dam	Dam - Drainage Area - 250.1 to 500 Acres	ea	60000	AC	50
Dam	Dam - Drainage Area - Greater than 500 Acres	ea	80000	AC	50
Dam	Dam Rehab, 0-10 Acre Drainage Area	ea	3000	AC	50
Dam	Dam Rehab, 10.1-20 Acre Drainage Area	ea	5000	AC	50
Dam	Dam Rehab, 20.1-40 Acre Drainage Area	ea	8000	AC	50
Dam	Dam Rehab,40.1-80 Acre Drainage Area	ea	10000	AC	50
Dam	Dam Rehab, 80.1-250 Acre Drainage Area	ea	15000	AC	50
Dam	Dam Rehab, 250.1-500 Acre Drainage Area	ea	30000	AC	50
Dam	Dam Rehab, Greater than 500 Acre Drainage Area	ea	40000	AC	50

1. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 8.**
2. The rehabilitation items will be used when an existing structure is reconstructed to restore the original function..

**PRACTICE STANDARD 362 - DIVERSION (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Diversion	Diversion	ft	3.90	AC	50

1. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 8.**
2. The use of tile or other underground pipe to drain hillside seeps, low or wet spots in fields is not an eligible single component of this practice.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 647 - EARLY SUCCESSIONAL HABITAT DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	Brushland and Browse Management - Chemical	ac	64	AC	50
Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	Brushland and Browse Management - Chemical and Mechanical	ac	108	AC	50
Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	Brushland and Browse Management - Mechanical - Shearing	ac	90	AC	50
Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	Brushland and Browse Management - Mechanical - Mowing	ac	150	AC	50
Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	Wildlife Openings - Chemical	ac	160	AC	50
Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	Wildlife Openings - Chemical and Mechanical	ac	370	AC	50
Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	Wildlife Openings - Mechanical	ac	290	AC	50

1. Wildlife Openings establishment costs includes site preparation, seed and seeding.
2. Prescribed Burning as a facilitating practice is an eligible component if necessary for practice application.

**PRACTICE 100 – COMPREHENSIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Environmental Quality Assessment - Facility Assessment w/o FLEVAL	ea	1800	FR	100
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Environmental Quality Assessment - Facility Assessment w/ FLEVAL	ea	2400	FR	100
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Environmental Quality Assessment - Minnesota Milk Producer's EQA	ea	800	FR	100

1. The Environmental Quality Assessment - Facility Assessment payment is for the Manure and Wastewater Storage and Treatment Facility Assessment of a CNMP. The Facility Assessment must meet the MN NRCS Facility Assessment requirements and must be completed by a Technical Service Provider certified in Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage plus Facility Assessments. A Feedlot Evaluation (FLEVAL) run is not required when one has already been done or there are no outdoor lots. A private sector specialist certified by NRCS must complete the evaluation.
2. The nutrient management plan part of the CNMP is covered separately under the 590 incentive payment. The Land Treatment Part of the CNMP and Total Plan Approval is performed by NRCS District Conservationists.
3. An \$800 incentive payment is for conducting environmental assessments on the farm and farmstead. The assessments are performed by the respective third parties.
  - a. Minnesota Milk Producer's EQA Assessment
4. Payment is released AFTER the assessment has been completed and a copy submitted to the local NRCS office.
5. A producer may receive a maximum of 1 payment for a CNMP Facility Assessment AND a maximum of 1 payment for a Minnesota Milk Producer's EQA.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 382 - FENCE (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Fence	Fence - Barbed Wire	ft	1.40	AC	50
Fence	Fence - Permanent Power	ft	1.40	AC	50
Fence	Fence - Woven Wire	ft	1.60	AC	50
Fence	Fence - Safety	ft	7.50	AC	50
Fence	Fence - Special Purpose	ft	5	AC	50

1. Cost share is authorized for Barbed Wire, Permanent Power, and Woven Wire fences only when installed in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing or Use Exclusion.
2. Cost share is authorized for Safety Fence and Special Purpose Fence only when installed as a required facilitating practice for another practice.
3. Cost share for establishing fencing is limited to permanent fences utilizing new materials except the State Conservation Engineer has approved used railroad ties or highline posts when in sound condition and free from cracking or decay.
4. Cost share is not authorized for removal of existing fence, clearing obstructions or removal of woody vegetation.
5. Cost share amounts listed include all appurtenances, including energizers on electric fences, gates, materials and labor.
6. Power sources are not eligible for cost sharing, **except** for solar panels where other power sources are impractical.
7. Cost share for perimeter fences is authorized **ONLY** for expiring CRP being converted to permanent pasture or cropland being converted to permanent pasture.

8. Special Purpose Fencing is only authorized when required to downsize a feedlot to meet pollution abatement objectives.
9. Safety Fence is only authorized when required to provide a safety barrier around a Waste Storage Facility. Fence constructed under this practice must meet the requirements of the MN\_ENG\_610 drawing or be constructed of cattle panels or similar material..

**PRACTICE STANDARD 386 - FIELD BORDER (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Field Border	Fertilizer	ac	35	AC	50
Field Border	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Field Border	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses and Legumes	ac	200	AC	50
Field Border	Lime	ton	20	AC	50
Field Border	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Field Border	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses and Forbs	ac	260	AC	50
Field Border	Weed Control - Mechanical - Mowing - Grass Establishment (5x per 24mo)	ac	10	AC	50

1. Cost sharing may be used for seeding, establishing, and managing the cover based on an approved seeding plan.
2. Establishment clipping is authorized up to 5 times during the first 24 months.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 393 - FILTER STRIP (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Filter Strip	Fertilizer	ac	35	AC	50
Filter Strip	Grading and Shaping	ac	1000	AC	50
Filter Strip	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Filter Strip	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses and Legumes	ac	200	AC	50
Filter Strip	Lime	ton	20	AC	50
Filter Strip	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Filter Strip	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses and Forbs	ac	260	AC	50
Filter Strip	Weed Control - Mechanical - Mowing - Grass Establishment (5x per 24mo)	ac	10	AC	50

1. The filter strip can be harvested once per year to promote stand density. For cool season mixtures, cut no lower than 4 inches between June 1 and September 1. For warm season mixtures, cut no lower than 6 – 12 inches (species dependent) between July 15 and August 15.
2. Filter strips used for the treatment of feedlot runoff are cost shared under practice standard 635.
3. Grassed waterways and other ephemeral or intermittent streams within fields are eligible to have filter strips installed along them if these watercourses discharge to permanent receiving waters.
4. Cost sharing may be used for seeding, establishing, and managing the cover based on an approved seeding plan.
5. Establishment clipping is authorized up to 5 times during the first 24 months.
6. Cost sharing is in addition to any cost share received for Use Exclusion on the filter strip.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 666 - FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT (ac)**

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Cost/unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Forest Stand Improvement	Animal Control Device - Softwoods - Bud Caps - By Tree	ea	0.10	AC	50
Forest Stand Improvement	Animal Control Device - Tree Shelter	ea	4	AC	50
Forest Stand Improvement	Release - All Methods	ac	150	AC	50
Forest Stand Improvement	Thinning	ac	150	AC	50

1. All improvements will be accomplished according to a detailed forest management plan.
2. Cost sharing is not authorized for pruning trees.
3. Softwoods – Bud Caps are eligible for cost share assistance for up to 3 years.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 490 - FOREST SITE PREPARATION (ac)**

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Cost/unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Forest Site Preparation	Piling and Burning Drought, Insect, or Disease Killed Trees	ac	130	AC	50
Forest Site Preparation	Site Preparation - Tree and Shrub - All Methods	ac	110	AC	50

1. Regeneration will be accomplished according to a detailed forest management plan.
2. Regeneration practices shall be done in accordance with procedures and guidelines contained in Forest Site Preparation (490) Standard and in the North Central Manager's Handbooks NC-32 to NC-39.
3. Forest Site Preparation (490) should be used in conjunction with Tree and Shrub Establishment for seedlings and planting.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 410 - GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Grade Stabilization Structure	Drop Spillway Structure	ea	20000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Fabric Reinforced Vegetated Chute	ea	4500	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Flexible Armor Chute - Per Foot of Drop	ft	2500	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop - Drainage Area - 0 to 10 Acres	ea	5000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop - Drainage Area - 10.1 to 20 Acres	ea	8000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop - Drainage Area - 20.1 to 40 Acres	ea	15000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop - Drainage Area - 40.1 to 80 Acres	ea	20000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop - Drainage Area - 80.1 to 250 Acres	ea	30000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop - Drainage Area - 250.1 to 500 Acres	ea	60000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop - Drainage Area - Greater than 500 Acres	ea	80000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop Rehab - Drainage Area - 0 to 10 Acres	ea	3000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop Rehab - Drainage Area - 10.1 to 20 Acres	ea	5000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop Rehab - Drainage Area - 20.1 to 40 Acres	ea	8000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop Rehab - Drainage Area - 40.1 to 80 Acres	ea	10000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop Rehab - Drainage Area - 80.1 to 250 Acres	ea	15000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop Rehab - Drainage Area - 250.1 to 500 Acres	ea	30000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop Rehab - Drainage Area - Greater than 500 Acres	ea	40000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Side Inlet Structure - Drainage Area - 0 to 80 Acres	ea	3000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Side Inlet Structure - Drainage Area - 80.1 to 250 Acres	ea	5000	AC	50
Grade Stabilization Structure	Side Inlet Structure - Drainage Area - Greater than 250 Acres	ea	7000	AC	50

1. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 8.**
2. The Pipe Drop Rehabilitation practice is to be used when an existing embankment structure is reconstructed to restore the original function.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 412 - GRASSED WATERWAY (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Grassed Waterway	Fabric Barrier	lin ft	1.50	AC	50
Grassed Waterway	Grassed Waterway - Less than 12 Ft Bottom Width	lin ft	2.00	AC	50
Grassed Waterway	Grassed Waterway - 12 to 20 Ft Bottom Width	lin ft	2.50	AC	50
Grassed Waterway	Grassed Waterway - Greater than 20 Ft Bottom Width	lin ft	3.50	AC	50

1. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 8.**
2. Cost is for earthwork and fabric barriers only. Seeding is covered under Critical Area Planting. Mulching or Turf Reinforcement if required are also included as separate components..
3. Fabric barriers must meet the criteria found in the Grassed Waterway standard.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 561 - HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Heavy Use Area Protection	Livestock Travel Lanes	lin ft	12	AC	50
Heavy Use Area Protection	Pad Under a Permanent Tank	ea	1000	AC	50
Heavy Use Area Protection	Concrete Scrape Alley	lin ft	75	AC	50

- 1) Cost sharing for Heavy Use Area Protection – Pads & Travel Lanes are authorized as facilitating component of Prescribed Grazing or water development with Use Exclusion.
  - a) Cost share is not authorized for protecting facilities within the farmstead.
  - b) Cost share is limited to protection for permanently placed livestock watering facilities and for armoring livestock lanes in dairy operations, in beef operation that use artificial insemination, and in other operations where travel lanes cross wet soils or unstable, excessively eroded sites.
- 2) Cost-sharing for Heavy Use Area Protection – Concrete Scrape Alley is authorized as a facilitating practice for animal waste systems.
  - a) Practice consists of a concrete slab no wider than 12 feet and a curb no higher than 2 feet.
  - b) This practice is only applicable on outdoor lots.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 422 - HEDGEROW PLANTING (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Hedgerow Planting	Animal Control Device - Tree Shelter	ea	4	AC	50
Hedgerow Planting	Site Preparation - Tree and Shrub - All Methods	ac	110	AC	50
Hedgerow Planting	Site Preparation - Tree Removal	ac	1500	AC	50
Hedgerow Planting	Tree and Shrub Planting - Bare Root Trees and Shrubs	100 ea	135	AC	50
Hedgerow Planting	Tree and Shrub Planting - Container Conifers	ea	8.25	AC	50
Hedgerow Planting	Weed Control - Chemical - Tree Row (1x per 12mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Hedgerow Planting	Weed Control - Mechanical - Tree Row (1x per 12mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Hedgerow Planting	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Roll	100 ft	40	AC	50
Hedgerow Planting	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Square	ea	1.25	AC	50

1. Cost sharing for weed control is authorized only for weed control performed during the first 36 months after planting and as needed for establishment.
2. Cost sharing for chemical weed control is authorized for one application per year.
3. Cost sharing for mechanical weed control is authorized for 1 payment per year, although multiple mechanical applications may be required as specified in the planting plan.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 797 - INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES PEST MANAGEMENT, TERRESTRIAL (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Invasive Species Pest Management	Invasive Species Pest Management – Non Woody	ac	20	FR	100
Invasive Species Pest Management	Invasive Species Pest Management – Woody (1 time payment)	ac	200	FR	100

1. Invasive Plant Species Pest Management incentive payment is authorized on **NON-CROPLAND UPLAND**.
2. For non-woody invasives at \$20 per acre for up to 120 acres per year, per Operation, not to exceed 3 years. For woody invasives at \$200 per acre for up to 120 acres as a one-time payment. **See General Provision 10.**
3. Payment is limited to those acres on which a specific pest management action has been implemented.
4. Land enrolled under an easement for permanent cover is not eligible for this practice.

