

## 2003 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 requirements 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.

Component Codes: These are listed in the docket tables as “Comp. Codes.” They are to be used in contract processing and on the CCC-1245 form when requesting payments.

Where a practice references another practice for components, use the component codes of the referenced practice. For example, “Wildlife Upland Habitat Management” (645) references “Windbreak” (380) for costs and provisions associated with “Permanent Vegetated Cover – Trees and Shrubs.” If trees and shrubs were required in implementing Wildlife Upland Habitat Management, the component codes from Windbreak would be used for this component of Wildlife Upland Habitat Management on the CCC-1245 when requesting payment.

### Conservation Practice Payment Methods:

#### 1. Cost Share Payments

- a. **AM - Actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum cost:** Cost sharing is a percentage of the actual cost of implementing a practice, however the maximum cost that can be cost shared on is listed in the docket as the maximum cost. The maximum cost share rate is listed as a percentage in the docket. The cost share payment shall be the cost share rate applied to either the actual cost, or the maximum cost, whichever is less.

If the maximum cost for a practice was \$1000 and the cost share rate is 50%, then the maximum payment possible would be:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cost Share Rate} \times \text{Maximum Cost} &= \text{Maximum Payment} \\ .50 \times \$1,000 &= \$500. \end{aligned}$$

If the actual cost of implementing the practice was \$1200, only \$1,000 of this would be cost sharable and the payment would still equal \$500. On the other hand, if the actual cost of implementing the practice was \$800, the payment would be \$400, 50% of the actual cost of \$800.

For some structural practices, “cost estimate” is listed for the maximum cost in the docket. For these practices the maximum cost shall equal the cost estimate for implementing the practice as calculated by the planner. Since modification money is not guaranteed for covering cost estimate mistakes, **it is suggested that individuals with the appropriate job approval authority be involved in the preparation of cost estimates.**

**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, non-USDA funds. The total payment to the landowner shall not exceed the total cost of implementing the practice. Remember to consult other program rules for maximum payment and other limitations.

### Lifespans:

Practice lifespans listed in the docket list the minimum number of years that the producer shall maintain the practice.

### Docket Modifications:

Individual SWCDs and Areas 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 2003 EQIP contracts is a maximum of 50% of the actual cost of implementing the practice, 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 at the respective level (either SWCD or Area).
  - b. The State Conservationist must approve any contract with cost share greater than 50%.
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 \$100,000, must be approved by the Regional Conservationist.
5. Technical assistance through technical service providers (TSP) may be paid through EQIP contracts for FY 2003. Additional guidance will follow.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The minimum length of a contract is 1 year beyond the completion of the final practice. In Minnesota, this minimum will be followed except for the additional minimums listed below. All contracts with incentive payments will have a minimum contract length of 5 years. This includes the following practices: Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Contour Farming (330), Nutrient Management (590), Irrigation Water Management (449), Pest Management (595), Prescribed Burning (338), Prescribed Grazing (528A), Residue Management-No Till, Strip Till (329A), Residue Management – Mulch Till (329B), Residue Management – Ridge Till (329C), Residue Management – Seasonal (344), Stripcropping (585), and Use Exclusion (472),
2. An approved participant may choose to obtain the technical assistance required to implement their EQIP contract from **EITHER** USDA **OR** a registered and certified TSP. If the participant chooses to have USDA perform the technical assistance, non-USDA personnel through a public agency partner may provide parts of those services. If the participant chooses to hire a TSP to perform the technical assistance the maximum amount of USDA reimbursement for that assistance must be listed in the EQIP contract. All services provided by TSPs are done independently. Consultations or concurrence of USDA staff is not required. USDA does not guarantee payment of 100% of the technical assistance performed by a TSP if it exceeds the amount shown in the contract.
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 an adjoining state'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 Statute 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. However, practice eligibility and payments may be limited. Participants in other cost-share programs (i.e. RIM, CRP, PWP, WRP, Waterbank, or other easement lands) are not eligible for cost share payments for the same practices on the same land.
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. The amount to be cost shared will be limited to that required for the practice to be installed. When additional or alternative work or material is performed or used at the landowner's request, any costs greater than the minimum required for the practice will be borne by the producer.
9. 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.
10. Practices that cost share on seeding will include all associated costs needed to implement the seeding plan other than mulching. Mulching will be cost shared as a separate practice if required in the seeding plan.

11. 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.
12. **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. Prior year EQIP contract incentive payments do not disqualify a producer from receiving incentive payments in 2003 for the same practices. But, prior year incentive acreage does count towards the total acreage maximum for each practice. If the producer already received payments for nutrient management on 250 acres they would not be eligible for additional acres in 2003 for nutrient management.

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 CCR-328b 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 (not CCR-328b 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, separate and distinct decision-making.**
13. Materials – New materials must be utilized in the construction of practices, unless approved by the State Conservation Engineer. Authorization by the State Conservation Engineer must be granted PRIOR to implementation.

## **SPECIFIC PROVISIONS**

### **PRACTICE STANDARD 365 - ANAEROBIC DIGESTER AMBIENT TEMPERATURE**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Anaerobic Digester – Ambient Temperature	365	Ea.			FR		\$25,000 each	10 years

1. Cost share assistance is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem **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. Consult EQIP Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Requirements (**EQIP Docket Pages MN515-230 (34-37)**) for details. Review the requirements with applicants interested in a waste management facility.
2. When an Anaerobic Digester – Ambient Temperature (365) is required as a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), it is cost shared as a stand-alone practice.

### **PRACTICE STANDARD 366 – ANAEROBIC DIGESTER CONTROLLED TEMPERATURE**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Anaerobic Digester – Controlled Temperature	366	Ea.			FR		\$25,000 each	10 years

1. Cost share assistance is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem **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. Consult EQIP Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Requirements (**EQIP Docket Pages MN515-230 (34-37)**) for details. Review the requirements with applicants interested in a waste management facility.
2. When an Anaerobic Digester – Controlled Temperature (366) is required as a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), it is cost shared as a stand-alone practice.

### **PRACTICE STANDARD 709 – CLOSURE OF ABANDONED WASTE FACILITY**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Closure of Abandoned Waste Facility	709	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	\$5,000 each	15 years

1. Cost sharing is **NOT** authorized for the removal of manure from abandoned waste facilities.
2. If the Closure of Abandoned Waste Facility (709) is a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784) cost sharing is **NOT** authorized as a stand alone practice. The cost of Closure of Abandoned Waste Facility (709) will be included in the cost of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784).
3. Operator must agree to permanently abandon designated existing components of the operation, which contribute to the pollution problem.
4. 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.

