



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

ALABAMA

Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION PRACTICE CATALOG

As a landowner or farm operator, you face many decisions when managing your natural resources. When you evaluate options for your operation, consider installing conservation practices listed in this handout to help improve your resource management and cropping system. A conservation plan can be developed to improve management for additional resource concerns. NRCS staff and your local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) are available to help you make the right choices to protect your operation and resources.

Helping People Help the Land

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A close-up photograph of a pair of hands, palms up, holding a small, vibrant green seedling with two leaves. The seedling is growing out of a mound of dark, rich soil. The hands are slightly dirty with soil, suggesting active work in the field. The background is dark and out of focus.

This document is not to be used as technical guidance or policy. All NRCS practices shall be applied according to current Conservation Practice Standards available in the Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV (http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map=).

For information on the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Alabama, visit www.al.nrcs.usda.gov or follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/NRCS_AL

A close-up photograph of a pair of hands cupped together, holding a mound of dark, rich soil. A single, vibrant green leaf is positioned in the center of the soil. The hands are slightly dirty with soil, and the background is dark, making the soil and leaf stand out.

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Access Control - 472

Practice Description

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area

Purpose

Achieve and maintain by monitoring and managing animals, people, vehicles, coordination with the practices, measures conservation plan



Access Road - 560

Practice Description

A travel-way for equipment and vehicles constructed to provide a fixed route for vehicular travel for resource activities involving the management of timber, livestock, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and other conservation enterprises while protecting the soil, water, air, fish, wildlife, and other adjacent natural resources

Purpose

This practice is planned where access is needed from a private or public road or highway to a land use enterprise or conservation measure, or where travel ways are needed in a planned land use area. Access roads range from seasonal use roads, designed for low speed and rough driving conditions, to all-weather roads heavily used by the public and designed with safety as a high priority. Some roads are only constructed for a single purpose; i.e. control of forest fires, logging and forest management activities, access to remote recreation areas, or access for maintenance of facilities.



Agrichemical Handling Facility - 309

Practice Description

A facility with an impervious surface to provide an environmentally safe area for on-farm agrichemicals. Provides a safe environment to store, mix, load and cleanup agrichemicals, retain incidental spillage, retain leakage, and reduce surface water, groundwater, air, and/or soil pollution

Purpose

Practice applies where:

- The handling of agrichemicals creates significant potential for pollution of surface water, groundwater, air or soil and a facility is needed to properly manage and handle the chemical operation;
- An adequate water supply is available for filling application equipment tanks, rinsing application equipment and chemical containers as needed;
- Soils and topography are suitable for construction.

NOTE: This practice does not apply to the handling or storage of fuels, or to commercial or multi-landowner agrichemical handling operations.



Amendments for Treatment of Ag Waste - 591

Practice Description

The treatment of manure, wastewater, storm water runoff from high use areas, and other wastes, with chemical or biological additives

Purpose

This practice applies where the use of a chemical or biological amendments will alter the physical and chemical characteristics of animal waste as a part of a planned waste management system to:

- Improve or protect air quality
- Improve or protect water quality
- Improve or protect animal health
- Alter the consistency of the waste stream of facilitates implementation of a waste management system



Anerobic Digester - 366

Practice Description

A component of a waste management system that provides biological treatment in the absence of oxygen

Purpose

This practice is applied for the treatment of manure and other byproducts of animal agricultural operations for one or more of the following reasons:

- Capture biogas for energy production
- Manage odors
- Reduce the net effect of greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce pathogens



Animal Mortality Facility - 316

Practice Description

An on-farm facility for the treatment or disposal of livestock and poultry carcasses for routine and catastrophic mortality events

Purpose

This practice is applied for one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce impacts to surface and groundwater resources
- Reduce the impact of odors
- Decrease the spread of pathogens



Animal Trails and Walkways - 575

Practice Description

Established lanes or travel ways that facilitate animal movement

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Provide or improve access to forage, water, working/handling facilities, and/or shelter
- Improve grazing efficiency and distribution, and/or
- Protect ecologically sensitive, erosive and/or potentially erosive sites



Anionic Polyacrylamide Erosion Control - 450

Practice Description

Application of water-soluble Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) to meet a resource concern

Purpose

This practice is applied as part of a conservation system to support one or more of the following:

- Reduce soil erosion by water or wind
- Improve water quality
- Improve air quality by reducing dust emissions



Aquaculture Ponds - 397

Practice Description

A water impoundment constructed and managed for commercial production of fish and other aquaculture products

Purpose

This practice applies to all types of ponds installed or modified for commercial production of fish and other animals and plants. The purpose of the practice is to provide a favorable water environment for producing, growing, harvesting, and marketing commercial aquaculture crops.