5. A detailed Invasive Plant Species Pest Management plan will be developed and implemented in order to receive the payment. The plan will specify the actions that must be completed each year in order to earn that year's payment. Qualifying invasive plant species are listed on page 2 of MN Agronomy Technical Note 16, and include the MDA Invasive Species, the MDA Prohibited Noxious Weed List, the Restricted Noxious Weeds, and MDA Secondary Noxious Weeds where those secondary noxious weeds appear on a county noxious weed list.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 442 - IRRIGATION SYSTEM, SPRINKLER (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Irrigation System - Sprinkler	Low Pressure Conversion	lin ft	6.75	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is authorized for low pressure conversions on existing center pivot systems used at least 2 of the last 5 years.
2. Cost sharing is authorized only when Irrigation Water Management (449) is included in the contract.
3. For low pressure conversion eligible components are installed sprinkler packages, pressure regulators, pressure gauges, and drop tubes. Costs are limited to those necessary for a single conversion package. Multiple components to facilitate a crop rotation are not eligible for cost-share.
4. Equipment suppliers are responsible for providing documentation to show that the system meets NRCS Standard 442.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 449 - IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Irrigation Water Management	Irrigation Water Management	ac	2.25	FR	100

1. An incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres for up to 250 acres per year, per operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10.** Consult **"Irrigation Water Management Requirements for EQIP Contracts"** (EQIP Docket page MN515.P.162-42) for additional requirements. Review these requirements with applicants interested in irrigation water management (449) and append the requirements to contracts containing irrigation water management (449).
2. Acres must have been under irrigation for at least 2 of the past 5 years.
3. Phased-in implementation will result in all scheduled acres receiving full implementation of the practice by the end of the contract period.
4. A waiver for greater than 250 acres may be granted by the State Conservationist if Irrigation Water Management (449) is required on more than 250 acres used in conjunction with Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 468 - LINED WATERWAY OR OUTLET (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Lined Waterway or Outlet	Permanent Turf Reinforcement	sq yd	3	AC	50
Lined Waterway or Outlet	Permanent Turf Reinforcement - With Mulch	sq yd	4.5	AC	50
Lined Waterway or Outlet	Geotextile Lining	sq yd	2	AC	50
Lined Waterway or Outlet	Rock Riprap	sq ft	4	AC	50

1. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 8.**
2. Cost sharing is for the lining only. Earthwork, seeding, and mulching are under separate items.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 634 - MANURE TRANSFER (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Manure Transfer	Manure Transfer - Gravity	ea	12000	AC	50
Manure Transfer	Manure Transfer - Pumped	ea	22000	AC	50

1. Eligible components include pumps and pipelines used to transfer manure or wastewater from a collection point to a storage or treatment area.
2. Manure Transfer (634) does not include collection facilities such as barn cleaners and flush systems. Tanks used as reception pits are covered under Waste Storage Facility. Buildings over reception pits or pumps are NOT eligible for cost sharing.
3. Manure Transfer (634) is a facilitating practice and MUST be installed in conjunction with an animal waste system.
4. Pumps for transfer of feedlot runoff or milking facility wash water are covered under Pumping Plant.

#### PRACTICE STANDARD 484 - MULCHING (ac)

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Mulching	Mulching - Blanket Mulch	sq yd	1.67	AC	50
Mulching	Mulching - Mulch and Crimp	ac	250	AC	50
Mulching	Mulching - Mulch and Netting	ac	800	AC	50

1. Mulching will be accomplished according to a detailed seeding and mulching plan.
2. Cost sharing is authorized for only one of the three mulching options listed above.

#### PRACTICE STANDARD 590 - NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (ac)

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management - Full Year Without Manure	ac	5.5	FR	100
Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management - Full Year With Manure	ac	8	FR	100
Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management - With Manure	ac	4	FR	100
Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management - Without Manure	ac	2.25	FR	100

1. An incentive payment of **any** Nutrient Management without Manure **OR** Nutrient Management with Manure is authorized on **CROPLAND** acres for up to 250 acres per year, per operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10.**
2. **To receive the higher incentive payment for Full Year W/O Manure or Full Year with Manure, the Nutrient Management must be full-crop year assistance provided by a private sector nutrient specialist certified by NRCS.**
3. To receive payment, Nutrient Management (590) must be fully implemented on all acres scheduled for payment by the end of the EQIP contract. Consult “**Nutrient Management Requirements for EQIP Contracts**” (EQIP Docket pages MN515.P.162-35-37) for additional details. **Review these requirements with participants interested in Nutrient Management (590) and append them to contracts containing Nutrient Management (590).**
4. Nutrient Management (590) with or without manure incentive payments are **not authorized for acres where incentive payments are being provided for Prescribed Grazing, Prescribed Grazing – Organic, or Organic Conservation Crop Rotation.**
5. Nutrient Management with Manure incentive payments apply to acres that have received manure within the last 3 years or will receive manure at least once during the incentive payment cycle. Fields receiving manure in the past that will be scheduled for no manure application because of environmental concern or soil phosphorus buildup are also eligible.
6. All land under contract where manure will be applied must have wind, sheet, and rill erosion controlled to at least 6 tons/acre/year and have ephemeral gully erosion under control.
7. Consult General Provision 13 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.
8. A waiver for greater than 250 acres may be granted by the State Conservationist if Nutrient Management (590) is required as part of a CNMP where more than 250 acres are needed for manure application.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 500 - OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Obstruction Removal	Clearing and Grubbing	ac	800	AC	50

1. Eligible when woody vegetation, debris or other unwanted material must be removed in order to construct an enduring conservation engineering practice. This practice may not be used as a stand alone practice.
2. As per Fence Special Provision 4, this practice is not eligible for use with Fence.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 512 - PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Pasture and Hay Planting	Fertilizer	ac	35	AC	50
Pasture and Hay Planting	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Pasture and Hay Planting	Lime	ton	20	AC	50
Pasture and Hay Planting	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Pasture and Hay Planting	Weed Control - Mechanical - Mowing - Grass Establishment (5x per 24mo)	ac	10	AC	50

1. Eligible plantings will be based on both:
  - a) An approved seeding plan and,
  - b) A detailed Forage Harvest Management or Prescribed Grazing plan.
2. Payments are limited to land being converted from annual crop production to permanent pasture or permanent hayland or to improve existing pasture.
3. Cost share is allowed for interseeding only to add a legume component to the pasture, to increase the number of grass species only if the pasture currently has 3 or fewer species of grass in the mix, or the pasture has greater than 35% bare ground.
4. Practice implementation must result in an environmental benefit.
5. Cost sharing is not authorized for planting hay in crop rotation.
6. Cost sharing is not authorized for clearing rocks or obstructions from the area to be seeded
7. Cost sharing is not authorized for converting lands with greater than 10% woody vegetation into pasture or hayland.
8. Cost sharing is not authorized for both Pasture and Hay Planting and Conservation Crop Rotation on the same acreage.
9. **See General Provisions 4 & 5** regarding soil testing and liming.
10. Establishment clipping is authorized up to 5 times during the first 24 months.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 595 - PEST MANAGEMENT (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Pest Management	Pest Management	ac	5.5	FR	100

1. An incentive payment is authorized on eligible **CROPLAND** acres at \$5.50/acre/yr, for up to 250 acres per year per operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10.**
2. To receive payment, Pest Management (595) must be fully implemented on all acres scheduled for payment by the end of the EQIP contract. Consult **“Pest Management Requirements for EQIP Contracts,” dated March 2004 (EQIP Docket pages MN515.P.162-39-41).** **Review “Pest Management (595) Requirements for EQIP Contracts” with applicants interested in Pest Management (595) and append them to contracts containing Pest Management (595).**
3. The NRCS will not provide technical assistance on this practice. Assistance must be provided by a private sector pest management specialist certified by NRCS.
4. Pest Management (595) incentive payments are **not authorized for acres where incentive payments are being provided for Prescribed Grazing – Organic Prescribed Grazing.**

**PRACTICE STANDARD 516 - PIPELINE (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Pipeline	Shallow Bury (0.5-2 ft) - 1.25 inch or smaller pipe	lin ft	1.60	AC	50
Pipeline	Shallow Bury (0.5-2 ft) - Greater than 1.25 inch pipe	lin ft	1.90	AC	50
Pipeline	Surface Pipe - 1.25 inch or smaller pipe	lin ft	1.20	AC	50
Pipeline	Surface Pipe - Greater than 1.25 inch pipe	lin ft	1.50	AC	50
Pipeline	Deep Bury - 1.25 inch or smaller pipe	lin ft	3.00	AC	50
Pipeline	Deep Bury - Greater than 1.25 inch pipe	lin ft	3.30	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is authorized when required as a component of a Prescribed Grazing System or water development with Use Exclusion.
2. Cost sharing is authorized in conjunction with a Wastewater pump under the Pumping Plant practice.
3. Cost sharing is not authorized when the pipeline will be used for any part of a human domestic water supply.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 378 - POND (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Pond	Pond - Embankment - Drainage Area - 0 to 10 Acres	ea	5000	AC	50
Pond	Pond - Embankment - Drainage Area - 10.1 to 20 Acres	ea	8000	AC	50
Pond	Pond - Embankment - Drainage Area - greater than 20 Acres	ea	15000	AC	50
Pond	Pond - Excavated	ea	4000	AC	50

1. Cost share is authorized when required as a component of a Prescribed Grazing System.
2. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 8.**
3. Excavation or embankments must be located entirely outside the boundary of any wetland.
4. All other water impoundment purposes are covered under Dam.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 521A - POND SEALING – FLEXIBLE MEMBRANE (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Pond Sealing, Flexible Membrane	Pond Sealing, Flexible Membrane	sq ft	0.30	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is authorized when needed for ponds other than waste storage ponds.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 338 - PRESCRIBED BURNING (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Prescribed Burning	Prescribed Burning - Landowner/Government Agency	ac	60	AC	50
Prescribed Burning	Prescribed Burning - Vendors	ac	75	AC	50

1. A detailed burn plan describing the practice objective, species to control and species to be benefited, timing, weather conditions and management guidelines will be developed.
2. Technical assistance will be provided by a technically qualified specialist.
3. All laws and regulations pertaining to burning will be followed.
4. **The conservation plan must document that the landowner has been notified in writing that they are subject to all liability due to damages caused by fire.**
5. It is the landowner's responsibility to obtain all permits and to notify surrounding landowners that may be affected.

