

Sod-Based Rotation

Definition/Purpose

A Sod-Based Rotation Practice means an adapted sequence of crops, grasses and legumes, or a mixture thereof, established and maintained for a definite number of years as part of a conservation cropping system. Sod-based rotation is designed to provide adequate organic residue for maintenance or improvement of soil tilth to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

Policies

1. This practice can be contracted at the following management tiers and rates:

| Management Tier | Unit Cost | Cost Share 75% rate | Cost Share 90% rate |
|---|------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. 3-year sod-based rotation – fields in sod 17 months | \$100/acre | \$75/acre | \$90/acre |
| 2. 4-year sod-based rotation – fields in sod 29 months | \$173/acre | \$130/acre | \$156/acre |
| 3. 5-year sod-based rotation – fields in sod 41 months | \$233/acre | \$175/acre | \$210/acre |

2. The cooperator is eligible for one repair contract during the maintenance period for the practice. The sod does not need to be replanted if it is destroyed with 6 months or less remaining in the maintenance period, and the destruction is due to factors beyond the cooperator's control. The repair contract shall not require the maintenance period to be renewed. If the cooperator elects not to repair the sod, then he/she must repay a pro-amount of the amount received.
3. Grazing of livestock is allowable on cost shared sod-based rotation fields. However, the cooperator must provide at his or her own cost livestock exclusion, watering facilities, stream crossing, etc., to protect the water quality. The cooperator must not allow cost shared fields to be overgrazed and should follow NRCS Standard #528A Prescribed Grazing.
4. Cutting and harvesting of hay on cost shared sod-based rotation fields is allowable. Cooperator should follow the cutting reference in NRCS Standard #511 Forage Harvest Management.
5. Only the acreage planted shall be considered for payment. The area occupied by farm roads, best management practices, ditches, structures, etc. shall not be included in planted acreage.

Agriculture Cost Share Program

| SOD-BASED ROTATION | |
|---|--|
| Maintenance Period | 3, 4, or 5 YEARS |
| BMP Units | ACRES |
| Required Effects | SOIL_SAVED NITROGEN_SAVED PHOSPHORUS_SAVED ACRES_AFFECTED (planted acres) |
| JAA/NRCS Standard unless otherwise noted | ECS - 328 - Conservation Crop Rotation ECS - 512 - Forage and Biomass Planting |
| Supporting Practices | ECS - 528A - Prescribed Grazing ECS - 511- Forage Harvest Management |
| CS2 Reference Materials | NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads |