

SOIL MANAGEMENT (CSP Enhancements)

March 2005

Enhancement Activity Task Sheet

UT-CSP-ESM



Photo courtesy of NRCS

Enhancement Activities

Enhancements activities refer to actions that provide resource benefits beyond the level prescribed by NRCS Conservation Practice Standards. Once implemented Enhancement Activities should result in an observable or measurable improvement to the condition of one or more of the soil, water, air, plant, or animal resources, or provide for more efficient resource utilization and/or energy conservation.

Enhancement Activity Benefits

Enhancement activities associated with soil improvement such as leaving crop residue on or near the surface, reducing tillage, controlling erosion, controlling traffic, adding organic matter such as mulches and solid manure, using cover or green manure crops,

etc can result in the following benefits to the producer and the environment:

- Cleaner ground and surface water
- Reduced costs
- Improved soil health
- Improved yields

CSP Payments

You can earn payments by maintaining or increasing your Soil Condition Index (SCI) above 0 using the following activities:

- Using a conservation cropping rotation (SCI at least 0.1 or above)
- Maintaining crop residues (mulch till or no till)
- Using cover crops during critical erosion periods
- Using perennials such as grass and/or alfalfa in rotation
- Applying organic mulches or manure (note describe proper app)
- Controlling wind and water erosion (cross slope tillage, strip cropping, terraces)

CSP Enhancements earnings are subject to payment caps. Your actual payment will depend on your CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.

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Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

I have elected to use the following Soil Management activities to maintain or increase my SCI and understand the requirements of the selected activities (Check all that apply):

- Use a conservation cropping rotation (Worksheet 1)
- Maintain crop residues (mulch till or no till) (Worksheet 2)
- Use cover crops (Worksheet 3)
- Use perennials such as grass and/or alfalfa in rotation (Worksheet 1)
- Apply organic mulches or manures properly (Worksheet 3)
- Control wind and water erosion (cross slope tillage, strip crop, terraces (Worksheet 4)

The SCI takes into account organic matter (OM) contributions from crops, mulches, and manures (all +'s) and tillage and harvest operations which destroy OM, soil aggregates and structure, and cause compaction (all -'s), and erosion (also a -). An increase in soil tilth and organic matter and reductions in water and wind erosion resulting in increased air and water quality can be achieved with an increase in SCI.

The SCI can be calculated using Rusle2 (Contact NRCS to run SCI). To calculate an SCI the following information is needed:

- Crop rotation
- All production operations (tillage and field prep, planting, cultivation, pest control, harvest, etc.)
- Crop yield information and/or surface residue after harvest
- Mulch and manure application rates (if applicable)
- Cover crop information (if applicable)
- Tillage direction (ranging from up and down slope to precise contour tillage)
- Erosion control practice information (terraces, grassed waterways, strip cropping etc.)
- Irrigated or dryland

I agree that the following information will be provided to NRCS upon request:

- Written documentation of the activity performed (use attached worksheets or equivalent).
- Copies of dated receipts for equipment or services purchased.

I understand that CSP Enhancements earnings are subject to payment caps and that my actual payments will depend on my CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.

I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of these activities.

Accepted by: /s/ _____ Date: _____



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Name:

Worksheet 1 – Conservation cropping rotation & history

Payment = \$1.16/acre/0.1 increase in Soil Condition Index (SCI)

Indicate if field is irrigated or dryland. Indicate any cover crops grown.

Tract & Field #s	Acres	Crop Rotation Sequence							
		Year	2005	2006	2007	2007	2008	2009	2010
	80	Crop	Potatoes	Winter Wheat Example 60 Bu/Ac	Potatoes	Corn	Alfalfa	Alfalfa	Alfalfa
		Yield	20 T/Ac		20T/Ac	185 Bu/Ac	5 T/Ac	5 T/Ac	5 T/Ac
		Crop							
		Yield							
		Crop							
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		Crop							
		Yield							

Crop Rotation Certification

I certify that I am rotating my crops as shown in the table above.

Name: _____ Date: _____