6. Cost share is eligible once every 5 years and no more than twice for the same area for the life of the contract.
7. Associated costs with obtaining and notification of neighbors, units of government, and agencies are entirely the landowner's expense.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 528 - PRESCRIBED GRAZING (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Prescribed Grazing	Prescribed Grazing	ac	25	FR	100
Prescribed Grazing	Organic Prescribed Grazing	ac	30	FR	100

1. An incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$25/acre/yr, for up to 250 acres per year, per operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10 and Prescribed Grazing Requirements for EQIP Contracts (EQIP Docket pages MN515.P.162-43-44)** for additional details.
2. A detailed prescribed grazing plan is required.
3. Prescribed Grazing is not authorized for operations with less than 10 animal units (One animal unit = 1000 pounds) or for less than 15 acres.
4. Prescribed Grazing is only eligible for permanent pasture/grassland (not hayland or cropland that is intermittently grazed).
5. Woodlands not currently pastured are NOT eligible for Prescribed Grazing incentive.
6. Wetland types 3-8 are NOT eligible for Prescribed Grazing. Acreages of these wetlands within pastures shall not be included in the incentive payment acres.
7. Participants are eligible for the Prescribed Grazing incentive payment as a stand alone practice or in combination with other conservation practices used in the management of livestock such as Pasture and Hay Planting, Fence, and other similar practices. However, they are not eligible for incentive payments for Nutrient Management and Pest Management on the same acres as Prescribed Grazing.

**Organic Prescribed Grazing Incentive**

1. Participants are eligible for an incentive payment to convert from conventional livestock production to “Organic Prescribed Grazing” to treat identified resource concerns. An incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$30 per acre per year, up to 250 acres per year, per operation not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10.**
2. Participants receiving Prescribed Grazing Incentive Payments are not eligible for the Organic Prescribed Grazing Incentive Payments. However, participants applying for the Organic Prescribed Grazing incentive must follow the Prescribed Grazing standard on all acres where the incentive payment is being requested. **Prescribed Grazing Requirements for EQIP Contracts (EQIP Docket pages MN515.P.162-43-44).**
3. Acreage in any phase of the conversion process is eligible for the incentive payment. However, when transition acres become certified they are not eligible for future organic payments. Acreage and/or participants already certified organic livestock are not eligible.
4. Participants are eligible for both this “Organic Prescribed Grazing” incentive payment and other conservation practices used in the management of livestock such as Pasture and Hay Planting, Fence, and other similar practices. However, they are not eligible for incentive payments for Nutrient Management and Pest Management. **Consult “2007 Contracts with Organic Incentive Payments,” dated March 2004 (EQIP Docket pages MN515.P.162-49-50).**
5. Participants approved for this incentive must receive an annual letter of compliance from an accredited USDA certified organic agent prior to qualifying for payment. Copies of compliance letters are required to document that the producer has earned this incentive payment.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 533 - PUMPING PLANT (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Pumping Plant	New Well (pump, pitless, pres tank controls)	ea	5000	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Pump/Pressure Tank Upgrade	ea	2500	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Pressure Tank Only Upgrade	ea	1100	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Pumping Plant - Ram Pump	ea	1500	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Solar Pump system, head less than 10 feet	ea	1500	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Solar Pump system, head 10 to 100 feet	ea	3500	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Solar Pump system, head greater than 100 feet	ea	12500	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Nose or Sling Pump	ea	550	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Irrigation Pump Modification	ea	5000	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Waste Storage Perimeter Drain Lift Station	ea	3000	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Wastewater	ea	6000	AC	50
Pumping Plant	Milking Center Wash Water Transfer	ea	2500	AC	50

- 1) Cost sharing is authorized for permanently placed pumps and pumping equipment required as an integral component of a livestock water system for Prescribed Grazing or water development with Use Exclusion.
  - a) Portable pumps such as, nose pumps, sling pumps and solar pumps are eligible for cost share when there is no other feasible alternative for pumping water to livestock.
  - b) Cost sharing is not authorized for power sources, except for solar panels where other power sources are impractical. Cost sharing for electrical connections from the service panel to the pressure switch and pump is allowed. Water systems for human use are not eligible.
  - c) Eligible items under “ New Well “ include the pump, riser pipe, pitless adapter or well pit, pressure tank, controls, and wiring.
  - d) Eligible items under “Pump/Pressure Tank Upgrade” include the pump, pressure tank, controls, and wiring.
  - e) Eligible items under “Pressure Tank Upgrade” include the pressure tank, controls and wiring.
- 2) Irrigation pump modification is authorized only as a facilitating practice in conjunction with Irrigation System – Sprinkler Low Pressure Conversion.
- 3) Irrigation pump modification covers pump modifications to improve efficiency due to low pressure operation and bring lubricating systems in compliance with current rules. Motor modifications, motor maintenance or pump maintenance are not eligible components.
- 4) Perimeter Drain Lift Station includes the sump, pump, piping, controls and wiring after the service panel for a clean water lift station needed when a gravity outlet is not available..
- 5) Wastewater pump includes pumps, controls, mounting rails, and electrical hookup after the service panel. Tanks and pipelines are covered under separate items.
- 6) Milking Center Wash Water Transfer may be used to transfer milking center wash water to a storage facility or point of further transfer such as a piston pump where a small diameter drain line is adequate. Eligible items include sump, pump, piping, controls and installation.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 329 - RESIDUE AND TILLAGE MANAGEMENT - NO TILL, STRIP TILL (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Residue and Tillage Management - No Till, Strip Till	Residue Management - No Till, Strip Till	ac	30	FR	100
Residue and Tillage Management - No Till, Strip Till	Residue Management - Single Payment - No Till, Strip Till	ac	90	FR	100

1. An Annual incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres for up to **250 acres at \$30/acre/yr.**, per Operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10.**
2. A **Single Payment with a period of adoption** is authorized for up to 250 acres at \$90. The period of adoption shall be 3 years. The period of adoption shall be identified in the practice narrative and will not exceed the life of the contract.
3. Any combination of Residue Management practices (329, 345, 346) may not exceed 250 total acres

**PRACTICE STANDARD 345 - RESIDUE AND TILLAGE MANAGEMENT - MULCH TILL (ac)**

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Cost/unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Residue and Tillage Management - Mulch Till	Residue Management - 30% - Mulch Till 120ac	ac	15	FR	100
Residue and Tillage Management - Mulch Till	Residue Management - 50% - Mulch Till 250ac	ac	30	FR	100
Residue and Tillage Management - Mulch Till	Residue Management - Single Payment 30% - Mulch Till 120ac	ac	45	FR	100
Residue and Tillage Management - Mulch Till	Residue Management - Single Payment 50% - Mulch Till 250ac	ac	90	FR	100

1. An Annual incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres for **Residue Management 50% - Mulch Till** up to **250 acres at \$30/acre/yr. or Residue Management 30% - Mulch Till** up to **120 acres at \$15/acre/yr.**, per Operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10.**
2. A **Single Payment with a period of adoption** is authorized for 30% Mulch Till for up to 120 acres at \$45. The period of adoption shall be 3 years. The period of adoption shall be identified in the practice narrative and will not exceed the life of the contract.
3. A Single Payment with a period of adoption is authorized for 50% Mulch Till for up to 250 acres at \$90. The period of adoption shall be 3 years. The period of adoption shall be identified in the practice narrative and will not exceed the life of the contract.
4. A tillage plan is required that results in a minimum of 30% or 50% surface residue after planting.
5. Any combination of Residue Management practices (329, 345, 346) may not exceed 250 total acres

**PRACTICE STANDARD 346 - RESIDUE AND TILLAGE MANAGEMENT- RIDGE TILL (ac)**

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Cost/unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Residue and Tillage Management - Ridge Till	Residue Management - Ridge Till	ac	30	FR	100
Residue and Tillage Management - Ridge Till	Residue Management - Single Payment - Ridge Till	ac	90	FR	100

1. An Annual incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres for up to **250 acres at \$30/acre/yr.**, per Operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10.**
2. A **Single Payment with a period of adoption** is authorized for up to 250 acres at \$90. The period of adoption shall be 3 years. The period of adoption shall be identified in the practice narrative and will not exceed the life of the contract.
3. Any combination of Residue Management practices (329, 345, 346) may not exceed 250 total acres

**PRACTICE STANDARD 643 - RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DECLINING HABITATS (ac)**

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Cost/unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Animal Control Device - Tree Shelter	ea	4	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Animal Control Device - Softwoods - Bud Caps - By Tree	ea	0.10	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Animal Control Device - Spray Repellent	ea	0.3	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Tree Planting - Conifers	ac	270	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Direct Seeding	ac	420	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Tree Planting - Hardwoods	ac	310	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Site Preparation - Tree and Shrub - All Methods	ac	110	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Site Preparation - Tree Removal	ac	1500	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Permanent Veg Cover - Native Ecosystem Mix	ac	350	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Weed Control - Tree Temporary Cover - Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Tree Planting - Transplants/Containers/Shrubs	ac	420	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Weed Control - Chemical - Tree Row (1x per 12mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Weed Control - Mechanical - Tree Row (1x per 12mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Weed Control - Mechanical - Mowing - Grass Establishment (5x per 24 mo)	ac	10	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Roll	100 ft	40	AC	50
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Square	ea	1.25	AC	50

1. A detailed plan is required, in accordance with the specifications outlined in the NRCS practice standard.
2. Costs include seedbed preparation, seeding, clipping (up to five times in the first 24 months of establishment), seed, and herbicide as appropriate.
3. Cost sharing is authorized for establishment and management.
4. Establishment may consist of only one of the following options on the same acreage: 1) Tallgrass Prairie, 2) Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna, or 3) Red/White Pine.
5. Establishment costs for Tallgrass Prairie include site preparation, seed and seeding. Mechanical weed control is authorized for up to 5 times during the first 24 months
6. Prescribed Burning as a facilitating practice is an acceptable form of site preparation when it is considered to be the most ecological and economical option.
7. Cost sharing for mechanical weed control is authorized for 1 payment per year, although multiple mechanical applications may be required as specified in the planting plan.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 391 - RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Riparian Forest Buffer	Animal Control Device - Tree Shelter	ea	4	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Animal Control Device - Softwoods - Bud Caps - By Tree	ea	0.10	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Animal Control Device - Spray Repellent	ea	0.3	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Tree Planting - Conifers	ac	270	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Tree Planting - Hardwoods	ac	310	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Site Preparation - Tree and Shrub - All Methods	ac	110	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Weed Control - Tree Temporary Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Weed Control - Tree Temporary Cover - Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Tree Planting - Transplants/Containers/Shrubs	ac	420	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Weed Control - Chemical - Tree Row (1x per 12mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Weed Control - Mechanical - Tree Row (1x per 12mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Roll	100 ft	40	AC	50
Riparian Forest Buffer	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Square	ea	1.25	AC	50

1. Cost share assistance is available for establishing woody cover. Cost sharing for establishing woody cover shall follow the limits listed in Tree/Shrub Establishment (612). Short Rotation Intensive Culture or Wood Farming is **NOT** eligible for cost sharing under Riparian Forest Buffer (391).
2. Cost sharing for mechanical weed control is authorized for 1 payment per year, although multiple mechanical applications may be required as specified in the planting plan.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 558 - ROOF RUNOFF STRUCTURE (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Roof Runoff Structure	Roof Gutters	lin ft	17	AC	50
Roof Runoff Structure	French Drain	lin ft	25	AC	50

1. Roof Runoff Structure (558) is allowed as a stand alone practice for feedlots when used for clean water diversion.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 350 - SEDIMENT BASIN (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Sediment Basin	Feedlot Slotted Wall	lin ft	60	AC	50

1. The feedlot slotted wall item may be combined with the “Concrete Scrape Alley” item under Heavy Use Area Protection where needed to provide a concrete bottom for maintenance.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 725 - SINKHOLE TREATMENT**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Sinkhole Treatment	Sinkhole Treatment - Diversion	lin ft	5.00	AC	50
Sinkhole Treatment	Sinkhole Treatment - Filling - Less than 150 sq ft	ea	2500	AC	50
Sinkhole Treatment	Sinkhole Treatment - Filling - 150.1 sq ft or greater	ea	6000	AC	50

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 574 - SPRING DEVELOPMENT (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Spring Development	Spring Development	ea	1500	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is authorized when required as a component of a Prescribed Grazing System.
2. All Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations pertaining to wetlands must be followed.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 578 - STREAM CROSSING (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Stream Crossing	Stream Crossing	ea	3000	AC	50

1. Cost share is authorized only for crossings installed in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing or Use Exclusion.
2. All Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations must be followed and needed permits obtained prior to construction.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 395 - STREAM HABITAT IMPROVEMENT (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Stream Habitat Management and Improvement	Stream Habitat Improvement - In stream structures	ea	380	AC	50

