

Attachment D Guidance for Selection of Conservation Practices to Support Organic Operations

NOP Rule	National Organic Program (NOP) Requirement	NRCS Resource Concern Category	Sub Resource Concern	NRCS Practices to Consider	Definition, Purposes and Guidance Specific to Organic Operations	Payment Schedule Considerations
205.205	<p><b>Crop rotation practice standard.</b> The producer must implement a crop rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Maintain or improve soil organic matter content;</li> <li>(b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops;</li> <li>(c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and</li> <li>(d) Provide erosion control.</li> </ul>	<p>Soil erosion Soil condition Water Quality</p>	<p><u>Soil Erosion:</u> *Ephemeral Gully *Irrigation Induced *Sheet and Rill *Wind <u>Soil Condition:</u> *Compaction *Damage from Sediment Deposition *Organic Matter Depletion <u>Water Quality:</u> *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water</p>	<p>311 Alley Cropping, 379 Multi-Story Cropping, 590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management.</p>	<p>Offer alternatives which include a suite of conservation practices needed to maintain or increase soil organic matter, manage nutrients, reduce erosion, and mitigate pest pressures.</p>	<p>Consider cost associated with acquisition of technical knowledge, which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Also consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.</p>
205.206	<p><b>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.</p>	<p>Plant Condition</p>	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants</p>	<p>666 Forest Stand Improvement, 660 Tree/Shrub Pruning 595 Integrated Pest Management.</p>		<p>Consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.</p>

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205.202	<p><b>C. PASTURE LAND (dairy, cow/calf/stocker/goats/sheep)</b></p> <p><b>Land Requirements:</b> (c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.</p>	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health, and Vigor	<p>575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 382 Fence, 386 Field Borders, 393 Filter Strips, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation</p>	<p>Establish physical barriers / distances between organic and nonorganic crops to protect against contamination of pollen or other prohibited substances. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilizer must meet NOP.</p>	<p>Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Nontraditional fencing materials may also result in additional cost.</p>
205.203	<p><b>Soil fertility and crop nutrient management standard:</b> (a) The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion.</p>	Soil Erosion	<p>*Sheet and Rill Erosion, *Gully Erosion, *Wind Erosion</p>	<p>528 Prescribed Grazing, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 314 Brush Management, 614 Watering Facility, 578 Stream Crossing, 574 Spring Development, 516 Pipeline, 378 Pond, 382 Fence, 575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection</p>	<p>Develop a system of conservation practices and management to address wind erosion as well as sheet, rill, and gully erosion. Keep wind erosion below crop tolerance and/or soil loss tolerance. Keep sheet and rill erosion at or below the tolerable soil loss. Stabilize all gullies (temporary and permanent). Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.</p>	<p>Include estimated incurred costs associated with implementation of this practice such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc. Consider increased cost associated with planting material that may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Consider Forgone Income cost category for land taken out of production tied to average yield loss.</p>

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205.204	<p>Seeds and planting stock practice standard.</p> <p>(a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.</p>	<p>Plant Condition</p>	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited</p> <p>*Productivity, Health, and Vigor</p>	<p>The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops:</p> <p>515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices</p> <p>B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those:</p> <p>(i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern.</p> <p>EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials.</p> <p>512 Pasture and Hayland Planting</p>	<p>All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).</p>	<p>Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation.</p>

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205.205	<p><b>Crop rotation practice standard.</b> The producer must implement a crop rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation:</p> <p>(a) Maintain or improve soil organic matter content; (b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops; (c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and (d) Provide erosion control.</p>	<p>Soil erosion Soil condition Water Quality</p>	<p><u>Soil Erosion:</u> *Ephemeral Gully *Irrigation Induced *Sheet and Rill *Wind <u>Soil Condition:</u> *Compaction *Damage from Sediment Deposition *Organic Matter Depletion <u>Water Quality:</u> *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Groundwater *Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Excessive Salinity in Groundwater *Excessive Salinity in Surface Water *Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water *Harmful Temperatures of Surface Water</p>	<p>528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 314 Brush Management, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.</p>	<p>Establish forage base and prescribed grazing method that recycles nutrients and/or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address froage nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.</p>	<p>Consider increased costs associated with materials and acquisition of technical knowledge, which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Also consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.</p>
205.206	<p><b>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.</p>	<p>Plant Condition</p>	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants</p>	<p>528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 314 Brush Management, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.</p>	<p>Establish forage base and prescribed grazing method that recycles nutrients and/or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address froage nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.</p>