Brush Management - 314

Practice Description

The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Create the desired plant community consistent with the ecological site
- Restore or release desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality or enhance stream flow
- Maintain, modify, or enhance fish and wildlife habitat
- Improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock and wildlife
- Manage fuel loads to achieve desired conditions



Channel Bed Stabilization - 584

Practice Description

Measure(s) used to stabilize the bed or bottom of a channel. This practice applies to the beds of existing or newly constructed alluvial or threshold channels that are undergoing damaging aggradation or degradation and that cannot be feasibly controlled by clearing or snagging, by the establishment of vegetative protection, by the installation of bank protection, or by the installation of upstream water control measures

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following:

- Maintain or alter channel bed elevation or gradient
- Modify sediment transport or deposition
- Manage surface water and groundwater levels in floodplains, riparian areas, and wetlands



Clearing and Snagging - 326

Practice Description

Removal of vegetation along the bank (clearing) and/or selective removal of snags, drifts, or other obstructions (snagging) from natural or improved channels and streams

Purpose

Reduce risks to agricultural resources or civil infrastructure by removing obstructions that hinder channel flow or sediment transport in order to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Restore flow capacity and direction
- Prevent excessive bank erosion by eddies or redirection of flow
- Reduce the undesirable formation of bars; and/or;
- Minimize blockages by debris and ice



Combustion System Improvement - 372

Practice Description

Installing, replacing, or retrofitting agricultural combustion systems and/or related components or devices for air quality and energy efficiency improvement

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- To improve air quality by addressing the air quality resource concerns for particulate matter and ozone precursors by mitigating actual or potential emissions of oxides of nitrogen and/or fine particulate matter
- To improve the energy efficiency of agricultural combustion systems



Composting Facility - 317

Practice Description

A facility to process raw organic by-products such as, animal mortality and manure into biologically stable organic material

Purpose

This practice is applied to reduce the pollution potential of organic agricultural wastes to surface and groundwater by one or more of the following:

- Reduces volume by 25 to 50 percent
- Improves fertilizing capabilities by converting nitrogen to less soluble form
- Aids in nutrient management



Conservation Cover - 327

Practice Description

Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover

Purpose

This practice may be applied to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Reduce soil erosion and sedimentation
- Improve water quality
- Enhance wildlife habitat



**Conservation Crop
Rotation - 328**

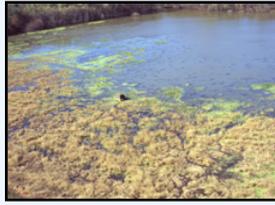
Practice Description

Growing crops in a recurring sequence on the same field

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following:

- Reduce sheet and rill erosion
- Reduce soil erosion from wind
- Maintain or improve soil organic matter content
- Manage the balance of plant nutrients
- Improve water use efficiency
- Manage plant pests (weeds, insects, and diseases)
- Provide food for domestic livestock
- Provide food and cover for wildlife



**Constructed
Wetland - 656**

Practice Description

An artificial ecosystem with hydrophytic vegetation for water treatment

Purpose

For treatment of wastewater and contaminated runoff from agricultural processing, livestock, and aquaculture facilities, or for improving the quality of storm water runoff or other water flows lacking specific water quality discharge criteria



**Contour Buffer
Strips - 332**

Practice Description

Narrow strips of permanent, herbaceous vegetative cover established around the hill slope, and alternated down the slope with wider cropped strips that are farmed on the contour

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Reduce sheet and rill erosion
- Reduce transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants downslope
- Increase water infiltration



Contour Farming - 330

Practice Description

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

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Reduce sheet and rill erosion
- Reduce transport of sediment, other solids and the contaminants attached to them
- Increase water infiltration



Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops - 331

Practice Description

Planting orchards, vineyards, or small fruits so that all cultural operations are done on the contour

Purpose

- Reduce soil erosion
- Reduce water loss



Cover Crop - 340

Practice Description

Crops including grasses, legumes and forbs for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Reduce erosion from wind and water
- Increase soil organic matter content
- Promote biological nitrogen fixation
- Increase biodiversity
- Weed suppression
- Provide supplemental forage
- Soil moisture management
- Minimize and reduce soil compaction



Critical Area Planting - 342

Practice Description

Establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have or are expected to have high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices

Purpose

- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by water.
- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind
- Rehabilitate and revegetate degraded sites that cannot be stabilized through normal farming practices.
- Stabilize coastal areas, such as sand dunes and riparian areas.



Dam - 402

Practice Description

An artificial barrier that can impound water for one or more beneficial purposes

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Reduce downstream flood damage
- Provide permanent water storage for one or more beneficial uses such as irrigation or livestock supply, fire control, municipal or industrial uses, or recreational uses
- Create or improve habitat for fish and wildlife



Deep Tillage - 324

Practice Description

Performing tillage operations below the normal tillage depth to modify adverse physical or chemical properties of a soil

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Bury or mix soil deposits from wind or water erosion or flood overwash
- Reduce concentration of soil contaminants, which inhibit plant growth
- Fracture restrictive soil layers



Dike - 356

Practice Description

A berm or ridge, or ridge and channel combination of compacted soil to channel water to a desired location or away from an undesired location

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Protect people and property from floods
- Control water level in connection with crop production, fish and wildlife management; or wetland maintenance, improvement, restoration, or construction
- Direct water to stable outlets or traps
- Direct clean water away from disturbed or polluted areas



Diversion - 362

Practice Description

A channel constructed across the slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a resource management system to support one or more of the following purposes:

- Break up concentrations of water on long slopes, on undulating land surfaces, and on land that is generally considered too flat or irregular for terracing
- Increase or decrease the drainage area above ponds
- Protect terrace systems by diverting water from the top terrace where topography, land use, or land ownership prevents terracing the land above
- Intercept surface and shallow subsurface flow
- Reduce runoff damages from upland runoff



Drainage Water Management - 554

Practice Description

The use of structures for water control in the process of managing water discharges from surface and/or subsurface agricultural drainage systems

Purpose

The purpose of this practice is:

- Reduce nutrient, pathogen, and/or pesticide loading from drainage systems into downstream receiving waters
- Improve productivity, health, and vigor of plants
- Reduce oxidation of organic matter in soils
- Reduce wind erosion or particulate matter (dust) emissions
- Provide seasonal wildlife habitat



Dry Hydrant - 432

Practice Description

A non-pressurized permanent pipe assembly installed into water source that permits the withdrawal of water by suction. To provide all weather access to an available water source for fire suppression

Purpose

Where a dependable source of water is available, where transport vehicles can access the site, and where a source of water is needed for fire suppression.



Early Successional Habitat Development / Management - 647

Practice Description

Manage plant succession to develop and maintain early successional habitat to benefit desired wildlife and/or natural communities. To provide habitat for species requiring early successional habitat for all or part of their life cycle

Purpose

This practice is applied on all lands that are suitable for the kinds of desired wildlife and plant species. Management will be designed to achieve the desired plant community structure (e.g., density, vertical and horizontal cover) and plant species diversity.



Farmstead Energy Improvement - 374

Practice Description

Installing, replacing, or retrofitting agricultural equipment systems and/or related components or devices which results in an on-farm and/or off-site reduction in actual or potential emissions of greenhouse gases

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve the following:

- Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions (on farm and/or off-site) from agricultural systems or components by implementing the recommendations from on-site energy audits



Fence - 382

Practice Description

A constructed barrier to animals or people

Purpose

This practice facilitates the accomplishment of conservation objectives by providing a means to control movement of animals, people, and vehicles.



Feral Swine Management Conservation Activity - 297

Practice Description

Feral swine management is a component of an area wide effort of assessment, planning, exclusion, scouting, control, and monitoring to document and reduce resource damage caused by feral swine and focus interagency management efforts to reduce adverse resource impacts and health concerns for other animals and humans.