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 580 - STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Streambank and Shoreline Protection - Biomaterials	sq ft	2	AC	50
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Streambank and Shoreline Protection - Riprap	sq ft	3	AC	50
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Streambank and Shoreline Protection - Cable Concrete	sq ft	10	AC	50
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Streambank and Shoreline Protection - Stream barbs	cu yd	54	AC	50

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 585 - STRIPCROPPING (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Stripcropping	Contour Stripcropping	ac	15	FR	100
Stripcropping	Wind Stripcropping	ac	10	FR	100

1. Participants are eligible on those field acres for an annual payment of \$15/acre established to contour stripcropping, OR \$10/acre to establish wind stripcropping, for up to 250 acres per year, per Operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 10.**
2. End rows shall be established as Field Borders (386) or will have soil erosion rates less than "T".
3. Payment is not allowed on both Stripcropping (585) and Contour Farming (330) on the same acres.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 587 - STRUCTURE FOR WATER CONTROL (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Structure for Water Control	Structure for Water Control	ea	5000	AC	50

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 606 - SUBSURFACE DRAIN (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - 6" and smaller	lin ft	2.20	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - 8 inch	lin ft	2.80	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - 10 inch	lin ft	5.00	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - 12 inch	lin ft	6.00	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - 15 inch (and 14" concrete)	lin ft	7.75	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - 18 Inch (and 16 Inch Concrete)	lin ft	10.00	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - Dual Wall or PVC - 6 Inch	lin ft	3.60	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - Dual Wall or PVC - 8 Inch	lin ft	4.50	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - Dual Wall or PVC - 10 Inch	lin ft	6.60	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - Dual Wall or PVC - 12 Inch	lin ft	7.60	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - Dual Wall - 15 Inch	lin ft	9.75	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - Dual Wall - 18 Inch	lin ft	12.85	AC	50
Subsurface Drain	Subsurface Drain - Waste Storage Perimeter Drain	lin ft	25	AC	50

1. Perforated drains may only be used as a component of a conservation practice to the extent required to provide drainage necessary to facilitate the conservation purpose of the practice.
  - a. Subsurface drain is not eligible as a stand alone practice or as part of a controlled drainage system.
  - b. Cost sharing is limited to the diameter and length needed for the conservation purpose. When the producer chooses to use a larger diameter, he or she shall identify, in writing the purpose of larger drain and indicate the area that it will serve. The cost share rate will be based upon the size required for the conservation purpose.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 600 - TERRACE (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Terrace	Terrace - Narrow Base	lin ft	2.75	AC	50
Terrace	Terrace - Farmable Front Slope - Less than 24 feet	lin ft	3.05	AC	50
Terrace	Terrace - Farmable Front Slope - 24 feet or greater	lin ft	4.85	AC	50
Terrace	Terrace - Broad Base - Less than 24 feet	lin ft	3.50	AC	50
Terrace	Terrace - Broad Base - 24 feet to 32 ft	lin ft	5.50	AC	50
Terrace	Terrace - Broad Base - Greater than 32 ft	lin ft	7.00	AC	50

1. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 8.**

**PRACTICE STANDARD 612 - TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Animal Control Device - Tree Shelter	ea	4	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Animal Control Device - Softwoods - Bud Caps - By Tree	ea	0.10	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Animal Control Device - Spray Repellent	ea	0.3	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Tree Planting - Conifers	ac	270	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Direct Seeding	ac	420	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Tree Planting - Hardwoods	ac	310	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Short Rotation	ac	220	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Weed Control - Tree Temporary Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Weed Control - Tree Temporary Cover - Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Weed Control - Chemical - Tree Row (1x per 12 mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Weed Control - Mechanical - Tree Row (1x per 12mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Roll	100 ft	40	AC	50
Tree and Shrub Establishment	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Square	ea	1.25	AC	50

1. Planting costs includes cost of seedlings and planting. For site preparation, use Forest Site Preparation (490) as a facilitating practice, except for Direct Seeding and Short Rotation. Direct Seeding includes site preparation, seed, and seeding. Short Rotation costs include all establishment activities including site preparation, stock, planting, and necessary tending.
2. The following species of trees may be approved providing they are adapted to the soil, climatic and moisture conditions, and the site: White spruce, black spruce, red pine, jack pine, white pine, sugar maple, soft maple, basswood, green ash, white ash, cottonwood, red oak, black cherry, black walnut, and white oak. Other species may be approved if recommended by the technician.
3. Solid plantings should not be more than 1000 or less than 400 trees per acre. **Cost share is limited to 800 trees per acre.**
4. Weed Control where required will be accomplished within 24 months from planting.
5. Tree Mats, Roll and Tree Mats, Square can only be used as a part of Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643) or Riparian Forest Buffers (391) and not for general Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).
6. At this time, the only authorized repellants are Deer Away Big Game Repellent Powder and Plantskydd. Other sprays must be authorized by the state office prior to use.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 620 - UNDERGROUND OUTLET (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Underground Outlet	Perforated - 10 Inch and Smaller	ea	275	AC	50
Underground Outlet	Perforated - Larger than 10 Inch	ea	400	AC	50
Underground Outlet	Blind Intakes	ea	350	AC	50
Underground Outlet	Rigid Outlet Pipe w/ Rodent Guard, 16 foot or less	ea	275	AC	50
Underground Outlet	Rigid Outlet Pipe w/ Rodent Guard, greater than 16 foot	ea	375	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is limited to the perforated riser or French drain and the Corrugated Metal Pipe outlet only. Horizontal drain lines are paid under practice 606, Subsurface Drain.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 645 - UPLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT (ac)**

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Cost/unit</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Animal Control Device - Spray Repellent	ea	0.3	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Animal Control Device - Tree Shelter	ea	4	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Animal Control Device - Softwoods - Bud Caps - By Tree	ea	0.10	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses and Legumes	ac	200	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Lime	ton	20	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses and Forbs	ac	260	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Pollinator Management Incentive	ac	20	FR	100
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Site Preparation - Tree and Shrub - All Methods	ac	110	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Site Preparation - Tree Removal	ac	1500	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Tree and Shrub Planting - Bare Root Trees and Shrubs	100 ea	135	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Tree and Shrub Planting - Container Conifers	ea	8.25	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Weed Control - Mechanical - Tree Row (1x per 12mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Weed Control - Chemical - Tree Row (1x per 12mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Weed Control - Mechanical - Mowing - Grass Establishment (5x per 24 mo)	ac	10	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Roll	100 ft	40	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Square	ea	1.25	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Weed Control - Tree Temporary Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Weed Control - Tree Temporary Cover - Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is authorized for establishment and management. Tree/shrub plantings under Upland Wildlife Habitat Management shall be on sites less than or equal to 10 acres per contract. Tree/shrub plantings greater than 10 acres per contract shall be planned and installed under practice Tree/shrub Establishment (612).
2. For introduced grasses and legumes, a soil test during the year of seeding or the preceding two calendar years is required to determine the needs of commercial fertilizer and liming materials. The rate of application of commercial fertilizer and lime shall be no more than 100% of the recommended rate per acre of total available plant food. Small grain nurse crops must be left unharvested until August 1 of the establishment year to be eligible for cost share reimbursement.
3. Individual grass, tree, and shrub plantings should be designed with a diverse mix of trees and shrubs to restore natural plant communities or maximize wildlife benefits. In all cases, plantings greater than 10 acres will consist of a mixture of species. Plantings less than 10 acres may consist of monotypic species if the purpose of the design is to restore natural community conditions (for example, white pine restoration).

4. Practices will be protected from mowing, grazing, and uncontrolled fire for the duration of the contract unless specifically identified in the management plan.
5. Cost sharing is only authorized when a Wildlife Management Plan has been developed that identifies the species being addressed and needed practices.
6. Unit cost for grass includes seedbed preparation, seeding, seed, fertilizer, and herbicide.
7. Establishment clipping is authorized up to 5 times during the first 24 months.
8. Cost sharing for mechanical weed control is authorized for 1 payment per year, although multiple mechanical applications may be required as specified in the planting plan
9. Pollinator Management incentive payment is authorized on all eligible 645 acres at \$20.00/acre/yr, for up to 120 acres per year per operation, not to exceed 3 years. To receive the incentive the management plan must meet the 645 standard AND the Pollinator guidelines to accomplish season long flowering on the enrolled field. Meeting these requirements will necessitate the use of native plant materials.  
**See General Provision 10.**
10. At this time, the only authorized repellants are Deer Away Big Game Repellent Powder and Plantskydd. Other sprays must be authorized by the state office prior to use.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 472 - USE EXCLUSION (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Use Exclusion	Use Exclusion - Other Crops	ac	125	FR	100
Use Exclusion	Use Exclusion - Riparian Areas	ac	15	FR	100
Use Exclusion	Use Exclusion - Specialty Crops	ac	175	FR	100

1. An incentive payment is authorized for Use Exclusion (472) not to exceed 3 years on up to 250 acres per year per operation. The Use Exclusion incentive and Pollinator Management incentive may NOT be used on the same acres.
2. Cost sharing is only authorized on acres where use is being excluded and for only one of the options listed above on any individual acre. Management of the excluded area may include forage removal practices as described in a management plan for the area.
3. For Use Exclusion – Riparian Areas :
  - a. Payment is only authorized in riparian areas where the current condition shows environmental damage caused by existing livestock and the exclusion directly results in environmental benefits to perennial and intermittent streams and lakes. Payment is authorized for an excluded area averaging no more than 100 feet in width.
  - b. Cost sharing is only authorized when livestock are present on land adjacent to the portion eligible for Use Exclusion (472). Land that is part of a prescribed grazing plan is eligible for Use Exclusion (472).
4. Cost sharing is only authorized for Use Exclusion – Specialty Crop and Use Exclusion – Other Crops as a component of Filter Strips (393), Field Borders (386), Contour Buffer Strips (332), or Cross Wind Trap Strips.
5. For Use Exclusion – Specialty Crop, specialty crops include vegetables, sugarbeets, potatoes, dry edible beans, dry peas, and lentils.
6. For Use Exclusion – Other Crops, other crops include all crops not listed in the provision for Use Exclusion – Specialty Crop (#5).
7. Cost sharing for Use Exclusion – Specialty Crop is only authorized on acres where specialty crops were in the rotation 1 out of the last 3 years.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 601 - VEGETATIVE BARRIER (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Vegetative Barrier	Fertilizer	ac	35	AC	50
Vegetative Barrier	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Vegetative Barrier	Permanent Veg Cover - Introduced Grasses and Legumes	ac	200	AC	50
Vegetative Barrier	Lime	ton	20	AC	50
Vegetative Barrier	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50
Vegetative Barrier	Permanent Veg Cover - Mixed Native Grasses and Forbs	ac	260	AC	50
Vegetative Barrier	Weed Control - Mechanical - Mowing - Grass Establishment (5x per 24 mo)	ac	10	AC	50

1. Cost sharing may be used for seed, seeding, establishing, and managing the cover based on an approved seeding plan.
2. Establishment clipping is authorized up to 5 times during the first 24 months.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 367 - WASTE FACILITY COVER (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Waste Facility Cover	Biofilter	sq ft	2	AC	50
Waste Facility Cover	Waste Facility Cover	sq ft	2	AC	50
Waste Facility Cover	Roof Structure	au	200	AC	50

1. Cost share assistance is limited to where the implementation of this practice will address an air quality resource concern **and only if a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is developed and implemented**. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility will provide for the development and implementation of a CNMP.
2. Consult General Provision 12 for **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements**.
3. Consult General Provision 13 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.
4. Biofilter will be implemented in accordance with Minnesota Interim Standard 793.
  - a. Cost sharing for Biofilters is authorized to correct existing air quality concerns associated with mechanically ventilated livestock buildings.
  - b. For Biofilters, eligible components include biofilter, plenums, exhaust fan upgrades, and moisture management appurtenance.
  - c. Biofilters can be funded as stand alone practices if it is the only livestock related practices being requested. The development of a CNMP **IS** required with a Biofilter, but the CNMP does **NOT** have to be implemented.
5. Cost sharing is authorized for Roof Structures to prevent the commingling of rainfall and clean water with concentrated livestock areas when it is the most practical and feasible solution. Cost sharing is not authorized for production oriented building components.
  - a. The producer must agree to permanently abandon ALL outdoor lots at the facility. The following statement shall be included in the EQIP contract: “As a condition of EQIP cost sharing on a roof structure, the producer agrees to permanently eliminate ALL outdoor animal lots at this facility. Failure to comply with this provision may result in a recovery of federal cost share funds.”
  - b. When approved by the State Conservation Engineer, certain exceptions to the abandonment of all outdoor lots may be allowed. Considerations include limited area of lot, limited use of lot, adequate runoff control of lot, and adequate contract language to prevent expansion of the outdoor lot
  - c. Technical Assistance for all roof structures will be completed by non-NRCS consultants or TSP’s.
  - d. Cost sharing is authorized only when one of the two conditions are met:
    - i. The roof structure design and construction is approved by a registered professional engineer.