## PRACTICE STANDARD 317 - COMPOSTING FACILITY

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Composting Facility	317	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	15 years

1. Cost sharing is authorized for manure or mortality 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.

## PRACTICE STANDARD 328 - CONSERVATION CROP ROTATION

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Conservation Crop Rotation	328a	Ac.	One time	\$20.00/ac.				1 year
Organic Conservation Crop Rotation	328b	Ac.	Annual	\$45.00/ac.				1 year

### Conservation Crop Rotation

1. 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 1 and General Provision 12.**
2. Payment is to be made upon implementation of the most conserving crop of the crop rotation.
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 both Conservation Crop Rotation (328a) and Pasture and Hayland Planting (512) 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 1 and General Provision 12.**
2. After 3 years, the participant must maintain this practice for the life of the contract, a minimum of 5 years. 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 future organic payments. 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 2 out of 5 years.**
4. Cost sharing is not authorized for both Organic Conservation Crop Rotation (328b) and Pasture and Hayland Planting (512) on the same acreage.
5. Participants are eligible for both "Organic Conservation Crop Rotation" incentive payment and other conservation practices used in the organic farming operation including residue management, cover crop, nutrient management, pest management, and similar practices. In order to be eligible for Organic Conservation Crop Rotation incentive payments, acreage and/or participants are required to schedule and implement Nutrient Management (590) and Pest Management (595) on the same acres.
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 (328b) Requirements for EQIP Contracts**" (EQIP Docket pages MN515-230 (47)) and "**2003 Contracts with Organic Incentive Payments**" (EQIP Docket pages MN515-230 (49)) for additional details.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 332 - CONTOUR BUFFER STRIPS**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Contour Buffer Strips	332	Ac.						10 years
Introduced Species	332a	Ac.			AM	50%	\$210/ac	
Native Species	332b	Ac.			AM	50%	\$300/ac	

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 Contour Stripcropping (585), and Contouring Farming (330) on acres where Contour Buffer Strips (332) are authorized and planned.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 330 - CONTOUR FARMING**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Contour Farming	330	Ac.	One time	\$7.00/ac.				1 year

1. Participants are eligible for a one-time establishment payment of \$7/acre.
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 Contour Stripcropping (585) and Contour Buffer Strips (332) on acres where Contour Farming (330) is authorized and planned.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 340 - COVER CROP**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Cover & Green Manure Crop	340	Ac.	Annual	\$8.00/ac.				1 year
Temporary Cover, Construction Sites	340a	Ac.	One time	\$40.00/ac.				

1. An annual incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$8/acre/year, up to 250 acres per year per operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 1 and General Provision 12.**
2. Cover crop seeding will be completed based on an approved cover crop seeding and management plan.
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.
  - b) 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.
  - c) 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.
  - d) The \$8/acre/year incentive payment for Cover Crop (340) and the \$40/acre Temporary Cover (340a) incentive payment **may not** be made on the same acres.
  - e) Payment is limited to those acres where a temporary cover crop is established according to an approved NRCS plan.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 342 - CRITICAL AREA PLANTING**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Critical Area Planting	342	Ac.						10 years
Shaping	342a	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	
Introduced Species	342b	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$210.00/ac.	
Native Species	342c	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$300.00/ac.	

1. Critical Area Planting (342) must be completed following an approved establishment and management plan.
2. Critical Area Planting - Shaping (342a) includes earthwork, grading, etc.
3. Critical Area Planting – Introduced Species (342b) or Critical Area Planting – Native Species (342c) may be used for site preparation, seed, seeding, fertilizer, chemicals, etc.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 589C - CROSS WIND TRAP STRIPS**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Cross Wind Trap Strips	589c	Ac.						5 years
Introduced Species	589c1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$210.00/ac	
Native Species	589c2	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$300.00/ac	

1. Cost sharing is authorized for establishing and managing perennial cover in the trap strip, based on an approved seeding plan.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 402 - DAM**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Dam	402	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	15 years

1. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 9.**

**PRACTICE STANDARD 362 – DIVERSION**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Diversion	362	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$3.50/ft	10 years

1. 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. Cost sharing for tile is limited to the sole purpose of eliminating spot seepage essential to the functioning of the diversion and the conveyance of the water to a safe outlet as determined by the technician. The landuser shall identify, in writing the purpose of the tile and indicate the area that it will serve. The difference in cost of installing tile larger than that specified by the technician will be borne by the producer.
2. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 9.**
3. If a Diversion (362) is a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), cost sharing is **NOT** authorized for the Diversion (362) as a stand-alone practice. The cost will be included in the cost of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 647 – EARLY SUCCESSIONAL HABITAT DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Early Successional Habitat Management and Development	647	Ac.						15 years
A. Brushland Mgt. and Browse Mgt.								
1. Chemical	647a1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$64.00/ac.	
2. Mechanical	647a2	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$90.00/ac.	
3. Chemical and Mechanical	647a3	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$108.00/ac.	
B. Wildlife Openings								
1. Chemical	647b1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$160.00/ac.	
2. Mechanical	647b2	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$290.00/ac.	
3. Chemical and Mechanical	647b3	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$370.00/ac.	

1. Wildlife Openings establishment costs includes site preparation, seed and seeding.
2. Prescribed burning is an eligible component if necessary for practice application. See Prescribed Burning (338) for cost share information. Cost sharing is only authorized on either Prescribed Burning (338) or Brushland Management and Browse Management (647b1, 647b2, or 647b3).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 752 - ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum, \$	
Assessment	752	One	One Time	\$100.00				5 years

1. The incentive payment is for conducting environmental assessments on the farm and farmstead using one or more of the following systems:
  - a. FARM\*A\*SYST
  - b. Minnesota Milk Producer’s EQA Assessment
  - c. National Pork Producers Council’s EAP
2. Payment is released AFTER the assessment has been completed and a copy submitted to the local NRCS office.
3. A specialist certified by the respective organization must complete the assessment.
4. This is a one time per producer payment over the course of the Farm Bill.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 771 – FABRICATED LIVESTOCK SHELTER**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Fabricated Livestock Shelter	771	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$1.00/linear foot	5 years

1. An engineering plan must be prepared for the structure.
2. Cost share for establishing shelters is limited to utilizing new materials.
3. Cost share is not authorized for shelters where the primary purpose is protection of livestock associated with a feedlot.
4. Cost share is only eligible for shelters used within a grazing scenario, and the adjacent and associated pasture acreage must be managed using a system, which meets the prescribed grazing standard.
5. Cost share is not authorized for removal of existing fence, clearing obstructions or removal of woody vegetation.
6. Cost share amounts listed include all appurtenances, including gates, materials and labor.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 382 - FENCE**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Fence – Non Property Line								20 years
Barbed Wire	382a	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$1.25/ft.	
Woven Wire	382b	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$1.40/ft.	
Permanent Power	382c	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$1.25/ft.	
Other Fences	382d	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$1.40/ft.	
Special Purpose Fencing	382e	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$5.00/ft.	
Fence – Property Line								
Barbed Wire	382f	Ft.			AM	25% of cost	\$1.25/ft.	
Woven Wire	382g	Ft.			AM	25% of cost	\$1.40/ft.	
Permanent Power	382h	Ft.			AM	25% of cost	\$1.25/ft.	
Other Fences	382i	Ft.			AM	25% of cost	\$1.40/ft.	
Solar Panels	382j	Ea.						

1. Cost share for establishing fencing is limited to permanent fences utilizing new materials.
2. Cost share is not authorized for removal of existing fence, clearing obstructions or removal of woody vegetation.
3. Cost share amounts listed include all appurtenances, including energizers on electric fences, gates, materials and labor.
4. Power sources are not eligible for cost sharing, **except** for solar panels where other power sources are impractical.
5. Cost share is authorized only for fences installed in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (528A) or Use Exclusion (472).
6. Cost share is **NOT** authorized for perimeter fences enclosing existing permanent pastures. Permanent pasture is defined as land used primarily for grazing livestock at least 4 years out of 7 years. Hay harvested from that land is incidental to managing the forage for grazing purposes and is not done on a regular basis.
7. Cost share is authorized for perimeter fence enclosing areas of cropland that have not been grazed as permanent pasture within the past 5 years
8. Fence – Property Line is defined as fence to be installed as a boundary between the participant’s land and land not owned by the participant.
9. Cost sharing is **only** authorized for Special Purpose Fencing (382e) when it is a method for clean water diversion in and around a feedlot.
10. If Special Purpose Fencing (382e) is a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), cost sharing is **NOT** authorized as a stand-alone practice. The cost of the Special Purpose Fencing (382e) will be included in the cost of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 386 - FIELD BORDER**

seeding plan.	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Field Border	386	Ac.						10 years
Introduced Species	386a	Ac.			AM	50%	\$210/ac	
Native Species	386b	Ac.			AM	50%	\$300/ac	