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

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205.204	<p><b>Seeds and planting stock practice standard.</b>                      (a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock.</p>	Plant Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Plants not adapted or suited</li> <li>*Productivity, Health, and Vigor</li> </ul>	The NRCS EQIP program does not support practices or activities for the planting or establishment of production crops: 515.81 Eligible Conservation Practices B. Ineligible Practices. Ineligible conservation practices are those: (i) Where the sole purpose is to enhance production without an identifiable conservation benefit or natural resource concern.  EQIP program does support use of approved planting material to support NRCS approved vegetative conservation practices. For these scenarios, NRCS practice design and plant/seed selections must also conform to NOP requirements for use of organically grown seeds, seedlings and planting materials.	All seeding practices need to support alternatives and practice design for organically approved seed and planting stock. See also exceptions to NOP rule per 205.204(a).	Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation.

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205.206	<p><b>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.</p>	<p>Plant Condition</p>	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants</p>	<p>528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 550 Range Planting, 314 Brush Management, 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.</p>	<p>Establish forage base and prescribed grazing method that recycles nutrients and/or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that addresses forage nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.</p>

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205.202	<p><b>E. GRAZED LAND</b></p> <p><b>Land Requirements:</b>                      (c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.</p>	Plant Condition	*Productivity, Health, and Vigor	575 Animal Trails and Walkways, 382 Fence, 472 Access Control, 386 Field Borders, 393 Filter Strips, 422 Hedgerow Planting, 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 390 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, 380 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, 650 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation	Establish physical barriers / distances between organic and nonorganic forage crops to protect against contamination of pollen or other prohibited substances. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.	Consider increased cost associated with planting material, such as seed, fertilizer, amendments, etc., which may need to be certified for use with an organic operation. Nontraditional fencing materials may also result in additional cost.

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205.206	<p><b>Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.</b> (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases (b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods per NOP rules.</p>	<p>Plant Condition</p>	<p>*Plants not adapted or suited *Productivity, Health, and Vigor *Noxious and Invasive Plants</p>	<p>528 Prescribed Grazing, 338 Prescribed Burning, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 550 Range Planting, 511 Forage Harvest Management, 314 Brush Management, 328 Conservation Crop rotation, 340 Cover Crops, 595 Integrated Pest Management.</p>	<p>Establish forage base and prescribed grazing method that recycles nutrients and/or produces nitrogen. Implement a nutrient management system that address froage nutrient needs by applying the right source, at the right time, at the right rate, and the right placement within NOP Rules. Fencing materials must meet NOP standards (nontreated wood post). Plant materials (organic sources if available) and fertilized must meet NOP.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given for additional cost of using nonconventional methods of pest management.</p>

**NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Organic Initiative – FY 2010**

**Attachment E:**

**Guidance for Adding Organic Scenario Payment Rates in FY 2010 Payment Schedules**

Using current procedures in Title 200, National Economics Handbook, Part 613, and Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual, Part 512, Subpart D, State Conservationists must record data for estimated incurred costs to determine the appropriate payment and percentage rates to support each of the plan practice payment schedules.

Following is an example stand-alone payment schedule worksheet for one typical scenario and steps to follow to add the appropriate columns, rows, or both (additional scenarios can be added to the activity plan workbook).

Step 1: Create new payment schedule workbook and appropriate supporting scenarios. Document sources and record data associated with estimated incurred costs for development of a typical plan scenario.