- ii The roof structure design is approved by a registered professional engineer and the construction is performed by a crew representing the roof's manufacturer who certifies the installation. The manufacturer shall provide a 10-year labor and material warranty on the roof structure.
- e. Eligible components include the roof and structural members necessary to support it.
- f. The roof structure practice may be combined with the Compost Facility practice for compost barns.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 313 - WASTE STORAGE FACILITY (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Waste Storage Facility	Concrete or Metal Tank - First 1300 cu ft of storage	cu ft	16	AC	50
Waste Storage Facility	Concrete or Metal Tank - each Additional cu ft above 1300 cu ft	cu ft	1.20	AC	50
Waste Storage Facility	Stacking Slab	sq ft	6.00	AC	50
Waste Storage Facility	Pond - Composite Liner - First 50000 cu ft of storage	cu ft	0.90	AC	50
Waste Storage Facility	Pond - Composite Liner - each Additional cu ft above 50000 cu ft	cu ft	0.65	AC	50
Waste Storage Facility	Pond - Membrane Liner - First 50000 cu ft of storage	cu ft	0.70	AC	50
Waste Storage Facility	Pond - Membrane Liner - each Additional cu ft above 50000 cu ft	cu ft	0.45	AC	50
Waste Storage Facility	Pond - No Liner - First 50000 cu ft of storage	cu ft	0.40	AC	50
Waste Storage Facility	Pond - No Liner - each Additional cu ft above 50000 cu ft	cu ft	0.20	AC	50
Waste Storage Facility	Pond - Soil Liner - First 50000 cu ft of storage	cu ft	0.50	AC	50
Waste Storage Facility	Pond - Soil Liner - each Additional cu ft above 50000 cu ft	cu ft	0.30	AC	50

1. The eligible volume of storage is the total storage volume, including the design storage volume plus freeboard as required in the standard. As outlined in Waste Storage Facility (313), the maximum design storage period is 14 months.
2. The maximum allowable storage volume is based on the current capacity of the existing facility plus up to 25% expansion.
3. Cost share assistance is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility will provide for the development of a CNMP prior to the implementation of the 313. MPCA's definition is used to define a pollution problem.
4. Consult General Provision 12 for **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.**
5. Consult General Provision 13 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.
6. For purposes of this practice, "waste" refers to raw manure and urine; runoff water contaminated through contact with manure and urine; milking center wastewater; and silage leachate as appropriate.
7. Silage storage facilities are not eligible components. Cost sharing for components addressing silage leachate concerns under Waste Storage Facility start at the edge of the silage storage facility.
8. For livestock operations that are not or will not be permitted under the NPDES system, silage leachate systems can be funded as stand alone practices if these systems are the only livestock related practices being requested. The development of a CNMP **IS** required with a silage leachate system but the CNMP does **NOT** have to be implemented.
9. Cost sharing is authorized for tanks that serve as foundations for buildings, however eligible costs are those associated with the storage function only. Cost sharing is not authorized for production oriented building components.
10. Cost sharing is authorized for feedlot relocation, with the following provisions:

- a. Cost share for relocation is not to exceed the cost share for the most practical and feasible waste management facility at the existing site.
  - b. Cost sharing at the new site is only authorized for components applicable to the transfer, storage, or treatment of wastes.
  - c. Existing location is to be abandoned in an environmentally safe manner as outlined in MPCA guidelines.
  - d. Operator must agree to permanently remove all livestock from the existing location along with any other designated pollution sources. The following statement shall be included in the EQIP contract: “As a condition of EQIP cost sharing on feedlot relocation, the producer agrees to permanently eliminate all animals and designated pollution sources at this facility. Failure to comply with this provision may result in a recovery of federal cost share funds.”
  - e. In the event of a change in ownership, the abandoned lots will permanently not be eligible for future USDA cost sharing on waste management practices.
11. Cost sharing for Waste Storage Facility (313) on operations with pollution problems less than 5 years old is not authorized.
    - a. Examples:
      - i. Producer A has had a dairy farm operation for 20 years. Producer B purchases the dairy and continues milking cows. This pollution problem is greater than 5 years old and producer B meets this eligibility requirement for cost sharing assistance.
      - ii. A producer has a dairy operation on farm A. He purchases farm B and moves the dairy operation to farm B where there was no previous pollution problem. Farm B would be considered a new facility and would not be eligible for cost sharing assistance.
  12. Cost sharing is not authorized for Waste Storage Facility (313) on operations where the system establishment is required as a result of judicial or court action. MPCA Stipulation Agreement and Schedule of Compliance (SOC) are not considered a judicial or court action, and practice implementation is still considered voluntary for EQIP eligibility purposes, even if fines have been levied by the MPCA.
  13. State Conservationist approval is required for systems involving agricultural waste generated off-site.

## PRACTICE STANDARD 629 WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Wastewater Treatment	Flocculation Treatment	ea	25000	AC	50
Wastewater Treatment	Vegetated Dosing Area	ea	15000	AC	50
Wastewater Treatment	Bark Bed	ea	20000	AC	50
Wastewater Treatment	Aerobic Treatment	ea	25000	AC	50

1. Cost share assistance is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility will provide for the development of a CNMP prior to implementation of the storage or treatment. MPCA’s definition is used to define a pollution problem.
2. Consult General Provision 12 for **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.**
3. Consult General Provision 13 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.
4. Cost sharing for Wastewater Treatment on operations with pollution problems less than 5 years old is not authorized.
  - a. Examples:
    - i) Producer A has had a dairy farm operation for 20 years. Producer B purchases the dairy and continues milking cows. This pollution problem is greater than 5 years old and producer B meets this eligibility requirement for cost sharing assistance.
    - ii) A producer has a dairy operation on farm A. He purchases farm B and moves the dairy operation to farm B where there was no previous pollution problem. Farm B would be considered a new facility and would not be eligible for cost sharing assistance.
5. Cost sharing is not authorized for Wastewater Treatment on operations where the system establishment is required as a result of judicial or court action. MPCA Stipulation Agreement and Schedule of Compliance (SOC) are not considered a judicial or court action, and practice implementation is still considered voluntary for EQIP eligibility purposes, even if fines have been levied by the MPCA.

6. Eligible items include components needed for the actual waste treatment. Components needed for temporary storage and transfer of wastes are covered under separate items.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 635 - WASTEWATER TREATMENT STRIP (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Wastewater Treatment Strip	Level 2 Control - Vegetated Infiltration Area	lot ac	8500	AC	50
Wastewater Treatment Strip	Level 3 Controlled Discharge - Vegetative Treatment Area	lot ac	8000	AC	50
Wastewater Treatment Strip	Level 4 Control - Vegetated Treatment Area	lot ac	8000	AC	50
Wastewater Treatment Strip	Level 5 Control - Vegetated Buffer	ea	3000	AC	50

1. Cost share assistance is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem. As outlined by the EQIP manual, any EQIP contract that includes an animal waste storage or treatment facility will provide for the development of a CNMP prior to implementation of the storage or treatment. MPCA’s definition is used to define a pollution problem.
2. Consult General Provision 12 for **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) requirements.**
3. Consult General Provision 13 for requirements related to manure application land base and/or manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP contract holder.
4. Cost sharing for Wastewater Treatment Strip on operations with pollution problems less than 5 years old is not authorized.
  - a. Examples:
    - i. Producer A has had a dairy farm operation for 20 years. Producer B purchases the dairy and continues milking cows. This pollution problem is greater than 5 years old and producer B meets this eligibility requirement for cost sharing assistance.
    - ii. A producer has a dairy operation on farm A. He purchases farm B and moves the dairy operation to farm B where there was no previous pollution problem. Farm B would be considered a new facility and would not be eligible for cost sharing assistance.
5. Cost sharing is not authorized for Wastewater Treatment Strip on operations where the system establishment is required as a result of judicial or court action. MPCA Stipulation Agreement and Schedule of Compliance (SOC) are not considered a judicial or court action, and practice implementation is still considered voluntary for EQIP eligibility purposes, even if fines have been levied by the MPCA.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 638 - WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASIN (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Water and Sediment Control Basin	Less than or Equal to 6 Ft Fill Height and All Drainage Areas	ea	3000	AC	50
Water and Sediment Control Basin	Greater than 6 Ft Fill Height and a Drainage Area Less than 10 Acres	ea	3000	AC	50
Water and Sediment Control Basin	Greater than 6 Ft Fill Height and a Drainage Area 10 to 20 Acres	ea	6000	AC	50
Water and Sediment Control Basin	6 to 10 Ft Fill Height and a Drainage Area 20 to 40 Acres	ea	9000	AC	50
Water and Sediment Control Basin	Greater than 10 Ft Fill Height and a Drainage Area 20 to 40 Acres	ea	12000	AC	50

1. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 8.**

**PRACTICE STANDARD 614 - WATERING FACILITY (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Watering Facility	Watering Facility - Fixed, 150 gallons or less	gal	1.15	AC	50
Watering Facility	Watering Facility - Fixed, Greater than 150 gallons	gal	0.75	AC	50
Watering Facility	Watering Facility - Frost Free - Less than 150000 lb herd weight	ea	1250	AC	50
Watering Facility	Watering Facility - Frost Free - Greater than 150000 lb herd weight	ea	2500	AC	50
Watering Facility	Watering Facility - Portable	ea	150	AC	50
Watering Facility	Storage Tank	gal	0.75	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is authorized when required as a component of a Prescribed Grazing System or water development with Use Exclusion.
2. Cost sharing is not authorized for Watering Facilities within the area of the farmstead.
3. Cost sharing is authorized for frost-free watering facilities only when necessary for wintering livestock on the pasture. Only one frost-free watering facility may be cost shared for each 120 acres of pasture.
4. Cost sharing is not authorized for power sources, except for solar panels where other power sources are impractical. Water systems for human use are not eligible.
5. The use of used heavy equipment tires in the fabrication of watering facilities is approved.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 642 - WELL (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Well	Rural Water Connection	ea	10000	AC	50
Well	Well Drilling Mobilization	ea	1000	AC	50
Well	Well Drilling	ft	17.50	AC	50

1. Cost sharing is authorized when required for providing stock water as a component of Prescribed Grazing or water development with Use Exclusion (472).
2. Cost sharing is limited to boring the well and installing the casing. Pumps associated with Well are cost shared under Practice 533, Pumping Plant.
3. Cost sharing is not authorized for dry wells.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 351 - WELL DECOMMISSIONING (no)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Well Decommissioning	Well Decommissioning	ea	1000	AC	50
Well Decommissioning	Well Decommissioning - Karst Conditions	ea	2000	AC	50

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 657 - WETLAND RESTORATION (ac)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration - Ditch Plugs	ea	500	AC	50
Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration - Embankments	cu yd	6	AC	50
Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration - Scrapes	ac	6000	AC	50
Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration - Tile Breaks	ea	500	AC	50
Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration - Water Control Structures	ea	2500	AC	50

1. The producer is responsible for obtaining easements, right of ways, local, state and federal permits and other permission necessary to perform and maintain the practice. Expenses incurred due these items

are not cost shared. Cost share payments will not be made until proof of necessary permits has been provided.

2. The restored area shall not be used:
  - a) For irrigation or livestock watering purposes
  - b) To produce agricultural commodities.
  - c) For grazing livestock.
3. Costs include those for earthwork and other associated costs. Critical Area Planting may be used as a facilitating practice for necessary seed and seeding.
4. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 8.**

**PRACTICE STANDARD 380 - WINDBREAK (ft)**

Practice	Component	Unit	Cost/unit	Type	Rate
Windbreak	Animal Control Device - Spray Repellent	ea	0.3	AC	50
Windbreak	Animal Control Device - Tree Shelter	ea	4	AC	50
Windbreak	Site Preparation - Tree and Shrub - All Methods	ac	110	AC	50
Windbreak	Site Preparation - Tree Removal	ac	1500	AC	50
Windbreak	Tree and Shrub Planting - Bare Root Trees and Shrubs	100 ea	135	AC	50
Windbreak	Tree and Shrub Planting - Container Conifers	ea	8.25	AC	50
Windbreak	Weed Control - Chemical - Tree Row (1x per 12 mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Windbreak	Weed Control - Mechanical - Tree Row (1x per 12mo)	ac	70	AC	50
Windbreak	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Roll	100 ft	40	AC	50
Windbreak	Weed Control - Tree Mats - Square	ea	1.25	AC	50
Windbreak	Weed Control - Tree Temporary Cover - Introduced Grasses	ac	140	AC	50
Windbreak	Weed Control - Tree Temporary Cover - Native Grasses	ac	210	AC	50

1. Cost sharing for weed control is authorized only for weed control performed during the first 36 months after planting and as needed for establishment.
2. Cost sharing for mechanical weed control is authorized for 1 payment per year, although multiple mechanical applications may be required as specified in the planting plan.
3. Cost sharing for chemical weed control is authorized for one application per year.
4. At this time, the only authorized repellants are Deer Away Big Game Repellent Powder and Plantskydd. Other sprays must be authorized by the state office prior to use.
5. Site Preparation-Tree Removal is to be used only as a renovation practice.

## Nutrient Management Requirements for EQIP Contracts

**Implement items 1 through 15 below.** Implementation can be phased in over 2 years. **SUBMIT** required information and **CERTIFY** completion of all planned nutrient management operations to receive payment.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Crop Year\* of Scheduled Nutrient Management for Multi-Year Contracts

- 1) **Schedule 1<sup>st</sup> year activities (items 2- 9 listed below on the attached job sheet 590b and complete those activities by August 15.** The August 15 deadline may not apply in some cases (see items 4 and 6 below).
- 2) **Develop realistic yield goals** (taking yields for the last five years, dropping the lowest yield, and averaging the four remaining yields).
- 3) **Collect soil samples** for pH, organic matter (O.M.), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) at a minimum,. Have the samples analyzed at a soil-testing lab certified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Existing soil tests, no older than 3 to 4 years, may be used. However, nitrate tests are normally gathered annually after crop harvest.
- 4) **Collect manure samples** each time a storage structure is emptied for application and have it analyzed for total N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O using procedures and laboratories recommended by the MDA. This requirement does not apply if 1<sup>st</sup> year nutrient management is being performed prior to construction of manure storage facilities.
- 5) **Keep field specific records** of crops, yields, and commercial fertilizer and manure applications (including rates, timing, nutrient content, and method of application and incorporation).
- 6) **Develop a strategic nutrient management plan** prior to **AUGUST 15** or prior to **design of planned manure storage, treatment or transfer practices if the strategic plan is a CNMP.**
- 7) **Certify that scheduled activities have been completed** on NRCS job sheet 590b prior to **AUGUST 15.**
- 8) **Apply manure uniformly and calibrate manure application equipment** at time of application.
- 9) **Follow all state law requirements** regarding manure and manure applications near sensitive features. These requirements include:
  - a) Determining manure application rates based on crop nitrogen nutrient budgeting on most fields.
  - b) Determining manure application rates based on crop P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> removal on fields within 300 feet of lakes and streams and without filter strips if those fields have soil test phosphorus values greater than 21 ppm Bray 1 (16 ppm Olsen). A single year rate can be based on crop nitrogen needs provided subsequent applications do not occur until excess P has been removed by succeeding crops.
  - c) No application is allowed in road ditches and within 25 feet of lakes, perennial and intermittent streams and public water wetlands. No application is allowed within 300 feet when ground is frozen, snow-covered, or actively thawing. Applications at other times must be injected or incorporated within 24 hours if a field edge filter strip is not present (100-foot width for lakes and streams, minimum 50-foot width for intermittent streams, drainage ditches and wetlands). No traveling gun or center pivot manure applications within 300 feet are allowed.
  - d) No manure application is allowed within 50 feet of water supply wells, mines, quarries, sinkholes receiving surface runoff or other direct conduits to groundwater. Inject or incorporate manure within 24 hours on land upslope from and within 300 feet of these features.
- 10) **Do not apply manure on in-field grassed waterways** (unless a variance is granted).

## Remaining Crop Years of Nutrient Management

Follow the above provisions 4, 5, and 7 through 10. Also complete the CNMP if necessary.

- 11) **Complete annual nutrient management plan** prior to **OCTOBER 1** if fall or winter applications are planned and by **APRIL 1** if spring or summer applications are planned.
- 12) **Determine crop N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O nutrient needs** using nutrient budgeting principles (accounts for all sources of nutrients available to crops) and University of Minnesota (UMN) fertilizer recommendations as found in the most recent version of **BU-6240-GO Fertilizer Recommendations for Agronomic Crops in Minnesota** (or analogous crop specific bulletins).
- 13) **Control sheet, rill, ephemeral gully, and wind soil losses** to 6 tons per acre per year or less on land receiving manure or commercial fertilizer applications.
- 14) **Address additional areas and soils identified by NRCS as sensitive**
  - a) Frequently flooded soils
    - Do not apply manure on soils classified by NRCS as “frequently” flooded (floods 50-100 times in 100 years) during usual peak flood periods. Inject or incorporate within 2 days when applying at other times.
  - b) Loamy sand and sand soils
    - Do not fall apply commercial N fertilizer on soils in the textural classes of loamy sand and sand. Sidedress or split applications of commercial nitrogen fertilizer are preferred on these soils.
  - c) Coarse textured soils
    - Delay fall manure applications on coarse textured soils until after November 1. Delay spring manure and commercial N and P fertilizer applications on any field until active thawing and runoff events have passed.
  - d) Southeastern Minnesota
    - Do not fall apply commercial N fertilizer on sensitive sites in southeastern Minnesota.
  - e) Irrigated crops
    - Use sidedress or split applications of commercial N fertilizer on irrigated crops.
  - f) Fractured bedrock and high water tables
    - Maintain a minimum separation of 15 inches between bottom of incorporated or injected manure and fractured bedrock or high water table.
  - g) Surface tile intakes
    - Inject or incorporate manure within 24 hours upslope from and within 300 feet of surface tile intakes.
  - h) Winter manure applications (frozen or snow-covered ground on fields)
    - sheet and rill soil losses greater than 4 tons/acre/year, do not apply solid manure
    - sheet and rill soil losses greater than 2 tons/acre/year, do not apply liquid manure
- 15) **Certify planned activities have been completed** on form MN-CPA-046 Prior to **AUGUST 1**.

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\* For purposes of this fact sheet a crop year begins immediately after harvest of the preceding crop or forage and extends through harvest of the planned crop.

### 1<sup>st</sup> YEAR EQIP NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Producer Name \_\_\_\_\_

Plan Date \_\_\_\_\_

	Scheduled Date:	Assisted By:	Completed Date:
1. Complete Farm Inventory by: (Forms MN-CPA 40, 41, 42, and 43)			
2. Calculate Realistic Yield Goals by:			
3. Complete soil sampling and analysis by:			
4. Complete manure sampling and analysis of Total N, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> and K <sub>2</sub> O by			
5. Calibrate Equipment by:			
6. Begin keeping field specific records by:			
7. Develop Strategic Nutrient Mgmt plan by:			
8. Apply manure uniformly and do not apply within 25 feet of surface waters.			
9. Do not apply manure on in-field grassed waterways (unless a variance is granted).  Do not apply manure within 50 feet of water supply wells, mines, quarries sinkholes receiving surface runoff, or other direct conduits to groundwater. <b>Inject or incorporate</b> manure applications within 24 hours on land upslope from and within 300 feet of these features.			
11. For land within 300 feet of surface waters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Do not apply manure with a traveling gun or center pivot irrigation system at any time and do not apply manure when ground is frozen, snow covered or actively thawing.</li> <li>➤ Inject or incorporate manure within 24 hours <b>OR</b> install a 100-foot wide grass filter strip along surface waters and a 50-foot strip along intermittent streams and drainage ditches.</li> </ul>			

**Producer Signature** (certifies that activities have been completed): \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TSP Signature** (indicates acceptance of producer certification) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## EQIP COMPREHENSIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (CNMP) REQUIREMENTS

- Participants receiving USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for Manure and Wastewater Storage and Treatment practices, are required to develop and implement a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). The plan is completed prior to the design of individual waste storage or treatment practices.
- A CNMP addresses handling, storage and land application of manure and wastewater; mortality disposal; silage storage; soil and water conservation practices; and as requested by the producer feed management and uses of manure for other than land application.
- Implementation of most CNMP elements is required during the life of the EQIP contract. Animal mortality or silage leachate management systems can be phased in under subsequent EQIP contracts if the existing systems are not currently identified by regulatory agencies as a problem.

**This fact sheet highlights EQIP CNMP requirements.**

### REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. *Livestock production and manure storage area evaluation and practices planned*

✓ **Evaluation includes:**

- Current storage system capacity for present or planned animal numbers
- Feedlot and other storage area runoff or leaching problems including milkhouse waste
- Current operation and maintenance activities for all livestock production system components
- Silage storage areas
- Mortality disposal techniques
- Odors
- Safety issues and emergency response planning

✓ **Plans include:**

- Collection, storage, transfer and/or treatment systems and equipment needed to eliminate identified problems including silage leachate problems.
- Operation and maintenance practices/activities for system components.
- Emergency response or action plan addressing fire, personal injury and manure storage, collection, treatment and application.

#### 2. *Evaluation of land receiving manure and practices planned*

✓ **Evaluation includes:**

- Field Nitrogen leaching and Phosphorus runoff potentials
- Calculations to determine acreage needed to adequately utilize manure nutrients
- Evaluation of erosion potentials on fields receiving land applications.

✓ **Plans include:**

- Management practices such as filter strips.
- Other soil and water conservation practices needed to reduce soil losses or runoff. **(All fields receiving manure from the facility will have sheet and rill soil losses controlled to 6 tons per acre per year or less.)**

#### 3. *Nutrient Management Plans (590)*

- ✓ See the preceding “Nutrient Management Requirements for EQIP Contracts”

#### 4. *Record of CNMP implementation (similar to MPCA record keeping requirements).*

**PEST MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR EQIP CONTRACTS**

- **Participants with EQIP contracts containing pest management components must fully implement items 1-20 listed below by the last year of the contract.**
- Implementation can be phased in for multi-year contracts. The payments are released in each year scheduled for payment after the producer has certified completion of all pest management operations planned for that year.