1. Cost sharing may be used for seeding, establishing, and managing the cover based on an approved

**PRACTICE STANDARD 393 - FILTER STRIP**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Filter Strip	393	Ac.						10 years
Introduced Species	393a	Ac.			AM	50%	\$210/ac	
Native Species	393b	Ac.			AM	50%	\$300/ac	
Earthwork	393c	Ac.			AM	50%	Cost Estimate	

1. Limited haying of the filter strip is allowed 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 subsidiary to Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784) and are not eligible for cost sharing under this practice standard.
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.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 395 - FISH STREAM IMPROVEMENT**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Fish Stream Improvement	395	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	15 years

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 655 - FOREST HARVEST TRAILS AND LANDINGS**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Flat Rate or Maximum Cost, \$	
Forest Harvest Trails and Landings	655	Ac.						5 years
Structural Erosion Control Measures	655a	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	

1. A detailed harvesting plan will be developed and implemented according to the practice standard.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 666 – FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Forest Improvement	666	Ac.						10 years
A. Thinning								
1. Hardwoods	666a1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$100.00/ac.	
2. Softwoods	666a2	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$150.00/ac.	
B. Release								
1. Mechanical	666b1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$100.00/ac.	
2. Chemical	666b2	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$108.00/ac.	
3. Chemical/Mechanical	666b3	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$174.00/ac.	
C. Control of Pests								
1. Mechanical	666c1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$88.00/ac.	
2. Chemical/Mechanical	666c2	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$154.00/ac.	
3. Softwoods – Bud Caps	666c3	Ac.			AM			
<i>On newly established plantings or established plantations with limited brush competition</i>					AM	50% of cost	\$0.08/tree or \$38.00/acre whichever is less	
4. Softwoods – Bud Caps	666c4	Ac.						
<i>On plantings with several species or with brush competition the height of the trees.</i>					AM	50% of cost	\$0.14/tree or \$60.00/acre whichever is less	
4. Animal Control Devices, Tree Shelters	666c5	Ea.			AM		\$4.00/each limited to 150 shelters/acre	

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 (666c3 and 666c4) are eligible for cost share assistance for up to 3 years.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 490 - FOREST SITE PREPARATION**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Forest Site Preparation								1 year
A. Chemical Site Preparation	490a	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$94.00/ac.	
B. Mechanical Site Preparation								
1. Light	490b1	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$68.00/ac.	
2. Heavy	490b2	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$154.00/ac.	
C. Chemical/Mechanical Site Preparation	490c	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$174.00/ac.	
D. Piling and burning drought, insect or disease killed trees	490d	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$134.00/ac.	
E. Prescribed Burning	490e	Ac.					See Narrative Below	

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. If prescribed burning (490e) is required as a component of Forest Site Preparation (490), use the cost share rates and guidance listed in Prescribed Burning (338).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 410 - GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost	
Grade Stabilization Structure	410	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	15 years

1. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 9.**

**PRACTICE STANDARD 412 - GRASSED WATERWAY**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost	
Grassed Waterway	412	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$3,700/ac	10 years
With fabric barriers	412a	Ac			AM	50% of cost	\$4,300/ac	

1. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 9.**
2. Cost is for earthwork and any seed and seeding expenses.
3. Fabric barriers must be spaced at 50 to 100 feet and must be 36 inches wide with 18 inches buried and 18 inches laying on the ground. Barriers must extend across the waterway to a depth of 0.7d or (d-0.5ft), whichever is greater where d is the design depth.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 561 - HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost	
Heavy Use Area Protection	561	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	10 years

1. Cost sharing for Heavy Use Area Protection (561) is only authorized as a component of Prescribed Grazing (528A).
2. Cost share is not authorized for protecting facilities within the farmstead.
3. 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 soil areas.
4. The maximum cost estimate for Heavy Use Area Protection (561) is \$1000 per site to be treated.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 422 - HEDGEROW PLANTING**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Hedgerow Planting		Ft.						15 years
A. Site Preparation								
1. Tree Removal	422a1	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$1,000.00/ac.	
2. Tree/Shrub - Chemical/Mechanical	422a2	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$153.00/ac.	
3. Tree/Shrub – Chemical	422a3	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$94.00/ac.	
4. Tree/Shrub – Mechanical	422a4	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$68.00/ac.	
B. Tree & Shrub Planting								
1. Bared root trees & shrubs	422b1	100 trees			AM	50% of Cost	\$140.00/hundred trees	
2. Container Conifers	422b2	Ea.			AM	50% of Cost	\$7.00/each	
C. Weed Control								
1. Mechanical	422c1	100 ft.			AM	50% of Cost	\$7.20/hundred feet of row	
2. Chemical	422c2	100 ft.			AM	50% of Cost	\$2.40/hundred feet of row	
3. Tree Mats, Roll	422c3	100 ft.			AM	50% of Cost	\$40.00/hundred feet	
4. Tree Mats, Square	422c4	Ea.			AM	50% of Cost	\$1.00/each	
D. Animal Control Devices	422d	Ea.			AM	50% of Cost	\$4.00/each	

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 up to 3 times per year. The maximum cost listed (\$7.20) is the maximum cost per year, not per cultivation.
3. Cost sharing for chemical weed control is authorized for one application per year.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 422A - HERBACEOUS WIND BARRIERS**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Herbaceous Wind Barriers	422A	Ac.			FR		\$6.00/ac	5 years

1. Cost sharing is authorized to establish barriers based on an approved seeding plan for up to 600 acres per operation. Acres protected will be the unit that will eligible for payment.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 449 - IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Irrigation Water Mgt.	449	Ac.	Annual	\$2.25/ac				1 year

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 1 and General Provision 12.** Consult **“Irrigation Water Management Requirements for EQIP Contracts” (EQIP Docket page MN515-230 (40))** 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. After the 3 years of incentive payments, Irrigation Water Management (449) must be maintained at the full implementation level for the remainder of the 5-year EQIP contract.
4. Phased-in implementation will result in all scheduled acres receiving full implementation of the practice by the end of the contract period.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 468 - LINED WATERWAY OR OUTLET**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Lined Waterway or Outlet	468	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	Cost Estimate	15 years

1. Upland Treatment is required. See **General Provision 9**.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 484 - MULCHING**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Mulching								1 year
Blanket Mulch	484a	Sq.yd.			AM	50% of Cost	\$1.67/sq.yd.	
Mulch and Crimp	484b	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$250.00/ac	
Mulch and Netting	484c	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$800.00/ac	

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**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Nutrient Management								1 year
Without Manure	590a	Ac.	Annual	\$2.25/ac				
With Manure	590b	Ac.	Annual	\$4.00/ac				

1. An incentive payment of **EITHER** \$2.25/acre/yr for Nutrient Management (590) without manure **OR** \$4.00/acre/yr for Nutrient Management (590) with Manure is authorized on **CROPLAND** acres for up to 250 acres per year, per operation, not to exceed 3 years. See **General Provision 1 and General Provision 12**.
2. 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 MN515-230 (31-33)**) for additional details. **Review these requirements with participants interested in Nutrient Management (590) and append them to contracts containing Nutrient Management (590).**
3. Nutrient Management (590) with or without manure incentive payments are **not authorized for acres where incentive payments are being provided for Prescribed Grazing – Organic Prescribed Grazing (528A).**
4. Nutrient Management with manure (590b) 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.
5. 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.
6. The nutrient management plan, as part of an EQIP contract, will address all lands where 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 the nitrogen needs of the crop as determined by nutrient budgeting or rates based on P205 removal. It will be the applicant’s responsibility to insure implementation of nutrient management plans on lands not under an EQIP contract.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 582 - OPEN CHANNEL**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Open Channel	582	Ft.			AM	50% of Cost	Cost estimate	15 years

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 512 - PASTURE AND HAYLAND PLANTING**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Pasture and Hayland Planting								10 years
Introduced Species	512a	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$210.00/ac.	
Introduced Species with Lime	512b	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$335.00/ac.	
Native Species	512c	Ac.			AM	50% of Cost	\$300.00/ac.	

