



NRCS-Organics Conservation Practices Cross-Compliance Chart

Examples from California NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) Standards

Production Practice	NOP Final Rule 7 CFR Part 205 Section and Practice Standard	Wording in NOP Final Rule (Key phrases from the National Organic Standards)	NRCS Practice Standard (Name and Number)	Definition/Purposes (Highlights from the practice standards)
Cover Cropping	205.203 Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrient Management	The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of the soil; manage soil fertility through rotations, cover crops... maintain or improve soil organic matter.	340 Cover Crop	Seasonal cover to reduce erosion, increase soil organic matter, manage excess nutrients, promote biological nitrogen fixation, increase biodiversity, suppress weeds, manage soil moisture.
Crop Rotation (annual crops)	205.2 Definitions: Crop Rotation 205.205 Crop rotation practice standard 205.206 Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.	The practice of alternating annual crops on a specific field in a planned pattern or sequence in successive crop years... Implement crop rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions: (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. Management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds and diseases including...crop rotation	328 Conservation Crop Rotation 603 Herbaceous wind barriers	Growing crops in sequence on the same field to reduce erosion, maintain or improve soil organic matter content, manage plant nutrients, improve water use efficiency, manage plant pests (weeds, insects, and diseases), provide food for livestock, and food and cover for wildlife. Vegetation established in rows or narrow strips in the field across the prevailing wind direction to reduce soil erosion, protect growing crops, increase plant available moisture, and provide food and cover for wildlife.



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Crop Rotation (perennial crops)	205.2 Definitions: Crop Rotation 205.203 Soil fertility... (see above) 205.205 Crop Rotation practice standard 205.206 Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.	Perennial cropping systems employ means such as alley cropping, intercropping, and hedgerows to introduce biological diversity... ...minimize soil erosion. (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. Crop rotation... development of habitat for natural enemies of pests.	311 Alley cropping Related Practices: 386 Field Border 380 Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment 422 Hedgerow planting 704 Agroforestry Planting	Trees or shrubs planted...with crops, or forages produced in the alleys between the rows of woody plants to improve or optimize the economic viability of the operation... to reduce excess surface water runoff and erosion, improve utilization and recycling of soil nutrients ...create habitat for biological pest management, improve crop diversity, quantity, quality and economic returns, enhance aesthetics, increase net carbon storage in the vegetation and soil.
Erosion Control	205.203 Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard 205.205 Crop Rotation practice standard	Maintain or improve soil organic matter content of soil and minimize soil erosion. ...provide erosion control.	330 Contour Farming 331 Contour Orchard and other fruit areas 332 Contour Buffer strips Related standards: 393 Filter Strip 329 A, B, C and 344 Residue Management 344 Residue Management, 350 Sediment Basin, 386 Field Border, 412 Grassed Waterway, 423 Hillside Ditch, 342 Critical Area Planting, 390 Riparian Herbaceous cover, 484 Mulching, 557 Row Arrangement, 570 Runoff Management (continued in next column)	Tillage, planting, and other farming operations performed on or near the contour of the field slope to reduce erosion and transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants downslope, reduce soil and water loss, to better control and use water, and to operate farm equipment more easily, and enhance wildlife habitat. Related standards (continued from previous column: 586 Stripcropping, 599 A and C Cross Wind Ridges, 612 Tree and shrub planting, 601 Vegetative barrier, 603 Herbaceous wind barriers, 741 Vegetative buffer strip, and many others.



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Nutrient Management and Fertilization	205.203 Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard	...manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil or water...	590 Nutrient Management 633 Waste Utilization Related standards: 484 Mulching 317 Composting Facility	...supply nutrients for plant production to properly utilize manure or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source, minimize agricultural non-point source pollution, maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of soil. Using agricultural wastes such as manure...and other organic residues; to protect water quality, provide fertility for crop, forage, fiber...and forest products, improve or maintain soil structure...
Pest Management	205.206 Crop Pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.	The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases including but not limited to (1) crop rotation and soil and crop nutrient management... (2) sanitation measures to remove disease vectors, weed seeds, and habitat for pest organisms, (3) cultural practices that enhance crop health, including selection of plant species and varieties with regard to suitability to site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent pests, weeds and diseases...	595 Pest Management Related standards: 422 Hedgerow planting 380 Windbreak	Manage agricultural pest infestations (including weeds, insects, and diseases) to reduce adverse effects on plant growth, crop production, and environmental resources. To develop a pest management program that is both consistent with selected crop production goals and environmentally acceptable.
Manure Management	205.203 (c) Soil fertility (Composting of raw manure) 205.239 (c)	Raw animal manure...must be composted unless it is (i) applied to land used for a crop not intended for human consumption; (ii) incorporated into the soil not less than 120 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion has direct contact with soil... (iii) ...90 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion does not have direct contact... The producer of an organic livestock operation must manage manure in such a manner that it does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, heavy metals or pathogenic organisms and optimizes recycling of nutrients.	634 Manure Transfer 635 Wastewater Treatment Strip Related standards: 575 Animal trails and walkways	Manure conveyance system ...to transfer animal manure (bedding material, spilled feed, process and wash water, and other residues... to agricultural land for final utilization. A treatment component of an agricultural waste management system consisting of a strip or area of herbaceous vegetation to improve water quality by reducing loading of nutrients, organics, pathogens, and other contaminants associated with animal manure and other wastes...



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Livestock Operations	205.236 Origin of livestock 205.237 Livestock feed 205.238 Livestock health care practice standard 205.239 Livestock living conditions	<p>Livestock must be organic from the last third of gestation; dairy for 12 months; poultry from second day of life.</p> <p>Feed must be 100% organic. Ruminants must have pasture. Approved synthetic vitamin and mineral supplements are allowed. Feeding animal by-products, urea and manure is prohibited</p> <p>Preventative Health Care</p> <p>Selection of species...suitability for site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent diseases and parasites. Provision of feed rations sufficient to meet nutritional requirements...appropriate housing. Pasture conditions...minimize the occurrence and spread of diseases and parasites. ...allow exercise and freedom of movement...reduction of stress. Performance of physical alterations as needed for the animal's welfare. Administration of vaccines and veterinary biologics are allowed.</p> <p>The producer of organic livestock must not [use]: antibiotics...drugs in the absence of illness...growth hormones...synthetic parasiticides in slaughter stock...synthetic parasiticides on a routine basis in breeder stock or dairy animals. The producer must not withhold treatment to maintain organic status, and must not sell a treated animal as organic.</p> <p>Must accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals: Access to outdoors, shade, shelter, sun, fresh air... Pasture for ruminants. Appropriate clean, dry bedding.</p>	721 Rangeland fertilization 210 Hayland Management 512 Pasture and Hay Planting Related Practice Standards: 548 Grazing land mechanical treatment 550 Range Planting 614 Watering Facility 511 Forage Harvest Management	<p>Establish /prolong life of desirable plant species or plant cover for erosion control, wildlife habitat, to maintain or improve the quality and quantity of forage, protect the soil and reduce water loss.</p> <p>Establish adapted and compatible species, improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health, extend the length of the grazing season</p>

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