Purpose

- Determine locations and intensity of feral swine impacts upon resource conditions and potential means to reduce or eliminate these impacts
- Develop a management plan to address feral-swine-impacted resources of concern using a conservation practice or system of conservation practices
- Evaluate the effectiveness of a practice or system of practices in reducing resource impacts from feral swine



Field Border - 386

Practice Description

A strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field

Purpose

This practice may be applied to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Reduce soil erosion
- Provide turn rows for farm machinery
- Soil and water quality protection
- Management of harmful insect populations
- Provide wildlife food and cover
- Increase carbon storage in biomass and soils
- Improve air quality



Filter Strip - 393

Practice Description

A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in runoff
- Reduce dissolved contaminant loadings in runoff
- Reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants in irrigation tailwater



Firebreak - 394

Practice Description

A permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land planned to retard fire

Purpose

This practice applies on all land uses where protection from wildfire is needed or prescribed burning is applied to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Reduce the spread of wildfire
- Contain prescribed burns



Fishpond Management - 399

Practice Description

Managing impounded water for the production of fish or other aquatic organisms

Purpose

This practice is applied in warm and cold water ponds, lakes, and reservoirs not managed for commercial aquaculture purposes to accomplish one or more of the following:

- To provide favorable habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms.
- To develop and maintain a desired species composition and ratio.
- To develop and maintain a desired level of production



Forage and Biomass Planting - 512

Practice Description

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health
- Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production
- Reduce soil erosion
- Improve soil quality and water quality
- Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production



Forage Harvest Management - 511

Practice Description

The timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop or ensilage

Purpose

- Optimize yield and quality of forage at the desired levels
- Promote vigorous plant re-growth
- Manage for the desired species composition
- Use forage plant biomass as a soil nutrient uptake tool
- Control insects, diseases and weeds
- Maintain and/or improve wildlife habitat



Forest Stand Improvement - 666

Practice Description

The manipulation of species composition, stand structure and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation

Purpose

This practice may be applied to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Increase the quantity and quality of forest products by manipulating stand density and structure
- Harvest forest products
- Initiate forest stand regeneration
- Reduce wildfire hazard
- Improve forest health reducing the potential of damage from pests and moisture stress
- Restore natural plant communities
- Achieve or maintain a desired native understory plant community for special forest products, grazing, and browsing
- Improve aesthetic and recreation, values
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Alter water yield
- Increase carbon storage in selected trees



Forest Trails and Landings - 655

Practice Description

A temporary or infrequently used route, path or cleared area. Trails and landings including skid trails are applicable on forest land. They typically connect to an Access Road (560)

Purpose

This practice may be applied to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Provide routes for temporary or infrequent travel by people or equipment for management activities
- Provide periodic access for removal and collection of forest products



Fuel Break - 383

Practice Description

A strip or block of land on which the vegetation, debris and detritus have been reduced and/or modified to control or diminish the risk of the spread of fire crossing the strip or block of land

Purpose

This practice applies on all land where protection from wildfire is needed to control and reduce the risk of the spread of fire by treating, removing or modifying vegetation, debris and detritus.



Grade Stabilization Structure - 410

Practice Description

A structure used to control the grade and head cutting in natural or artificial channels

Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to stabilize the grade and control erosion in natural or artificial channels, to prevent the formation or advance of gullies, and to enhance environmental quality and reduce pollution hazards.



Grassed Waterways - 412

Practice Description

A shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to carry surface water at a non-erosive velocity to a stable outlet

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Convey runoff from terraces, diversions, or other water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding
- Reduce gully erosion
- Protect/improve water quality



Heavy Use Area Protection - 561

Practice Description

The stabilization of areas frequently and intensively used by people, animals or vehicles by establishing vegetative cover, by surfacing with suitable materials, and/or by installing needed structures

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Reduce soil erosion
- Improve water quantity and quality
- Improve air quality
- Improve aesthetics
- Improve livestock health



Hedgerow Planting - 422

Practice Description

Establishment of dense vegetation in a linear design to achieve a natural resource conservation purpose