1. Eligible plantings will be based on both:
  - a) An approved seeding plan and,
  - b) A detailed pasture or hayland management 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 Hayland Planting (512) and Conservation Crop Rotation (328) on the same acreage.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 595 - PEST MANAGEMENT**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Pest Management	595	Ac.	Annual	\$1.00/ac.				1 year

1. An incentive payment is authorized on eligible **CROPLAND** acres at \$1.00/acre/yr, for up to 250 acres per year per operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 1 and General Provision 12.**
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 2003 (EQIP Docket pages MN515-230 (38-39)). **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.
4. Pest Management (595) incentive payments are **not authorized for acres where incentive payments are being provided for Prescribed Grazing – Organic Prescribed Grazing (528A).**

**PRACTICE STANDARD 516 - PIPELINE**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Pipeline	516	Ft.			AM	50% of Cost	Cost Estimate	20 years

1. Cost sharing is authorized when required as a component of a Prescribed Grazing System (528A).
2. Cost sharing is authorized for permanently installed pumps required as an integral part of a system for providing stock water.
3. Cost sharing is not authorized for power sources, **except** for solar panels where other power sources are impractical.
4. Cost sharing is not authorized when the pipeline will be used for any part of a human domestic water supply.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 378 - POND**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Pond	378	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	20 years

1. A pond is defined as a livestock watering facility.
2. Excavation or embankment must be located entirely outside the boundary of any wetland.
3. Cost share is authorized when required as a component of a Prescribed Grazing System (528A).
4. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 9.**

**PRACTICE STANDARD 338 - PRESCRIBED BURNING**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Prescribed Burning								5 years
less than 10 acres	338a	Ac.	One Time	\$35.00/ac.				
10 – 20 acres	338b	Ac.	One Time	\$25.00/ac				
Greater than 20	338c	Ac.	One Time	\$20.00/ac				

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 and certified TSP to prepare burning plans.
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 is entirely the landowners expense.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 528A - PRESCRIBED GRAZING**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Prescribed Grazing	528A	Ac.	annual	\$5.00/ac.				5 years
Organic Prescribed Grazing	528A1	Ac.	annual	\$25.00/ac				5 years

**Prescribed Grazing**

1. An incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$5/acre/yr, for up to 250 acres per year, per operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 1 and General Provision 12 and Prescribed Grazing Requirements for EQIP Contracts (EQIP Docket pages MN515-230 (41-46))** for additional details.
2. A detailed pasture management plan is required.
3. Prescribed Grazing (528A) is not authorized for operations with less than 10 animal units (One animal unit = 1000 pounds).
4. Prescribed Grazing (528A) is only eligible for permanent pasture (not hayland or cropland that is intermittently grazed).

**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 \$25 per acre per year, up to 250 acres per year, per operation not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 1 and General Provision 12.**
2. Participants receiving Prescribed Grazing Incentive Payments (528A1) are not eligible for the Organic Prescribed Grazing Incentive Payments (528A1). However, participants applying for the Organic Prescribed Grazing incentive must follow the Prescribed Grazing (528A) standard on all acres where the incentive payment is being requested. **Prescribed Grazing Requirements for EQIP Contracts (EQIP Docket pages MN515-230 (41-46)).**
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 Hayland Planting (512), Fence (382), and other similar practices. However, they are not eligible for incentive payments for Nutrient Management (590) and Pest Management (595). **Consult “2003 Contracts with Organic Incentive Payments,” dated March 2003 (EQIP Docket pages MN515-230 (48)).**
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 329A - RESIDUE MANAGEMENT - NO TILL, STRIP TILL**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Residue Management - No Till, Strip Till	329a	Ac.	annual	\$15.00/ac.				1 year

1. An incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$15/acre/yr, for up to 250 acres per year, per operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 1 and General Provision 12.**
2. Tillage operations prior to planting are not permitted.
3. A tillage plan is required that results in a minimum of 30% surface residue after planting.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 329B - RESIDUE MANAGEMENT - MULCH TILL**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Residue Management - Mulch Till	329b	Ac.	annual	\$7.00/ac.				1 year

1. An incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$7/acre/yr, for up to 250 acres per year, per Operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 1 and General Provision 12.**
2. A tillage plan is required that results in a minimum of 30% surface residue after planting.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 329C - RESIDUE MANAGEMENT - RIDGE TILL**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Residue Management - Ridge Till	329c	Ac.	annual	\$15.00/ac.				1 year

1. An incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$15/acre/yr, for up to 250 acres per year, per Operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 1 and General Provision 12.**
2. A tillage plan is required that results in a minimum of 30% surface residue after planting.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 344 – RESIDUE MANAGEMENT - SEASONAL**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Residue Management – Seasonal	344	Ac.	annual	\$3.50/ac.				1 year

1. An incentive payment is authorized on eligible acres at \$3.50/acre/year, up to 250 acres per year, per Operation, not to exceed 3 years. **See General Provision 1 and General Provision 12.**
2. Eligible acres for this practice are limited to those fields that include this practice as a component of management plan for controlling wind erosion.
3. A tillage plan is required.
4. Cost sharing is not approved for Residue Management (329) and Crop Residue Use (344) on the same acres.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 643 – RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DECLINING HABITATS**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Restoration of Declining Habitats	643	Ac.						15 years
a. Tall Grass Prairie	643a	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$400.00/ac.	
b. Oak Savanna	643b	Ac.				See narrative for cost share information		
c. Red/White Pine	643c	Ac.						

1. Cost sharing is authorized for establishment and management. Establishment of Oak Savanna (643b) and Red/White Pine (643c) shall follow the costs and provisions of Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).
2. Establishment may consist of one of the following options on the same acreage: 1)Tallgrass Prairie, 2)Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna, or 3)Red/White Pine.
3. Establishment costs include site preparation, seed and seeding, and weed control (mowing, clipping, or prescribed burning) for up to 24 months following planting of the vegetation.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 391 – RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Forest Buffer								15 years
Establishment	391	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	See narrative below	

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).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 558 - ROOF RUNOFF MANAGEMENT**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Roof Runoff Management	558	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	15 years

1. If Roof Runoff Management (558) is a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), cost sharing is **NOT** authorized as a stand-alone practice. The cost of Roof Runoff Management (558) will be included in the cost of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 350 - SEDIMENT BASIN**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Sediment Basin	350	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	20 years

1. Upland Treatment is required. See **General Provision 9**.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 725 - SINKHOLE TREATMENT**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Sinkhole Treatment	725	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	10 years

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 574 - SPRING DEVELOPMENT**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Spring Development	574	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	10 years

1. Cost sharing is authorized when required as a component of a Prescribed Grazing System (528A).
2. All Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations pertaining to wetlands must be followed.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 584 - STREAM CHANNEL STABILIZATION**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Stream Channel Stabilization	584	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	10 years

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 580 - STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	20 years

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 585 - STRIPCROPPING**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Stripcropping	585	Ac.						5 years
Contour	585a	Ac.	One Time	\$15.00/ac.				
Field	585b	Ac.	One Time	\$7.00/ac.				
Cross Wind	585c	Ac.	One Time	\$10.00/ac.				