**1st year of scheduled pest management for multi-year contracts**

1. Complete the attached job sheet 595b prior to planned pesticide applications.
  - For example By March 1, 2006 if you have a 2006 EQIP contract and have scheduled 1<sup>st</sup> year pest management for crop year 2006; by Oct. 1 if you have a 2006 EQIP contract, have scheduled 1<sup>st</sup> year pest management for crop year 2007 and plan on fall 2006 pesticide applications; or by March 1, 2007 if you have a 2006 EQIP contract; are starting 1st year pest management in crop year 2007 and plan on spring or later applications.
  - The job sheet is a schedule for completing items 2-6 listed below.
2. Review existing pest management program (Form MN-CPA-024)
3. Calibrate application equipment before mixing and loading pesticides at the beginning of each season and any time nozzle type is changed. Replace worn nozzle tips and hoses and faulty gauges.
4. Keep field specific detailed pest management records which indicate fields, soil type(s), soil test results, crops, identified pest problem, control applied, date applied and results of control. Also indicate brand name, EPA registration number, active ingredient and rates applied if pesticides are used.
5. Conduct a self-assessment of farmstead susceptibility to chemical handling by using **AG-PC-5696-S FARM\*A\*SYST Fact Sheet #2, "Reducing the Risk of Groundwater Contamination by Improving Pesticide Storage and Handling,"** and **FARM\*A\*SYST Worksheet #2, "Assessing the Risk of Groundwater Contamination from Pesticide Storage and Handling."**
6. Identify sensitive areas or features where special care will be necessary when managing pests. Those areas or features include:
  - a. shallow soils over water tables and fractured bedrock
  - b. coarse textured soils and other soils with a high NRCS pesticide leaching or runoff rating
  - c. wells
  - d. sinkholes
  - e. surface waters
  - f. tile inlets
  - g. other areas identified as sensitive in wellhead protection plans, local comprehensive water plans, county geologic atlases or regional hydrogeologic assessments.
7. Read and follow all label requirements when using chemical control treatments (i.e., setback and rate reductions for atrazine or restrictions based on depth to water table for acetachlor).
8. Follow recommended BMPs when using pesticides designated by the MDA as common detection.
9. Store, handle, transport, mix, and dispose of all pesticides, pesticide containers, unused pesticides and rinsate in accordance with state law and safe handling procedures. This includes the following:
  - a. Prevent backsiphoning of pesticides into wells and other water supplies by utilization of a fixed airgap or other Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) or Minnesota Department of Health approved anti-backsiphoning device.
  - b. Do not mix or load pesticides or clean application equipment near wells. Follow Minnesota Rule Chapter 4725 (Well code) for safe separation distances (150 feet without safeguards).
  - c. Do not mix or load pesticides or clean equipment within 150 feet from a sinkhole, streambed, lake, wetland, water impoundment, river or similar area.
  - d. Store pesticides only in the original labeled container, separated from other products such as food, feed and seed, and in a locked building having appropriate warning signs.
  - e. Recycle triple rinsed or pressure rinsed rigid plastic containers through the Empty Pesticide Container Collection and Recycling Program (if available in your area).

10. Use NRCS' Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST) to determine relative potential for planned pesticides to move off-site and impact non-target species.
11. Certify that scheduled activities have been completed on NRCS job sheet 595b prior to August 15 of the 1<sup>st</sup> crop year of pest management.

#### Remaining years of scheduled pest management

Follow provisions 3,4 and 7 through 9 above.

12. Have a certified TSP regularly scout to properly identify pest conditions, need for control, and timing of control (frequency is dependent upon pest).
13. Select plant varieties resistant to pests and adapted to growing seasons and hardiness in respective areas of the state. **Variety Trials of Selected Farm Crops**, published annually by the Minnesota Agriculture Experiment Stations or UMN can be consulted for information on hardiness and resistance to certain pests.
14. Use product effectiveness or efficacy tables to help select most effective control if pesticides are used. The UMN Extension Service (UMES) annually publishes bulletins describing control effectiveness of various pesticides (i.e., **Cultural and Chemical Weed Control in Field Crops**).
15. Consider economic injury level (EIL) and economic treatment level thresholds when determining if control is necessary. EILs and treatment level thresholds are available from UMES for select pests.
16. Promote crop and forage tolerance to pests by:
  - a. planting in a timely manner
  - b. providing proper nutrients, water, and soil conditions that favor rapid establishment and vigorous growth.
17. Use disease free and weed free seed to prevent introduction of pests into fields.
18. Change pest management procedures if current or proposed procedures result in a WIN-PST rating of Intermediate or higher for human toxicity. Changes include one or more of the following:
  - a. using low end of label rate ranges
  - b. timing of applications to reduce potential for movement in runoff or leaching
  - c. band applying or spot treating where appropriate
  - d. using companion crops, cover crops and crops residues, when appropriate, to suppress weed growth
  - e. using crop cultivation and shallow tillage operations to control annual and biennial weed seedlings
  - f. installing additional erosion and runoff control measures to minimize off-site movement of applied pesticides
  - g. establishing vegetated buffer areas which separate normal crop production practices from sensitive features such as sinkholes, wells, streams, lakes, waterways and tile inlets.
19. Consider and select multiple pest control techniques based on effectiveness, cost and environmental impact. Options include chemical, biological and mechanical. Evaluate the effectiveness of the techniques used.
20. Certify that planned activities have been completed on form MN-CPA-046 prior to August 1.

October 2006

### 1<sup>st</sup> YEAR EQIP PEST MANAGEMENT

**Producer Name**

**Plan Date**

1. Complete inventory of pest management activities by: (Form MN-CPA-024)
2. Calibrate Equipment by:
3. Begin keeping field specific records by:
4. Assess farmstead susceptibility to chemical handling using FARM\*A\*SYST Worksheet #2 by:
5. Identify areas sensitive to chemical control by: (Form MN-CPA-047)
6. Perform WIN-PST evaluations of current or proposed chemical treatments
7. Read and follow all label requirements when using chemical controls
8. Follow recommended BMPs when using pesticides designated by the MDA as common detection
9. Prevent backsiphoning of pesticides into wells and other water supplies by utilization of a fixed airgap or other Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) or Minnesota Department of Health approved backsiphoning device.
10. Do not mix or load pesticides or clean application equipment near wells. Follow Minnesota Rule Chapter 4725 (Well code) for safe separation distances (150 feet without safeguards).
11. Do not mix or load pesticides or clean application equipment within 150 feet from a sinkhole, streambed, lake, wetland, water impoundment, river or similar area.
12. Store pesticides only in the original labeled container, separated from other products such as food, feed and seed, and in a locked building having appropriate warning signs.
13. Recycle triple rinse or pressure rinse rigid plastic containers through the Empty Pesticide Container Collection and Recycling Program (if available in your area).

Scheduled Date:	Assisted By:	Completed Date:

**Producer Signature** (certifies that activities have been completed): Date

**TSP Signature** (indicates acceptance of producer certification) Date

October 2006

## **IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR EQIP CONTRACTS**

- **Participants with EQIP contracts containing irrigation water management must fully implement items 1-9 the last year of the contract.**
- Implementation can be phased in over 2 years for multi-year contracts. The participant shall effectively manage the available irrigation water supply to:
  - Provide soil moisture conditions for the desired crop response
  - Minimize soil erosion, loss of plant nutrients and undesirable water loss
  - Protect water quality.
- Certify that planned irrigation water management operations have been completed to receive payment.

### **1st year of scheduled irrigation water management**

1. Perform a uniformity check on irrigation pivots under contract to determine water application efficiency.
2. Install 2 rain gauges for each irrigated field (one under the pivot and one outside the influence of the pivot).
3. Determine available water holding capacity and infiltration rate of the planning soil type(s) in field(s) to be irrigated.
4. Review and select an irrigation scheduling method to document irrigation water needs. Scheduling methods could include Irrigation Check-Book, WISDOM or SCS Scheduler 3.0 computer programs, and other scheduling techniques.
5. Apply irrigation water so as not to cause excessive runoff or soil erosion.

### **Subsequent years of scheduled irrigation water management**

Follow Provision 5 from above.

6. Correct significant application uniformity concerns.
7. During the growing season keep field specific daily records of rainfall and the quantity of irrigation water being applied (use flow meters or an alternative method).
8. Record and monitor crop growth and development, and daily evapotranspiration and crop water use.
9. Determine irrigation timing and application rates using the chosen irrigation scheduling system and information gathered above. Application timing and rates:
  - a. Will not exceed the ability of the soil to store water in the root zone
  - b. Will meet the moisture requirements for the crop for optimum production.
10. Decisions on rates and timing will be based on the scheduling system at least 90% of the time.

March 2004

## **PRESCRIBED GRAZING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR EQIP CONTRACTS**

- Participants scheduled to receive EQIP incentive payments for implementing a *Prescribed Grazing System* must make a significant beneficial change in their current grazing system and fully implement a **complete grazing system** (See definition below).
- The payments are limited to no more than three years and a maximum of **250** acres per year and are released each year scheduled for payment only after participants have documented and certified that a complete grazing system has been implemented in that particular year.

**Definition: A complete grazing system consists of the following components, as a minimum:**

- Management of the grazing activity and/or installation of conservation practices needed to adequately address all forms of soil erosion.
- Management of the grazing activity to promote the health and vigor of the forage plants and prevent physical damage to the soils in the pastures. Avoid overuse of the forage and maintain proper stubble heights. Follow the guidelines in the attached Table, “**Minimum Height (in inches) of Pasture Species for Initiating and Terminating Grazing.**”
- Maintaining a stocking rate that does not exceed forage production, or manage the forages to meet minimum residual stubble heights. Stocking rates can be determined by estimating the forage requirements by livestock kind and class, and the forage production for each pasture unit.

Note: A participant may implement a Prescribed Grazing System that achieves the grazing system criteria while using supporting facilities (i.e. fence, watering facility, etc) that do not meet NRCS standards.

The prescribed grazing plan will include or address the following:

### **1. List of sensitive areas**

- ⇒ Identify and describe sensitive areas, and describe treatment of these areas.

### **2. A livestock summary**

- ⇒ Summarize the kind and class of livestock to use the pasture system. This will include current numbers and should include estimates of animal numbers in the future if expansion is planned.
- ⇒ Document forage requirements for the livestock on the attached “**Livestock Forage Monthly Balance Sheet.**”

### **3. A fencing system**

- ⇒ Fencing includes permanent and temporary fencing. The fencing must be adequate to keep the livestock in the desired areas at the desired times. The plan will identify the locations of the fences, the type of fence, and a schedule of installation of new and replacement permanent fences.

### **4. A livestock watering system.**

- ⇒ Water must be available in sufficient quantity for the kinds and classes of livestock being grazed. The quality of the water must be such that it is potable for livestock and does not spread diseases and parasites. Water must be provided at enough sites to encourage a uniform grazing pattern. Where natural water sources or constructed ponds are used, the plan must also include contingency plans in the event that a source of water cannot provide adequate quantities through the grazing system.

## 5. Heavy Use Area Protection

- ⇒ Identify areas where Heavy Use Area Protection are required, such as around permanent tanks, in livestock travel lanes, and in wet draws crossed by lanes.

## 6. Forages

- ⇒ Identify the species of vegetation that are currently on the pastures, and identify the species that are desired. Evaluate the condition of the pastures using the attached form "**Determining Grassland Condition/Trend.**"
- ⇒ Determine yield for current and future conditions. Document yields of forage on the attached "**Livestock Forage Monthly Balance Sheet.**" This form is designed to determine forage availability through the entire calendar year. Yields can be based upon yield tables in soil survey documents, **NRCS Field Office Technical Guide: "Pastures for Profit, A Guide to Rotational Grazing" (A3529, UMN Extension and U of W Extension)**, farmer records, and/or measured yields.
- ⇒ A seeding plan will be completed as part of the prescribed grazing plan in the event that pasture reseeding, renovation, or interseeding is planned.

## 7. Grazing System Management

- ⇒ A guide will be developed for each grazing system to document:
  - ✓ When to initiate grazing
  - ✓ When to terminate grazing
  - ✓ Contingencies for wet weather and drought
  - ✓ Management prior to fall freeze-up
- ⇒ Address any forage deficiencies or surpluses noted on the "**Livestock Forage Monthly Balance Sheet.**"
- ⇒ Sacrificial paddocks
  - ✓ Identify and separately manage area(s) as sacrificial paddocks in the event of excessively wet or excessively dry periods of time. These areas would also be used for emergency feeding of livestock if the grazing density is too high for the proper management of the forage plants. Plans must be included for rejuvenation of the sacrificial paddock after the livestock are put back into the rotational grazing system.
  - ✓ Locate sacrificial paddocks where soils have good trafficability, low risk of soil erosion, and are easily rejuvenated.
- ⇒ Overwintering areas
  - ✓ **Identify overwintering areas, and develop treatment plans for rejuvenation of the vegetation after livestock is put back on rotational pastures in spring.**
- ⇒ Brush and weed control.
  - ✓ Include chemical, mechanical, and cultural weed control methods to be used where significant brush and weed problems exist.
- ⇒ Fertilization when necessary to maintain forage vigor. Recommendations are to be based on recent soil tests.

