



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

### E328K

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

## Multiple crop types to benefit wildlife

### Conservation Practice 328: Conservation Cropping System

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed)**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year**

#### Enhancement Description

Alternating crops in a systematic arrangement of strips across a field to provide diverse rotations of crops that provide wildlife food. At least two crops will be planted in adjacent strips a minimum of 0.5 acres in size.

#### Criteria

- If the field is currently divided and planted to more than one crop, further division would be required.
- The crop rotation must include a minimum of two different crops in a minimum three-year rotation. **<REFER TO STATE SPECIFIC LIST OF WILDLIFE FOOD FRIENDLY CROPS below>**
- Crop strips will be a minimum of 0.5 acres in size not to exceed 40 acres. Grazing of crop residues and cover crops are permissible provided 60 percent cover remains after grazing.
- Annual crop strips will be rotated each year. If annual crops are used in conjunction with perennial crops, only that annual crop type would change the following year or growing season.



- Harvested crop residue will remain standing through state identified critical wildlife periods.
- **MT: Grain and seed crops can include but are not limited to corn, wheat, barley, oats, millets, sorghum, lentils and winter peas. Legumes/forbs can include but are not limited to alfalfa, white and red clovers, birdsfoot trefoil, sanfoin, yellow sweetclover, and small burnet. Consider planting legumes or cover crops between row crops.**

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## Documentation and Implementation Requirements

### Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, provide NRCS with the current and planned crop rotation for all cropland acres on the operation. **<REFER TO STATE SPECIFIC LIST OF WILDLIFE FOOD FRIENDLY CROPS above>**
- Prior to implementation, as needed, NRCS can provide technical assistance in selecting wildlife food crops for the crop rotation or substitute species that would meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, provide maps for review by NRCS of the planned crop rotation, including the strips which will include the wildlife food friendly crops.

### Current Management Rotation (complete table for each rotation)

Field	Current Crops (in sequence)	Planting Date	Harvest Date

### Planned Management Rotation including Wildlife Food Friendly Crops (complete table for each rotation)

Field	Planned Crops (in sequence)	Planting Date	Harvest Date	Acres in rotation

- During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes in crops, crop rotation, or management to verify the planned system meets the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, if changes were made, complete the tables above to document the applied crop rotation for the contract period and provide to NRCS for review.



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- After implementation, make photos of strips available for review by NRCS to verify implementation meets the enhancement criteria.

**NRCS will:**

- As needed, provide technical assistance in selecting wildlife food crops for the crop rotation or substitute species that would meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- As needed, provide additional assistance to the participant as requested.
- Prior to implementation, verify the crop rotation meets the criteria of the enhancement. The rotation must include a minimum of two different crops in a three-year crop rotation. *Plan/contract the actual acres planted to the wildlife food friendly crop.*
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes in crops, crop rotation, or management to verify the new system meets the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, if there were any changes to planned rotation or management evaluate the applied crop rotation using information provided from the participant to verify the applied rotation meets the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, review photos of strips to verify implementation of the enhancement.
- **MT: Use Biology Tech Note MT-19 [Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides for Montana](#) for species of concern.**

**NRCS Documentation Review:**

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date