1. Participants are eligible for a one-time establishment payment of \$15/acre on those field acres established to contour stripcropping (585a), \$7.00/acre to establish field stripcropping (585b), OR \$10.00/acre to establish cross wind stripcropping (585c).
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**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Structure for Water Control	587	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	\$3,500 each	20 years

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 606 – SUBSURFACE DRAIN**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Subsurface Drainage	606	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$1.60/ft.	10 years

1. Practice may only be used as a component of Grassed Waterway (412).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 600 - TERRACE**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Terrace	600	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$5.00/ft.	10 years

1. 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. Cost sharing for tile is limited to the sole purpose of eliminating spot seepage essential to the functioning of the terrace system and the conveyance of the water to a safe outlet as determined by the technician. The landuser shall identify, in writing the purpose of the larger tile and indicate the area that it will serve. The difference in cost of installing tile larger than that specified by the technician will be borne by the producer.
2. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 9.**

**PRACTICE STANDARD 612 – TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT**

	Comp. Code	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share		Lifespan	
			Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate		Maximum Cost, \$
Tree/Shrub Establishment		Ac.					15 years	
<b>A. Hardwoods</b>								
A. Hand Planting		Ac.						
1. Grass or CRP	612a1				AM	50% of cost	\$630.00/acre	
2. Bare Ground or Agricultural Production	612a2				AM	50% of cost	\$528.00/acre	
3. Difficult Sites	612a3				AM	50% of cost	\$704.00/acre	
B. Machine Planting								
1. Grass or CRP	612a4				AM	50% of cost	\$406.00/acre	
2. Bare Ground or Agricultural Production	612a5			AM	50% of cost	\$326.00/acre		
3. Difficult Sites	612a6			AM	50% of cost	\$460.00/acre		
<b>B. Conifers</b>								
A. Hand Planting		Ac.						
1. Grass or CRP	612b1				AM	50% of cost	\$444.00/acre	
2. Bare Ground or Agricultural Production	612b2				AM	50% of cost	\$364.00/acre	
3. Difficult Sites	612b3				AM	50% of cost	\$498.00/acre	
B. Machine Planting								
1. Grass or CRP	612b4				AM	50% of cost	\$354.00/acre	
2. Bare Ground or Agricultural Production	612b5			AM	50% of cost	\$274.00/acre		
3. Difficult Sites	612b6			AM	50% of cost	\$408.00/acre		
<b>C. Transplants/ Containers/Shrubs</b>								
A. Hand Planting		Ac.						
1. Grass or CRP	612c1				AM	50% of cost	\$582.00/acre	
2. Bare Ground or Agricultural Production	612c2				AM	50% of cost	\$502.00/acre	
3. Difficult Sites	612c3				AM	50% of cost	\$636.00/acre	
B. Machine Planting								
1. Grass or CRP	612c4				AM	50% of cost	\$492.00/acre	
2. Bare Ground or Agricultural production	612c5			AM	50% of cost	\$412.00/acre		
3. Difficult Sites	612c6			AM	50% of cost	\$546.00/acre		
<b>D. Direct Seeding – all methods</b>								
1. Grass or CRP	612d1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$492.00/acre	
2. Bare Ground or Agricultural Production	612d2				AM	50% of cost	\$500.00/acre	
3. Difficult Sites	612d3				AM	50% of cost	\$554.00/acre	
<b>E. Short Rotation – all methods</b>								
1. Grass or CRP	612e1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$264.00/acre	
2. Bare Ground or Agricultural production	612e2				AM	50% of cost	\$220.00/acre	
<b>F. Seeding</b>								
1. Aerial	612f1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$34.00/acre	
2. Cyclone	612f2				AM	50% of cost	\$60.00/acre	
3. Hand or Hot cap	612f3				AM	50% of cost	\$80.00/acre	

	Comp Code	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
			Type	Amount \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost	
<b>G. Animal Damage Control Devices</b>								
1. Hardwoods	612g1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$4.00/each	
2. Softwoods- bud caps	612g2	Ac.					\$0.08/tree or \$38.00/acre whichever is less.	
On newly established plantings or established plantations with limited brush competition.					AM	50% of cost		
3. Softwoods- bud caps	612g3	Ac.					\$0.14/tree or \$60.00/acre whichever is less.	
On plantings with several species or with brush competition the height of the trees					AM	50% of cost		
<b>H. Weed Control</b>								
1. Mechanical	612h1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$100.00/acre	
2. Chemical	612h2	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$108.00/acre	
3. Mechanical / Chemical	612h3	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$174.00/acre	

1. Planting costs includes cost of seedlings and planting. For site preparation, see Forest Site Preparation (490), except for Direct Seeding (612d), which includes site preparation, seed, and seeding, and Short Rotation Intensive Culture or Wood Farming 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. Difficult sites include those where the site contains trees greater the 12 inches in diameter, the slope exceeds 12% or the area contains downed material over 8 inches in diameter.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 620 - UNDERGROUND OUTLET**

	Comp. Code	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
			Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Underground Outlet	620	Ft.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	20 years

1. If an Underground Outlet (620) is a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), cost sharing is **NOT** authorized as a stand-alone practice. The cost for the Underground Outlet (620) will be included in the cost of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 645 - UPLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Wildlife Upland Habitat Management	645	Ac.						10 year
A. Permanent Veg. Cover-grasses, legumes and forbs.								
1. Introduced grasses and legumes with lime.	645a1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$250.00/ac.	
2. Introduced grasses and legumes without lime	645a2	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$125.00/ac.	
3. Native grasses	645a3	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$210.00/ac.	
4. Native grasses and forbs	645a4	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$260.00/ac.	
B. Permanent Veg. Cover - Trees & Shrubs					AM	See narrative for cost share information		

1. Cost sharing is authorized for establishment and management. This practice applies to tree/shrub plantings on sites less than or equal to 10 acres per contract. Tree/shrub plantings greater than 10 acres per contract will be planned and cost shared in accordance with Tree/shrub Establishment (612).
2. Cost sharing for the establishment of “Permanent Vegetative Cover – Tree and Shrubs” shall follow the costs and provisions of Windbreak (380).
3. 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.
4. 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).
5. Practices will be protected from mowing, grazing, and uncontrolled fire for the duration of the contract unless specifically identified in the management plan.
6. Cost sharing is only authorized when a Wildlife Management Plan has been developed that identifies the species being addressed and needed practices.
7. Unit cost include seedbed preparation, seeding, seed, fertilizer, lime, herbicide, and establishment clipping (up to 5 times during the first 24 months).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 472 - USE EXCLUSION**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Use Exclusion								10 years
Riparian Areas	472a	Ac.	Annual	\$15.00/ac.				
Specialty Crops	472b	Ac.	Annual	\$175.00/ac.				
Other Crops	472c	Ac.	Annual	\$75.00/ac.				