<b>Any State</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>Cover Crop (Acre)</b>	<b>Cover Crop - Organic</b>	
<b>Cost Data – “Grey Box”</b>				
<b><u>Typical Implementation Scenario</u></b>				
Setting: Cropland Organic. Grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes. Farm machinery hourly costs are from the State Farm Planning Guide as well as the per-acre time estimates. Labor is included in the implementation costs. Estimated on a per-acre basis.				
For purpose, applicability, and limitations of this payment, see: <a href="#">State EQIP Eligible Practices, Payment Schedule, and Financial Assistance Contracting Guidance</a>				
<b>Primary Resource Concerns Addressed: soil erosion, soil condition</b>				
For more information on resource concerns addressed, see State FOTG, Section V, CPPE.				
<b>Geographic Area:</b>	Statewide			
<b>Unit for Cost Estimate:</b>	Acre			
<b>Practice Life (Years):</b>	1			
<b>Discount Rate (%/Year):</b>	5%			
				<b>Cost/Unit</b>
<b>Materials – N/A</b>				\$48.00
Item	Quantity of Units	Input Unit	Input unit Cost	Total Cost
Red Cover	12	lb	\$4.00	\$48.00
Organic Seed price, verified 09/09 – 50 lb bag \$200, Mammoth Red Cover				
<b>Equipment/Installation – N/A</b>				\$34.41
Data Source for hourly costs and time estimates; State Farm Planning Guide (updated 09/09)				
Item	Quantity of Units	Input Unit	Input unit Cost	Total Cost
Broadcast seeding	.21	Hr	\$ 40.63	\$ 8.53
Tractor (35-49 HP)	.21	Hr	\$ 23.72	\$ 4.98
Disk Harrow 13'	.16	Hr	\$ 97.96	\$ 15.67
Tractor (50-64 HP)	.16	Hr	\$ 32.69	\$ 5.23
<b>Total Cost</b>				<b>\$ 34.41</b>
<b>Labor</b>	Units			\$0.00
Labor cost are \$18/hour, but are generally included in implementation costs (disk harrow and seeding)				
<b>Mobilization ( (None, most clients own equipment)</b>				\$0.00
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance (Annual) – N/A</b>				\$0.00
<b>Acquisition of Technical Knowledge –N/A</b>				\$0.00
<b>Forgone Income (Annual) – N/A</b>				\$0.00
<b>Risk (Annual) – N/A</b>				\$0.00
<b>Administration &amp; Permit Costs – N/A</b>				\$0.00
<b>Data Source:</b> Typical planning cost information obtained from State Organic Certifiers organization for year 2009 (see Web site: <a href="http://www.SOC-FAKE.org">www.SOC-FAKE.org</a> ). Recorded by Conservationist, SRC, Any State, 10-27-09.				
<b>Total Cost Estimate:</b>				<b>\$82.41</b>

Alternative Cost Category and Data Source: As an alternative to using the “Labor” cost category as costs associated with actual equipment/installation cost category, an individual line item for a scenario worksheet could be supported with data developed from technical service provider NTE rates services associated with plan development.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Organic Initiative – FY 2010

**Attachment F:**

Producer Self-Certification Template  
Eligibility for EQIP Organic during Transition Period:

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To: District Conservationist  
NRCS

For your consideration, I have submitted an application through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to assist me with transitioning my farm or ranch to an organic production system.

By this letter, I hereby acknowledge that in order to receive organic-related technical and financial assistance through EQIP, I agree:

1. *To develop and implement conservation practices for certified organic production that are consistent with an organic system plan* in accordance with provisions established in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) and to standards established in the National Organic Programs (NOP) Act (7 U.S.C. Sections 6501-6522), and
2. Have contacted the following certifying agent to begin the process of transitioning to organic according to requirements of the National Organic Programs (NOP) Act (7 U.S.C. Sections 6501-6522).

Certifying Agent: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that if I do not meet this requirement during the period while transitioning to organic production, my EQIP program contract may be terminated and I may be responsible for repayment of benefits received and possible assessment of liquidated damages. I also understand that should my organic funded contract be terminated due to noncompliance with these provisions, no other USDA program contracts I may have will be impacted or penalized due to noncompliance with the organic program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

<Name>  
<Address>  
<City, State ZIP>  
<Phone and/or email>