

Effects of NRCS Conservation Practices - National

Contour Farming

Using ridges and furrows formed by tillage, planting and other farming operations to change the direction of runoff from directly downslope to around the hillslope

Code: 330
Units: ac.

AL-Aso Land
O-Other
W-Water
D-Developed
FS-Farmstead
PI-Protected
P-Pasture
R-Range
F-Forest
C-Crop

Typical Landuse: C

<u>Soil Erosion</u>	<u>Effect</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill Erosion	2	Contouring reduces runoff velocities and changes overland flow direction, thus reducing the detachment and transport capacity of over-land flow.
Soil Erosion - Wind Erosion	0	Not Applicable
Soil Erosion - Ephemeral Gully Erosion	2	Contouring reduces runoff velocities and changes overland flow direction, thus reducing the detachment and transport capacity of concentrated over-land flow.
Soil Erosion - Classic Gully Erosion	0	Not Applicable
Soil Erosion - Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance C	0	Not Applicable
<u>Soil Quality Degradation</u>		
Organic Matter Depletion	2	Reduced soil erosion decreases organic matter loss.
Compaction	0	Not Applicable
Subsidence	0	Not Applicable
Concentration of Salts or Other Chemicals	0	Not Applicable
<u>Excess Water</u>		
Excess Water - Seeps	-2	Increases water infiltration that may move laterally to a seep area, particularly during fallow periods.
Excess Water - Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding	1	Increases water infiltration which will slightly reduce the potential for flooding or ponding.
Excess Water - Seasonal High Water Table	-1	Increases infiltration which could contribute to excess subsurface water.
Excess Water - Drifted Snow	0	Not Applicable
<u>Insufficient Water</u>		
Insufficient Water - Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water	0	Not Applicable
Insufficient Water - Inefficient Moisture Management	1	Increases water infiltration resulting in improved water storage in the profile.
<u>Water Quality Degradation</u>		
Pesticides in Surface Water	1	The action reduces runoff and erosion.
Pesticides in Groundwater	-1	The action increases infiltration.
Nutrients in Surface water	2	The action reduces sheet and rill erosion and can increase water infiltration, thereby reducing the transport of nutrients and organics to surface water.
Nutrients in Groundwater	-1	The action reduces the velocity of runoff, resulting in increased water infiltration which could move nutrients and organics to groundwater.
Salts in Surface Water	1	The action slows runoff, which may increase water infiltration, reducing the potential for transport of salts to surface water.
Salts in Groundwater	-1	The action reduces the velocity of runoff, resulting in increased water infiltration which could move salts to groundwater.
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solic	1	Contour Farming decreases sheet and rill erosion and slows runoff velocities, thereby reducing the potential for transport of pathogens to surface water
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solic	0	Increased water infiltration could move pathogens into the soil.

Excessive Sediment in Surface Water	2	Contour Farming reduces sheet and rill erosion and slows the velocity of runoff, thereby reducing the transport of sediment to surface water														
Elevated Water Temperature	0	Not Applicable														
Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transport	0	Not Applicable														
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<u>Air Quality Impacts</u>																
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors	0	Not Applicable														
Emissions of Ozone Precursors	0	Not Applicable														
Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	0	Not Applicable														
Objectionable Odors	0	Not Applicable														
<u>Degraded Plant Condition</u>																
Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	1	Increased infiltration increases the amount of available water for crop growth.														
Inadequate Structure and Composition	0	Not Applicable														
Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	0	Not Applicable														
Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	0	Not Applicable														
<u>Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat</u>																
Inadequate Habitat - Food	0	Not Applicable														
Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	0	Not Applicable														
Inadequate Habitat - Water	2	Not Applicable														
Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	0	Not Applicable														
<u>Livestock Production Limitation</u>																
Inadequate Feed and Forage	0	Not Applicable														
Inadequate Shelter	0	Not Applicable														
Inadequate Water	0	Not Applicable														
<u>Inefficient Energy Use</u>																
Equipment and Facilities	1	Equipment operated on the contour vs up and down hill														
Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations	1	Equipment operated on the contour vs up and down hill														
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><u>CPPE Practice Effects:</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5 Substantial Improvement</td> <td>0 No Effect</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Moderate to Substantial Improvement</td> <td>-1 Slight Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Moderate Improvement</td> <td>-2 Slight to Moderate Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Slight to Moderate Improvement</td> <td>-3 Moderate Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Slight Improvement</td> <td>-4 Moderate to Substantial Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>-5 Substantial Worsening</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>CPPE Practice Effects:</u>		5 Substantial Improvement	0 No Effect	4 Moderate to Substantial Improvement	-1 Slight Worsening	3 Moderate Improvement	-2 Slight to Moderate Worsening	2 Slight to Moderate Improvement	-3 Moderate Worsening	1 Slight Improvement	-4 Moderate to Substantial Worsening		-5 Substantial Worsening
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