1. An incentive payment is authorized for Use Exclusion (472) not to exceed 3 years on up to 250 acres per year per operation.
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 grazing, haying and other forage removal practices as described in a management plan for the area.
3. For 472a:
  - 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 (472b) and Use Exclusion – Other Crops (472c) as a component of Filter Strips (393), Field Borders (386), Contour Buffer Strips (332), or Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C).
5. For Use Exclusion – Specialty Crop (472b), specialty crops include vegetables, sugarbeets, potatoes, dry edible beans, dry peas, and lentils.
6. Cost sharing for Use Exclusion – Specialty Crop (472b) is only authorized on acres where specialty crops were in the rotation 1 out of the last 3 years.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 601 – VEGETATIVE BARRIER**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Vegetative Barrier	601	Ft.						10 years
Introduced Species	601a	Ac.			AM	50%	\$210/ac	
Native Species	601b	Ac.			AM	50%	\$300/ac	

1. Cost sharing may be used for seeding, establishing, and managing the cover based on an approved seeding plan.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 367 – WASTE FACILITY COVER**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Waste Facility Cover	367	No.			AM	50%	\$0.75/sq ft	10 years

1. Cost share assistance is limited to where the implementation of this practice will correct an existing pollution problem **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. Consult EQIP Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Requirements (**EQIP Docket Pages MN515-230 (34-37)**) for details. Review the requirements with applicants interested in a waste management facility.
2. When a Waste Facility Cover (367) is required as a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), it is cost shared as a stand-alone practice.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 784 – WASTEWATER AND FEEDLOT RUNOFF CONTROL**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost	
Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control	784	No.						10 years
Level 1- Total Runoff Control	784a							
Waste Storage Pond, No Liner	784a1	CuFt			AM	50% of cost	\$0.50/CuFt	
Waste Storage Pond, Soil Liner	784a2	CuFt			AM	50% of cost	\$0.60/CuFt	
Waste Storage Pond, Membrane Liner	784a3	CuFt			AM	50% of cost	\$0.80/CuFt	
Concrete or Metal Tanks	784a4	CuFt			AM	50% of cost	\$1.50/CuFt	
Stacking Slab	784a5	CuFt			AM	50% of cost	\$1.70/CuFt	
Roof Structures	784a6	AU under Roof			AM	50% of cost	\$200/AU under roof	
<i>For Level 1 Control, if a perimeter tile is needed for water table control, add \$10,000 to the maximum cost.</i>								
<i>For Level 1 Control, if the Karst rules apply, increase maximum cost by 25% excluding water table control costs.</i>								
<b>Level 2 Control</b>								
Vegetated Infiltration Area	784b1	AU			AM	50% of cost	\$80/AU	
<b>Level 3 Control</b>								
Controlled Discharge Vegetative Treatment Area	784c1	AU			AM	50% of cost	\$100/AU	
<b>Level 4 Control</b>								
Vegetated Treatment Area	784d1	AU			AM	50% of cost	\$50/AU	
<b>Level 5 Control</b>								
Vegetated Buffer	784e1	AU			AM	50% of cost	\$35/AU	

1. For Level 1, the unit is cubic feet which is the designed storage volume, refer to Practice Standard 313, Waste Storage Facility. As outlined in Practice Standard 313, the maximum design storage period is 14 months.
2. An animal unit (AU) is defined as 1,000 pounds equivalent live weight. Total AUs 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 **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. MPCA’s definition is used to define a pollution problem. Consult EQIP Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Requirements (**EQIP Docket Pages MN515-230 (34-37)**) for details. Review the requirements with applicants interested in a waste management facility.
4. The ability for the NRCS to provide technical assistance for design of Waste Management Systems is not guaranteed and is subject to workload priorities. Use of a private consulting engineer is an option that may need to be utilized in high workload areas.
5. Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784) includes storage and treatment facilities and all appurtenant structures, as well as, components used for the transfer of waste to storage or treatment facilities. Waste refers to raw manure and urine; runoff water contaminated through contact with manure and urine; milking center wastewater; and silage leachate as appropriate.

6. Silage storage facilities are not eligible components of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784). Cost sharing for components addressing silage leachate concerns under Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784) start at the edge of the silage storage facility.
7. Components of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control include, but are not limited to, the following: debris basins, diversions, feedlot special purpose fencing, pond sealing or lining, roof runoff management, storage structures, treatment lagoons, wastewater treatment strips, waste transfer, stacking slab, and closure of abandoned waste facility. **If required as a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), these practices will NOT be cost shared separately.**
8. If the natural resource concern relates to groundwater contamination due to the feedlot, Level 1 Total Runoff Control will be required, except for waste storage pond – no liner (784a1).
9. Cost sharing is eligible for operations expanding in conjunction with the implementation of a Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control, but is limited to the cost share for the waste management system required for a 25% increase in the number of animal units at the site.
10. Cost sharing is authorized for Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784) components (i.e., tanks) that serve as foundations for buildings.
11. 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 of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784) and must reach Level 1 Total Runoff Control (784a), Level 2 Control (784b), or Level 3 Control (784c).
  - c. Existing location is to be abandoned in an environmentally safe manner as outlined in MPCA guidelines.
  - d. Operator must agree to permanently abandon designated existing components of the operation, which contribute to the pollution problem.
  - 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.
  - f. Cost sharing is authorized for the environmentally safe abandonment of the existing site, including items such as fence removal, Closure of Abandoned Waste Facility (709), seeding, etc. Removal of manure from storage facilities at the existing site is not authorized for cost sharing.
12. Cost sharing is not authorized for partial systems.
13. Cost sharing is not authorized for production oriented components such as buildings.
14. Cost sharing for Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784) on operations 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 facility 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. Farm B would be considered a new facility and would not be eligible for cost sharing assistance.
15. Roof Structures:
  - a. Cost sharing is authorized for roof structures over feedlots for the purpose of eliminating precipitation on the feedlot when it is the most practical and feasible solution.
  - b. The NRCS will not provide technical assistance on Roof Structures. A registered professional engineer must provide technical assistance.
  - c. 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 as meeting the design requirements of ASAE EP288.5, Agricultural Building Snow and Wind Loads.
    - ii) The roof structure design is approved by a registered professional engineer as meeting the design requirements of ASAE EP288.5, Agricultural Building Snow and Wind Loads and the construction is performed by a crew representing the roof's manufacturer. The manufacturer shall provide a 10-year labor and material warranty on the roof structure.
  - d. Cost sharing is not authorized for roof structures when the roof structure is a component of a planned waste management system that will also consist of a new or modified waste storage pond unless drainage conditions make routing of the feedlot runoff to the pond impractical.

- e. Cost sharing is not authorized for surfaced floors or walls. Cost sharing is authorized for a one-foot curb when needed.
- 16. Cost sharing is not authorized for Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784) 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.
- 17. The state conservationist must authorize cost sharing for systems involving agricultural waste generated off-site.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 638 - WATER AND SEDIMENT CONTROL BASIN**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Water and Sediment Control Basin	638	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	\$4,000 each	10 years

1. 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. Cost sharing for tile is limited to the sole purpose of eliminating spot seepage essential to the functioning of the basin and the conveyance of the water to a safe outlet as determined by the technician. The landuser shall identify, in writing the purpose of the larger tile and indicate the area that it will serve. The difference in cost of installing tile larger than that specified by the technician will be borne by the producer.
2. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 9.**
3. If a Water and Sediment Control Basin (638) is a component of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784), cost sharing is **NOT** authorized as a stand-alone practice. The cost of the Water and Sediment Control Basin (638) will be included in the cost of Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control (784).

