

NEBRASKA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

ELIGIBLE NEBRASKA CONSERVATION (NC) PRACTICES

<u>IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>PRACTICE</u>
<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 1</u>
	<u>Constructing Terrace Systems</u>
	<i>Purpose:</i> <i>To control erosion on cropland, to conserve water and to reduce pollution</i>
A	Side Slopes 13.5 feet and over
B	Parallel, cut and fill
C	Flat Channel
D	Push-up
E	Parallel Flat Channel
F	Seed for back slopes (critical area)
(1)	Common
(2)	Certified
G	Slope of 10% or greater
H	Extra Long Terrace Slopes
J	Narrow Base Terrace
<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 2</u>
	<u>Constructing Terrace Underground Outlets</u>
	<i>Purpose:</i> <i>To dispose of excess water from a terrace system without causing erosion.</i>
A	Materials for Underground Outlets (see Exhibit I)
<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 3</u>
	<u>Constructing Water Impoundment Dams</u>
	<i>Purpose:</i> <i>To impound runoff, conserve water, prevent erosion, prevent pollution, and to enhance groundwater recharge.</i>
A	Earth Moved – Excavation
B	Earth Fill – Class A compaction (moisture controlled)
C	Earth Fill – Class C
D	Seed (critical area)
(1)	Common
(2)	Certified
E	Fencing
F	Other construction items (see Exhibit 1)
G	Mulching
<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 4</u>
	<u>Constructing Grade Stabilization Structures</u>
	<i>Purpose:</i> <i>To stabilize the grade in an existing watercourse to prevent or heal gully situations.</i>
A	Earth moved - Excavation
B	Earth Fill – Class A compaction
C	Earth Fill – Class C compaction
D	Seed (critical area)
(1)	Common
(2)	Certified
E	Fencing
F	Other Construction Items (see Exhibit 1)
G	Mulching

IDENTIFICATION

PRACTICE

<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 5</u>	<u>Constructing Irrigation Tailwater Recovery Pits with or without Underground Return Pipe</u> Purpose: <i>To impound runoff from irrigated fields for reuse; hence, conserving groundwater.</i> Cost-share Rate: 50% of average or actual, whichever is less.
	A	
	B	Earth moved – excavation
	C	Earth Fill – Class A compaction
	D	Earth Fill – Class C compaction
	E	Seed (critical area)
	(1)	Common
	(2)	Certified
	F	Other Construction Items (see Exhibit 1)
	G	Mulching
		(SEE PRACTICE NC-13 FOR UNDERGROUND RETURN PIPE)

<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 6</u>	<u>Constructing Diversions</u> Purpose: <i>To divert water from areas where it is in excess to sites where it can be used or disposed of safely.</i>
	A	Earth moved
	D	Seed (critical area)
	(1)	Common
	(2)	Certified
	E	Seeding
	(1)	Standard Drill
	(2)	Grassland Drill
	G	Other Construction Items (see Exhibit 1)

<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 7</u>	<u>Constructing Grassed Waterways</u> Purpose: <i>To shape natural or constructed waterways to required dimensions and vegetate for safe disposal of runoff from a field, diversion, terraces or other structure.</i>
	A	10-19.9 cross-section, earth moved, square feet
	B	20-29.9 " " " " " "
	C	30-39.9 " " " " " "
	D	40-49.9 " " " " " "
	E	50+ " " " " " "
	F	Seed
	(1)	Common
	(2)	Certified
	G	Seeding
	(1)	Standard Drill
	(2)	Grassland Drill
	H	Mulching
	I	Side Dikes

<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 8</u>	<u>Constructing Water-and-Sediment-Control Basins</u> Purpose: <i>To reduce on-site erosion, reduce sediment, reduce sediment content in water, intercept and conduct surface runoff through subsurface conduits to stable outlets, reduce peak rate or volume of flow at downslope locations, reduce flooding, prevent gully development, reform the land surface, and improve farmability.</i>
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IDENTIFICATION

PRACTICE

Practice **NC – 8**

Constructing Water-and-Sediment-Control Basins

(CONTINUED)

- A Excavation
- B Earth Fill - Class A compaction (moisture controlled)
- C Earth Fill - Class C compaction
- D Seed (critical area)
 - (1) Common
 - (2) Certified
- E Other Construction Items (see Exhibit 1)
- F Mulching

Practice **NC – 9**

Constructing Dugouts for Livestock Water

(runoff collection only)

Purpose: *To create an impoundment for livestock water use by excavating to collect runoff in grassland.*

- A Earth Moved - excavation
- B Seed (critical area)
 - (1) Common
 - (2) Certified
- C Seeding
 - (1) Standard Drill
 - (2) Grassland Drill
- D Fencing

Practice **NC – 10**

Pasture Planting or Range Seeding (land use conversions)

Purpose: *To establish grass on land being converted from other uses or the renovation of existing pasture or range.*

- A Seed
 - (1) Common
 - (2) Certified
- B Seeding
 - (1) Standard Drill
 - (2) Grassland Drill
 - (3) Range Interseeder
- C Chemicals for seedbed preparation when seeding in existing cover.

Practice **NC – 11**

Critical Area Planting (grass)

Purpose: *To stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas.*

- A Seed (critical area)
 - (1) Common
 - (2) Certified
- B Seeding
 - (1) Standard Drill
 - (2) Grassland Drill
 - (3) Hydroseeder
- C Mulching
- D Fencing
- E Shaping and Filling

IDENTIFICATION

PRACTICE

<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 12</u>	<u>Windbreaks</u> Purpose: <i>To establish a stand of trees to conserve soil and moisture and to prevent erosion.</i>
A		Trees, including planting and chemical weed control the first year.
B		Trees, including planting
C		Chemical Weed Control, first year
D		Trees, including replanting
E		Drip Irrigation System, all appurtenances beginning with in-line screen and pressure regulator (see Exhibit 1)
F		Fencing, where necessary to provide protection from livestock
G		Rodent Control
	(1)	Pocket Gophers
	(a)	Hand Probe
	(b)	Hand Poisoning
	(c)	Burrow Builder
H		Fabric Weed Barrier (not to be used in conjunction with C or E above)

<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 13</u>	<u>Constructing Underground Return Pipe from Irrigation Tailwater Recovery Pits</u> Purpose: <i>To provide a permanent conveyance facility for water impounded by an approved Tailwater Recovery Pit to the water supply that created the tailwater.</i>
A		Cost-Share Rate: 50% of average or actual, whichever is less.
B		Other Construction Items (See Exhibit 1)

<u>Practice</u>	<u>NC – 14</u>	<u>Planned Grazing Systems</u> Purpose: <i>To reduce erosion and improve water quality by maintaining or improving plant cover for increased forage production, enhanced wildlife habitat, grazing uniformity and water use efficiency.</i>
A		Cross Fencing
	(1)	Standard
	(2)	Suspension
	(3)	Electric
	(4)	Perimeter Fencing (Restricted to: (a) lands remaining in grass for pasture within two years of completing enrollment in a Federal Conservation Program; or (b) cropland converted to grassland for pasture.)
B		Water Supply
	(1)	Well
	(a)	Drilling and Casing Installation
	(b)	Cost of Casing
	(c)	Cost of Gravel Packing
	(2)	Pipeline Installed
	(3)	Tank Installed
	(4)	Spring Development

IDENTIFICATION

PRACTICE

Practice

NC – 14

Planned Grazing Systems (CONTINUED)

- (5) Livestock Water Dugouts, high water table
 - (a) Earth Moved, excavation
 - (b) Seed (critical area)
 - (1) Common
 - (2) Certified
 - (c) Mulching
- (6) Pumping Plants
 - (a) Electrical
 - (b) Solar
 - (c) Windmill
- C Rodent Control
 - (1) Pocket Gophers
 - (a) Hand Probe
 - (b) Hand Poisoning
 - (c) Burrow Builder
 - (2) Prairie Dogs
 - (a) Zink Phosphide/Aluminum Phosphide

Practice

NC – 15

Irrigation Surge Valves

** Practice NC-15 RESCINDED as separate practice effective 7-1-94*

Practice

NC – 16

Windbreak Renovation

Purpose: *To provide for the restoration of farmstead or field windbreaks that have been rendered substantially ineffective due to the death of trees or other windbreak plantings as a result of weather, disease, or other natural causes.*

A **Procedures:** Specifications are to be based on NRCS (formerly SCS) Technical Guides. An additional requirement is that the windbreak renovation plan is to be based on a plan reviewed and approved by a forester of the Nebraska Forest Service. The forester is to certify that the windbreak has lost its effectiveness, should be renovated and, that they approve the plan of renovation. Costs are to be based on average unit costs, where they exist.

ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) Each NRD is limited to approving no more than ten such practices in any given fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) and payments for no more than ten such practices in a given NRD will be authorized from the Soil & Water Conservation Fund in any fiscal year.
- (2) In no instance will payment from the Soil & Water Conservation Fund be based on a cost greater than the state-wide average unit cost adopted by the USDA-FSA (formerly USDA-ASCS) this practice.

IDENTIFICATION

PRACTICE

Practice **NC – 16**

(3)

Windbreak Renovation (CONTINUED)

This practice is not to include the replanting of the windbreak. Those costs could be, if approved by the NRD, included in the previously-approved windbreak practice or paid for from other sources.

(4)

No approval for a windbreak practice will be made by an NRD unless, and until, the landowner also agrees to replant the windbreak and no payment for a windbreak renovation practice will be made from the Soil & Water Conservation Fund until the windbreak has been replanted.

Practice **NC – 17**

A

Irrigation Water Management

Purpose: *To conserve groundwater and surface water by improving water use efficiency on irrigated lands.*

B

Cost-share Rate: 50% of average or actual, whichever is less.

Eligible Components: Surge valves, flow meters, goose necks, land leveling (on gravity systems only and on land that has been irrigated in four of the five years) drop pipes, conversion nozzles, rainfall auto-shutoff valves, reuse pits, return pipe, soil moisture sensors and data readers, variable rate irrigation, variable frequency drive and the necessary appurtenances to allow each of the components to function properly. Consultant fees are not cost-shareable items.

C

As an incentive to landowners to conserve water, cost-share on the cost of a buried pipeline from an existing irrigation well *or* surface water source now being operated as a gravity system to the pivot point of a new pivot system or the withdrawal point of an alternate efficient sprinkler system will be allowed as part of the Irrigation Water Management Practice of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP). Buried main pipelines to serve a surge valve system is also allowed. These installations and systems must meet Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical specifications.

ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1)

Maximum of 1400 feet of buried pipe;

(2)

Land must have been irrigated at least four out of the last five years. If, however, land was enrolled in a federal conservation program that required foregoing irrigation during any of the preceding five years, eligibility will be determined based on the years before and after the program period;

(3)

No more than 10% of land under the pivot system is to be newly irrigated land; and

(4)

Cost-share is not allowed for cost of electrical installation and equipment. As with the current irrigation water management practice, cost-share shall be limited to a maximum of 50%.

IDENTIFICATION

PRACTICE

Practice

NC – 17

D

Irrigation Water Management (CONTINUED)

Subsurface drip irrigation systems: cost-share on systems installed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications at a maximum of 50% of actual or average costs, whichever is less. Cost-share will be allowed on only those systems that utilize groundwater as their water source. **Eligible components would include:** filtration system(s), necessary valves and controllers, pipe and fittings for mains, sub-mains and manifold lines, flush lines, drip tape, chemical injection port, and other appurtenances necessary for meeting NRCS standards and specifications. Costs not included would be the pumping plant, fertilizer or chemical injection systems, and electrical installations.

Practice

NC – 18

A

Stream Bank Stabilization

Purpose: *Restoration and protection of stream banks and riparian areas adjacent to minor water courses. This practice can be done on a stand-alone basis or if needed, in conjunction with a grade stabilization structure or diversion.*

Eligible Components: Grass seeding, earth fill, rock riprap, trees, fencing, underground outlets, pipes, sand and gravel, concrete, and other components included as part of practices utilized in compliance with NRCS technical specifications.

Practice

NC – 19

A

Repair of Practices

Purpose: *Cost-share under the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program (NSWCP) is authorized for the repair of the following practices or practice elements when the damage to the practice is due to natural cause(s) rather than improper or inadequate maintenance; terraces, dams, diversions, grade stabilization structures, and livestock water supply pipelines. Any repair work must return the practice to a condition that meets technical specifications of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

Eligible Components: Listed under the eligible practice being repaired.

Practice

NC – 20

A

Brush Management (mechanical and chemical means)

Purpose: *Removal or reduction of non-herbaceous plants to restore natural plant community balance, create the desired plant community, and reduce competition between desired and unwanted plants.*

Practice to be planned in a manner that it will not adversely affect threatened or endangered species (plant or animal) or their habitat. Only chemicals approved by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture may be used, and in accordance with label directions.

Mechanical and chemical treatment methods at actual cost not to exceed NRCS established maximums.