



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

New Mexico Supplemental Criteria and Documentation Requirements For:

All 328 Conservation Crop Rotation Enhancements

The enhancements for a conservation crop rotation only apply when at least one annual crop is planted in the contracted acres during the 5 years of the contract term. A cover crop can be counted as an annual crop. A field that is currently in alfalfa or a perennial grass must be planted to an annual crop or a cover crop in at least one year of the contract term to qualify for a 328 enhancement. Since alfalfa and perennial hay crops are considered as resource conserving crops the enhancements for *improved* resource conserving crop rotations must be contracted when alfalfa or perennial hay are included in the crop rotation.

These enhancements can be used when annuals or perennials are deliberately planted in between the rows of fruit or nut trees/shrubs and vineyards. The rows of the fruit or nut trees/shrubs or vineyards should not be included in the conservation crop rotation acres.

The enhancements can be first paid on all contracted acres when at least a third of the contracted acres have been planted to a resource conserving crop, no later than by the 3rd year of the contract. The enhancement requirement must be met on the entire amount of contracted acres by the 5th year of the contract.

NEW MEXICO REQUIREMENTS OF RESOURCE CONSERVING CROPS

Resource conserving crops are defined in the CSP manual as being one of the following:

- (1) A perennial grass. Examples include orchardgrass, ryegrass, smooth brome, and bermuda.
- (2) A legume grown for use as forage, seed for planting, or green manure. Examples include alfalfa, sainfoin, perennial clovers, vetch, and peas.
- (3) A legume-grass mixture.
- (4) A small grain grown in combination with a grass, legume, forbs, grass-forbs, or grass-forbs mixtures whether interseeded or planted in rotation. Acceptable small grains are those listed as soil improving crops listed in the CPS 328 specification.

For species to be used in 1-4 above, refer to the species specified for Conservation Cover (327), Cover Crop (340), Forage and Biomass Planting (512) and Range Planting (550). Species not recommended in these NRCS practice standards must be approved by the Area Resource Conservationist prior to being adopted as a resource conserving crop. A Cover Crop Implementation Requirement must be completed if a cover crop is adopted as the resource conserving crop.

For all enhancements participants must keep records of actual tillage operations and crop planted in order for NRCS to calculate the Soil Loss Estimate, Soil Tillage Intensity Rating, Soil Condition Index and Organic Matter subfactor (whichever is applicable to the contracted enhancement).



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For all enhancements ending in R (E328101R Reduce water erosion, E328102R Reduce wind erosion, E328106R Soil organic matter improvement, E328107R Improve soil compaction, E328134R Relieve plant pest pressure): Small grain residue and cover crops cannot be grazed or harvested if used as the resource conserving crop.

E328106Z1 Soil health crop rotation: The crops considered as high residue crops in New Mexico are soil improving crops listed in the CPS 328 specification.

Consult with Area Resource Conservationist for options to maximize living roots on dryland operations. A range of growing days for the three main regions of the state is provided on the NMSU Circular 457-B http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_circulars/CR457B.pdf.

E328106Z3 Conservation crop rotation on recently converted CRP grass/legume cover for soil organic matter improvement: The crops considered as high residue crops in New Mexico are soil improving crops listed in the CPS 328 specification.

E328106Z2 Modifications to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter: Completing the physical and biological indicators on the NM Soil Health Basic Scorecard (released with Agronomy Technical Note 80 found at NM eFOTG Section 1, <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>) will meet the minimum requirements for a soil health assessment. For a better understanding of soil organic matter, the participant may complete a standard soils test or Haney soils test.

E328109Z Reduce concentration of salts: Consult with the Area Resource Conservationist or State Agronomist on the crops with a tolerance to salinity levels that can be planted to utilize soil water in saline seeps.