**PRACTICE STANDARD 614 – WATERING FACILITY**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Watering Facility	614	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	Cost Estimate	10 years
Frost-Free Watering Facility	614a	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	\$800 each	10 years

1. Cost sharing is authorized when required as a component of a Prescribed Grazing System (528A).
2. Cost sharing is authorized for permanently installed pumps required as an integral part of a system for providing stock water.
3. Cost sharing is not authorized for power sources.
4. Cost sharing is not authorized for Watering Facilities within the area of the farmstead.
5. 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.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 642 - WELL**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Well	642	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	\$3,400 each	20 years

1. Cost sharing is authorized when required for providing stock water as a component of Prescribed Grazing (528A).
2. Cost sharing is not authorized for supplying power to the well or for the power source.
3. Cost sharing is not authorized for dry wells.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 351 - WELL DECOMMISSIONING**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Well Decommissioning	351	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	\$2,000 each	20 years

1. No special provisions.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 657 - WETLAND RESTORATION**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Wetland Restoration	657	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$533.00/ac	15 years

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, seed and seeding, and other associated costs.
4. Upland Treatment is required. **See General Provision 9.**

**PRACTICE STANDARD 380 – WINDBREAK**

	Comp.	Unit	Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code		Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Windbreak	380	Ft.						15 years
A. Site Preparation								
1. Tree Removal	380a1	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$1,000.00/ac.	
2. Tree/Shrub – Chemical/Mechanical	380a2	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$153.00/ac.	
3. Tree/Shrub – Chemical	380a3	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$94.00/ac.	
4. Tree/Shrub – Mechanical	380a4	Ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$68.00/ac.	
B. Tree & Shrub Planting								
1. Bared root trees & shrubs	380b1	100 trees			AM	50% of cost	\$140.00/hundred trees	
4. Container Conifers	380b2	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	\$7.00/each	
C. Weed Control								
1. Mechanical	380c1	100 ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$7.20/hundred feet of row	
2. Chemical	380c2	100 ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$2.40/hundred feet of row	
3. Tree Mats, Roll	380c3	100 ft.			AM	50% of cost	\$40.00/hundred feet	
4. Tree Mats, Square	380c4	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	\$1.00/each	
D. Animal Control Devices	380d	Ea.			AM	50% of cost	\$4.00/each	

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 up to 3 times per year. The maximum cost listed (\$7.20) is the maximum cost per year, not per cultivation.
3. Cost sharing for chemical weed control is authorized for one application per year.

**PRACTICE STANDARD 650 - WINDBREAK/SHELTERBELT RENOVATION**

	Comp.		Incentive Payment		Cost Share			Lifespan
	Code	Unit	Type	Amount, \$	Method	Rate	Maximum Cost, \$	
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650	ac.			AM	50% of cost	\$1000.00/ac	15 years

1. No special provision

**Nutrient Management Requirements for EQIP Contracts**

**Implement items 1 through 22 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> Year of Scheduled Nutrient Management for Multi-Year Contracts**

- 1) Develop a 1<sup>st</sup> year plan using NRCS job sheet 590b (Docket Page MN515-230 (33)) **PRIOR** to any planned fall-fertilizer or fall/winter manure applications. Develop a 1<sup>st</sup> year plan by **MARCH 1** for spring or summer applications.
- 2) Develop realistic yield goals by taking yields for the last five years, dropping the lowest yield, and averaging the four remaining yields.
- 3) Sample soils for, at a minimum, pH, organic matter (O.M.), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). 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, addressing these parameters are acceptable if they were analyzed at a certified lab. 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.
- 5) Apply manure uniformly and calibrate manure application equipment **at time of application**. Determine and record rates applied to fields.
- 6) Do not apply manure on in-field grassed waterways (unless a variance is granted).
- 7) 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.
- 8) Keep field specific records of crops, yields, and commercial fertilizer and manure applications (including rates, timing, nutrient content, and method of application and incorporation).
- 9) Prior to **AUGUST 1**, gather and submit additional information needed to develop a detailed nutrient management plan. This information is shown on NRCS forms MN-CPA 40, 41, 42, and 43.
- 10) Prior to **AUGUST 1**, certify on NRCS job sheet 590b, that scheduled activities have been completed.

## Remaining Years of Nutrient Management

Follow the above provisions 2 through 5, as appropriate, and 6 through 8.

- 11) Prior to or by **AUGUST 1** submit a completed NRCS form MN-CPA 41 if NRCS is helping with plan development and fall applications are being considered. Submit this information by **DECEMBER 1** if only spring applications are planned and NRCS is helping with plan development.
- 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) 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.
- 15) 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.
- 16) Do not fall apply commercial N fertilizer on sensitive sites in southeastern Minnesota.
- 17) Use sidedress or split applications of commercial N fertilizer on irrigated crops.
- 18) Maintain a minimum separation of 15 inches between bottom of incorporated or injected manure and fractured bedrock or high water table.
- 19) 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.
- 20) Inject or incorporate manure within 24 hours upslope from and within 300 feet of surface tile intakes.
- 21) Do not apply solid or liquid manure on frozen or snow-covered ground on fields with sheet and rill soil losses greater than 4 tons/acre/year or 2 tons/acre/year respectively.
- 22) Prior to **AUGUST 1** certify that planned activities have been completed. NRCS form MN-CPA-046 can be used for certification.

March 2003

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

Producer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Plan Date \_\_\_\_\_

	Scheduled Date:	Assisted By:	Completed Date:
1. Calculate realistic yield goals by:			
2. Complete soil sampling and analysis by:			
3. Complete manure sampling and analysis of Total N, P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> and K <sub>2</sub> O by:			
4. Calibrate applicators by:			
5. Apply manure uniformly and do not apply within 25 feet of surface waters.			
6. Do not apply manure on in-field grassed waterways (unless a variance is granted).			
7. 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.			
8. 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>			
9. Begin keeping field specific records by:			
10. Complete farm inventory and submit information on NRCS forms MN-CPA 40, 41, 42, and 43 by <b>AUGUST 1</b> .			

Producer Signature (indicates the plan has been followed): \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## EQIP COMPREHENSIVE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (CNMP) REQUIREMENTS

- Participants receiving USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for waste storage are required to develop and implement a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).
- A CNMP addresses handling, storage and land application of manure and wastewater; mortality disposal; silage leachate runoff control if required by law; 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. However animal mortality or silage leachate management systems can be phased in under subsequent EQIP contracts.

**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
- Current operation and maintenance activities for all livestock production system components
- Silage leachate problems identified by regulatory agencies
- Mortality disposal techniques

✓ **Plans include:**

- Collection, storage, transfer and/or treatment systems and equipment needed to eliminate identified 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 attached fact sheet and checklist.

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

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## Nutrient Management Requirements of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)

- Participants with EQIP contracts addressing waste storage structures must fully implement a nutrient management plan by the last year of the EQIP contract.
- Implementation can be phased in over time on multi-year contracts.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Nutrient Management (Baseline Plan)

1. Develop realistic yield goals (average the latest five year's yields after dropping the lowest yielding year).
2. Sample soils for, at a minimum, pH, organic matter (O.M.), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) and have the samples analyzed at a soil-testing lab certified by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Existing soil tests no older than 3-4 years addressing these parameters are acceptable if from certified labs (nitrate tests are collected annually however).
3. Collect manure samples each time a storage structure is emptied for application and have analyzed for Total N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O using procedures and laboratories recommended by MDA.
4. Apply manure uniformly and calibrate manure application equipment **at time of application**. Determine and record rates applied to fields.
5. Do not apply manure on in-field grassed waterways (unless a variance is granted).
6. Follow all state laws regarding manure applications and manure applications near sensitive features. These requirements include:
  - a. Determining manure application rates based on crop nitrogen nutrient budgeting on most fields including fields adjacent to surface waters if those fields have filter strips.
  - b. Determining manure application rates based on crop P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> removal rates on fields without filter strips adjacent to surface waters if those fields have Soil Test Phosphorus levels of over 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 succeeding crops have removed excess P.
  - c. No applications in road ditches or within 25 feet of lakes, perennial and intermittent streams, off-field drainage ditches and public water wetlands. No traveling gun or center pivot manure applications within 300 feet of these features. No wintertime applications within 300 feet of these features and injection or incorporation within 24 hours at other times of the year if filter strips are not present on the field.
  - d. No applications within 50 feet of water supply wells, mines, quarries, sinkholes receiving surface runoff, or other direct conduits to groundwater. **Inject or incorporate** manure applications within 24 hours on land upslope from and within 300 feet of these features.
7. Keep field specific records of crops, yields, and commercial fertilizer and manure applications (including rates, timing, nutrient content and method of application and incorporation).