## 8. Maps showing locations of fences (planned and installed) and livestock water system components. Paddocks will be identified on the Grazing System Plan Map.

August 1998

## MINIMUM HEIGHT (IN INCHES) OF PASTURE SPECIES FOR INITIATING AND TERMINATING GRAZING

Species	Begin Grazing		End Grazing	
	Initial grazing height in early spring*	Minimum and optimum height of vegetative growth (inches)	Minimum stubble height **	Minimum regrowth before killing frost
Alfalfa		Bud stage	-	6***
Creeping foxtail	6	8 - 10	3	6
Green needlegrass	4-5	6 - 8	3	5
Inter. Wheatgrass	4-5	8 - 14	4	6
Kentucky bluegrass	2	4 - 6	2	4
Orchardgrass	3-4	6 - 10	3	6
Perennial Ryegrass	3-4	5 - 7	3	4
Pubescent wheatgrass	4-5	8 - 14	4	6
Reed canarygrass	4-5	8 - 8	4	6
Russian Wildrye	4	5 - 7	3	4
Slender wheatgrass	4-5	6 - 12	3	6
Smooth brome	4	8 - 14	4	6
Tall fescue	4	6 - 10	3	6
Tall wheatgrass	4-5	8 - 14	4	6
Timothy	4	6 - 10	4	5
Western wheatgrass	4	6 - 10	4	5
Big Bluestem		10 - 14	6	6
Indiangrass		10 - 14	6	6
Little bluestem		5 - 7	3	4
Sand bluestem		8 - 14	6	6
Sideoats grama		4 - 6	2	4
Switchgrass		12 - 20	8	10

**Source: Minnesota NRCS Conservation Practice Standard #528A, Prescribed Grazing.**

- \* This applies only to the initial grazing in the spring (early May). The livestock must be moved rapidly through the paddocks during this time to prevent overgrazing and to keep the forage from "getting ahead of the livestock".
- \*\* Minimum stubble height is critical if stand is to be maintained. This applies to that part of the grazing season after the initial rapid growth period in early May, as well as at the end of the grazing season.
- \*\*\* The last harvest of alfalfa for pasture or hay should generally be made 35-45 days prior to the time when the first hard freeze typically occurs.

## LIVESTOCK FORAGE MONTHLY BALANCE SHEET

Producer: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Kind/Cass Livestock	Number of Animals	Average Weight		FORAGE REQUIREMENTS PER MONTH (LBS. X 1000)											
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
			1.2*												
			1.2*												
			1.2*												
			1.2*												
			1.2*												
			1.2*												
Totals															

\* .04 Daily intake x 30 days/month

### FORAGE SUMMARY

Field	Kind of Forage	Yield/Ac (LBS)	Acres	Gross Yield	FORAGE AVAILABLE PER MONTH (LBS. X 1000)											
					Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total LBS., Produced from Forage (x 1000)																
Total LBS., Required for Livestock (x 1000)																
Total LBS., Excess/Deficiency (x 1000)																

Total    Jan    Feb    Mar    Apr    May    Jun    July    May    Sept    Oct    Nov    Dec

## Determining Grassland Condition/Trend

**Producer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recorded by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tract #:** \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY	SCORE	Field #					
		Acres	Month & Year	M__Y__	M__Y__	M__Y__	M__Y__
			VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE
1) Species Composition	Undesirable      Desirable 0   1   2   3   4						
2) Plant Diversity	Narrow              Broad 0   1   2   3   4						
3) Plant Density	Sparse              Dense 0   1   2   3   4						
4) Plant Vigor	Weak                Strong 0   1   2   3   4						
5) Legumes in Stand	Less Than          More than 10%                40% 0   1   2   3   4						
6) Plant residue	Deficient          Excess Appropriate 0   2   4   2   0						
7) Uniformity of Use	Spotty              Uniform Intermediate 0   1   2   3   4						
8) Severity of Use	Heavy    Mod.      Light 0   2   4   2   0						
9) Woody Canopy	More than          Less than 40%                10% 0   1   2   3   4						
10) Soil Erosion	Severe              Slight Moderate 0   1   2   3   4						

## INVENTORY CATEGORY ITEMS

- 1) **Species Composition** - Visually estimate the % composition by weight of each group of plants and assign a value. The categories desirable, intermediate, and undesirable refer to the preferred use of the plants by the grazing animal, and intended use of the grazing land. The score ranges from “0”, with no or few desirable or intermediate plant species, to “4”, which represents mostly desirable or intermediate plant species present.
- 2) **Plant Diversity** – Evaluate the number of different species of plants that are well represented on the site. If only one species of plant occurs, diversity is narrow; if eight or more species of plants are present, diversity is broad. If 4-5 plant species are present, the score would be in the middle of this range.
- 3) **Plant Density** – Ignore plants classified as undesirable. Visually estimate the density of living desirable and intermediate plant species that would be present at a 2-inch stubble height. Ask yourself if there is room for more desirable and undesirable plants? Scores range from Dense (>95%), Medium (75-85%), to Sparse (<65%).
- 4) **Plant Vigor** – Evaluate the health and productivity of the desirable and intermediate plant species. Look for evidence of plant color; leaf area index; plant reproduction; presence of weeds, disease, or insects; rate of growth and re-growth, etc. Are plants growing at their potential?
- 5) **Legumes in Stand** – Visually estimate the % composition by weight of the legumes present in the stand on the area being evaluated. 0 = < 10%, 1 = 10-19%, 2 = 20-29%, 3 = 30-39%, and 4 = > 40%.
- 6) **Plant Residue** – Evaluate the dead and decaying plant residue on the soil surface. Excessive levels of residue inhibit plant growth and vigor. Appropriate levels of residue do not inhibit plant growth but help retard runoff, reduce soil erosion, improve water intake, recycle nutrients to the soil surface, and provide a favorable microclimate for biological activity. Deficient residue levels result in bare or near bare ground cover beneath the growing plants.
- 7) **Uniformity of Use** – Evaluate how well the animals are grazing all plants to a moderate uniform height throughout the field. Spotty grazing appears as uneven plant heights, with some plants or parts of the field grazed heavily and other areas grazed only slightly or not at all.
- 8) **Severity of Use** – Evaluate the severity of use by grazing animals based on plant stubble height in the field. For cool season grass species and legumes a stubble height of less than 2 inches would indicate heavy use; stubble height of 2-6 inches would indicate moderate use; and stubble height more than 6 inches would indicate light use. For warm season grasses increase the height in each category by 2 inches.
- 9) **Woody Canopy** – Estimate the percent canopy (area shaded at noon) of woody plant cover over six feet tall. 0 = >40%, 1 = 30-39%, 2 = 20- 29%, 3 = 10-19%, 4 = < 10%
- 10) **Soil Erosion** – Visually observe signs of any type of erosion and assign a severity rating for the field being evaluated.



## 2007 CONTRACTS WITH ORGANIC INCENTIVE PAYMENTS

- **Prior** to allowing participants approved for the Organic Conservation Crop Rotation (328b) incentive payments to sign their EQIP contracts they must be notified that they will also be required to
  - 1) Sign a statement that they understand organic crop production and certification requirements
  - 2) Hire and annually receive documentation (either a certificate or verification letter) from a USDA accredited certified agent; stating that the USDA organic rules have been followed. Any acreage on which significant discrepancies from the USDA Organic Rules are noted will not be eligible for EQIP payments.

This EQIP incentive payment is not based solely on conversion to organic production. EQIP incentive payments are justified by the natural resource benefits they provide. This incentive payment is based on a conservation crop rotation consisting of mainly annual crops. Payments are only eligible where the identified crop rotation consists of at least 4/7 (57%) annual crops and the annual crops are rotated over all acres receiving payment. Payments are not eligible for conversion of pastureland, expired CRP land, and other lands that have been idle in a protective conservation cover.

This incentive is not eligible for organic pastureland, organic hayland or forage production, organic orchard, or other crops, which do not conform to the Conservation Crop Rotation standard.

**Participants who do not fully achieve final organic certification will not be eligible for the last payment in their EQIP contract for this practice. Participants must be given a copy of the EQIP contract requirements for Organic Conservation Crop Rotation. On this form participants must also acknowledge that they either understand the requirements to become a certified organic crop producer or that they have contacted an organic certifying agent to have the requirements explained to them.**

- **Prior** to allowing participants approved for the Organic Prescribed Grazing (528A1) incentive payments to sign their EQIP contracts they must be notified that they will also be required to
  - 1) Sign a statement that they understand organic prescribed grazing and certification requirements.
  - 2) Prescribed Grazing (528) must be followed on all acres where the incentive payment is being requested.
  - 3) Hire and annually receive documentation (either a certificate or verification letter) from an USDA accredited certified agent; stating that the USDA organic rules have been followed. Any acreage on which significant discrepancies from the USDA Organic Rules are noted will not be eligible for EQIP payments.

**Participants who do not fully achieve final organic certification will not be eligible for the last payment in their EQIP contract for this practice. Participants must be given a copy of the EQIP contract requirements for Organic Prescribed Grazing (528A1). Participants must also acknowledge that they either understand the requirements to become a certified organic prescribed grazing participant or that they have contacted an organic certifying agent to have the requirements explained to them.**

<b>MANURE AND WASTEWATER STORAGE AND HANDLING EVALUATION CHECKLIST</b>	<b>Checked ✓</b>	<b>Concern Identified ✓</b>
1. Facility Description	NA	NA
2. Surface Water Pollution Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is all contamination runoff stored or adequately treated? (NRCS Standard 784)</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are all roofs and drainage areas to open lots diverted away or included in storage volume computations? (NRCS Standards 784, 313)</li> </ul>		
3. Odor Assessment		
4. Storage Facilities:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the manure storage volume adequate to meet Manure Management Plan requirements? (NRCS Standard 313)</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there apparent structural concerns?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there loss of manure due to excessive seepage?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do water tests from well indicate any potential seepage issues?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does perimeter tile discharge indicate seepage (discoloration, odor)?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there proper setback from wells? (MN Rules Chapter 4725.4450)</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are safety signs, fences, grates, etc., present where needed?</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are temporary stockpiles properly sited? (MPCA Guidelines)</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is livestock watering equipment in good repair and not leaking?</li> </ul>		
5. Ground Water Pollution Potential		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are special geologic conditions accounted for? (NRCS Standard 313, MPCA Karst Guidelines)</li> </ul>		
6. For dairy operations, is the milk parlor wash water properly handled? (NRCS Standard 784)		
7. Is silage leachate properly handled? (NRCS Standard 784)		
8. Are animal mortalities handled properly?		
9. Does the O&M Plan address operational and safety aspects of the planned structures (NRCS Standard 313)?		
10. Does the facility have an Emergency Response Plan?		

**USDA-NRCS AGREEMENT TO ALLOW MANURE APPLICATION**

**PRODUCER/USDA CONTRACT HOLDER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NRCS program participants with EQIP contracts containing manure and wastewater storage or treatment practices or nutrient management must manage or have their manure managed according to NRCS requirements (same as state law) on all land where their manure is applied regardless of land ownership or manure transfer or sale to another.**

**Necessary permissions must be obtained for manure applications on land not owned or controlled by the EQIP program participant. The permissions must be in writing and indicate that the manure recipient will apply or allow others, including the EQIP program participant, to apply manure according to NRCS requirements. A copy of the permission must be provided to the NRCS field office prior to construction of any cost-shared waste storage, treatment or transfer practice and prior to implementation of nutrient management.**

**This NRCS form or MPCA equivalent forms should be used to obtain necessary permission.**

<b>Name of USDA Participant</b> _____
<b>Address</b> _____
<b>City, State, Zip</b> _____
<b>Signature:</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____

The undersigned manure recipient agrees to manage or allow manure to be managed according to NRCS requirements for the duration of this agreement on \_\_\_\_\_ acres of his/her land located in \_\_\_\_\_ one quarter of \_\_\_\_\_ Section in \_\_\_\_\_ Township of \_\_\_\_\_ County.

Please attach a map with fields identified.

This manure spreading agreement is good until: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the recipient also receiving manure from another producer? \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Name of Manure Recipient</b> _____
<b>Address</b> _____
<b>City, State, Zip</b> _____
<b>Signature:</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____