**Subsequent and Final Year Nutrient Management (Annual Plan)**

Follow items 5 through 7 above and, as appropriate, 1 through 4.

8. If NRCS is helping with plan development submit completed NRCS forms MN-CPA 40, 41, 42, and 43 by **AUGUST 1** if fall applications are being considered or by **DECEMBER 1** if only spring applications are planned.
9. Control ephemeral gully erosion and sheet, rill, and wind erosion to 6 tons/acre/year or less on all land receiving manure applications.
10. Determine crop N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O nutrient needs using nutrient budgeting procedures (accounts for all sources of nutrients available to plants) and 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).
11. On soils classified by NRCS as “Frequently” flooded (floods 50-100 times in 100 years):
  - a. Do not apply manure during usual peak flood periods.
  - b. Inject or incorporate within 2 days when applying at other times.
12. Do not fall apply commercial N fertilizer on:
  - a. Soils in the textural classes of loamy sand and sand. Sidedress or split applications of commercial nitrogen fertilizer are preferred on these soils.
  - b. Sensitive sites in southeastern Minnesota.
13. Use sidedress or split applications of commercial N fertilizer on irrigated crops.
14. Maintain a minimum separation of 15 inches between bottom of injected or incorporated manure and fractured bedrock or high water table.
15. Delay fall manure applications on coarse textured soils until after **NOVEMBER 1**.
16. Do not apply solid or liquid manure on frozen or snow-covered ground on fields with sheet and rill soil losses greater than 4 tons/acre/year or 2 tons/acre/year, respectively.
17. Inject or incorporate manure within 24 hours upslope from and within 300 feet of surface tile intakes.
18. Prior to **AUGUST 1**, certify that planned activities have been completed. NRCS form MN-CPA-046 can be used for certification.

March 2003

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## Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Component Checklist

<b>Plan Components Required by MPCA Manure Management Plans and NRCS Nutrient Management and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans</b>	
Photos or Maps	
Planned crops and rotation	
Field specific nitrogen and phosphorus budgets for planned crops	
Description and location of manure storage and handling system (including description of manure testing practices and manure applicator calibration procedures)	
Amount of manure and manure nutrients generated during planning period (annually)	
Field specific manure and fertilizer nitrogen and phosphorous rates for planned crops (include acreage of fields receiving applications)	
Soil and manure testing practices and analysis results used to develop manure and fertilizer rate recommendations	
Field specific manure application methods and timing	
Location of areas to receive manure applications	
Listing of areas to receive winter-time manure applications	
Location of sensitive features	
Field specific protective measures for sensitive features including soil and water conservation practices	
Needed conservation practices on fields receiving winter-time manure applications	
Planned cover crop (as appropriate)	
Management practices to minimize P movement (as appropriate)	
Management practices to minimize Soil Test Phosphorus buildup (as appropriate)	
Operation and Maintenance guidance	
Recordkeeping	
<b>Additional Plan Components for NRCS Nutrient Management and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans</b>	
Soil Survey map and legend	
N, P, and K nutrient budget for the rotation	
Estimate of acres needed to apply manure at N and P based rates	
Realistic yield goals	
Field specific potassium (potash) budget and planned rate for crop	
Fertilizer application methods and timing	
Field nitrogen and phosphorous loss risk assessments (as appropriate)	
<b>Additional Components for NRCS Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans</b>	
Information needed to evaluate the existing manure storage and handling system	
Required operation permits and operator and applicator certifications	
Emergency Response Plan	
Dead animal disposal technique (as appropriate)	
Use of manure other than as a fertilizer (as appropriate)	
Feeding to reduce excreted P and N (optional consideration)	

**PEST MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR EQIP CONTRACTS**

- **Participants with EQIP contracts containing pest management components must fully implement items 1-16 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. 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).
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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).
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. Follow recommended BMPs when using pesticides designated by the MDA as common detection.

## Remaining years of scheduled pest management

Follow provisions 1 through 7 above.

8. Use NRCS' Soil Pesticide Interaction Screening Procedure (SPISP) to determine relative potential for planned pesticides to move off-site.
9. Have a certified TSP regularly scout to properly identify pest conditions, need for control, and timing of control (frequency is dependent upon pest).
10. 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.
11. 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**).
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Use disease free and weed free seed to prevent introduction of pests into fields.
15. Change pest management procedures if current or proposed chemical has both a high acute toxicity and a high potential to move off-site, as determined by using SPISP. 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.
16. 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.

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**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.

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**PRESCRIBED GRAZING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR EQIP CONTRACTS**

- Participants scheduled to receive EQIP incentive payments for implementing a *Prescribed Grazing System* (528A) 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.

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

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## 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.

**ORGANIC CONSERVATION CROP ROTATION (328b)  
REQUIREMENTS FOR EQIP CONTRACTS**

**I. PARTICIPANT CERTIFICATION**

Conversion to organic crop production requires extensive changes in crop management in order to farm in a manner, which fully complies with the USDA definition of organic production. EQIP incentive payments are not used to educate producers on organic production. These payments are used to assist those producers who have already obtained a working knowledge of organic production methods to achieve the goal of treating natural resource concerns while becoming a certified organic producer. Carefully read the two statements listed below, and check the answer, which best reflects your existing knowledge of organic production and sign the statement listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No      I understand the requirements of organic production and the process to be certified as an organic producer. I currently have or will have a draft organic farm plan for the acres covered by this application.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No      I have contacted a USDA accredited organic certifying agent prior to submitting this application and have a working knowledge of organic crop production and the process to become a certified organic producer.

**“I have read, reviewed and generally understand the requirements of organic Conservation Crop Rotation. I believe that I have sufficient existing knowledge of this topic to become a certified organic producer.”**

\_\_\_\_\_  
EQIP Applicant’s Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

If you can not conscientiously sign this statement you are not ready to begin the conversion to organic crop production and you should withdraw your EQIP application for these incentive payments. Participants that do not achieve organic crop production certification and who are determined to have signed the above statement in bad faith are subject to repaying all EQIP organic cost share payments.

An alternative to completely withdrawing your application would be to reduce the extent of the acreage you have requested for the EQIP organic crop production incentive payment to a working trial plot not exceeding 40 acres in size. If you are interested in continuing your conversion to organic crop production on a “beginner” basis, read and sign the following statement.

“I do not currently have sufficient knowledge of organic Conservation Crop Rotation methods and the organic certification process. I remain serious in my attempt to convert to organic production and request that my EQIP application be modified to reduce the amount of organic production to \_\_\_\_\_ acres.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
EQIP Applicant’s Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**2003 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) Schedule and complete Nutrient Management (590);
  - 3) Schedule and complete Pest Management (595);
  - 4) 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 (528A) 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.**