Purpose

This practice may be installed to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Habitat, including food, cover, and corridors for terrestrial wildlife
- To enhance pollen, nectar, and nesting habitat for pollinators
- Food, cover, and shade for aquatic organisms that live in adjacent streams or watercourses
- To provide substrate for predaceous and beneficial invertebrates as a component of integrated pest management
- To intercept airborne particulate matter
- To reduce chemical drift and odor movement
- Screens and barriers to noise and dust
- To increase carbon storage in biomass and soils
- Living fences
- Boundary delineation and contour guidelines



Herbaceous Weed Control - 315

Practice Description

The removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants

Purpose

- Enhance accessibility, quantity, and quality of forage and/or browse.
- Restore or release native or create desired plant communities and wildlife habitats consistent with the ecological site.
- Protect soils and control erosion
- Reduce fine-fuels fire hazard and improve air quality



Integrated Pest Management - 595

Practice Description

A site-specific combination of pest prevention, pest avoidance, pest monitoring, and pest suppression strategies

Purpose

This practice is applied on all lands where pests will be managed to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Prevent or mitigate off-site pesticide risks to water quality from leaching, solution runoff and adsorbed runoff losses
- Prevent or mitigate off-site pesticide risks to soil, water, air, plants, animals and humans from drift and volatilization losses
- Prevent or mitigate on-site pesticide risks to pollinators and other beneficial species through direct contact
- Prevent or mitigate cultural, mechanical and biological pest suppression risks to soil, water, air, plants, animals and humans



Irrigation Canal or Lateral - 320

Practice Description

A permanent channel constructed to convey irrigation water from the source of supply to one or more irrigated areas

Purpose

Apply this practice to facilitate the efficient distribution and use of water on irrigated land to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Where a canal or lateral and related structures are needed as an integral part of an irrigation water conveyance system
- Where water supplies for the area served are sufficient to make irrigation practical for the crops to be grown and the irrigation water application methods to be used

Conservation Practice Standard Irrigation Field Ditch (388) should be used for on-farm irrigation water conveyance and/or distribution of less than 25 cubic feet per second



Irrigation Field Ditch - 388

Practice Description

A permanent irrigation ditch constructed in or with earth materials, to convey water from the source of supply to a field or fields in an irrigation system

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of an irrigation water management system to efficiently convey and distribute irrigation waters. This standard is limited to open channels and elevated ditches of 25 cubic feet per second or less in capacity and constructed of earth materials. The practice applies where field ditches are needed as an integral part of an irrigation water distribution system design to facilitate the conservation use of soil and water resources.



Irrigation Land Leveling - 464

Practice Description

Reshaping the surface of land to be irrigated, to planned lines and grades

Purpose

This practice applies to the leveling of land irrigated by surface or subsurface irrigation systems. The leveling is based on a detailed engineering survey, design, and layout. Land to be leveled shall be suitable for irrigation and for the proposed methods of water application. Soils shall be deep enough that, after leveling, an adequate usable root zone remains that will permit satisfactory crop production with proper conservation measures. Limited areas of shallow soils may be leveled to provide adequate irrigation grades or an improved field alignment. The finished leveling work must not result in exposed areas of highly permeable soil materials that would inhibit proper distribution of water over the field.



Irrigation Pipeline - 430

Practice Description

A pipeline and appurtenances installed in an irrigation system to convey water

Purpose

This practice is applied to convey water from a source of supply to an irrigation system or storage reservoir.



Irrigation Reservoir - 436

Practice Description

An irrigation water storage structure made by constructing a dam, embankment, pit, or tank

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a resource conservation system to achieve one or more of the following:

- Store water to provide a reliable irrigation water supply or regulate available irrigation flows
- Improve water use efficiency on irrigated land
- Provide storage for tailwater recovery and reuse
- Provide irrigation runoff retention time to increase breakdown of chemical contaminants
- Reduce energy consumption



Irrigation System, Microirrigation - 441

Practice Description

An irrigation system for frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface: as drops, tiny streams or miniature spray through emitters or applicators placed along a water delivery line

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following purposes:

- To efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water and maintain soil moisture for plant growth
- Prevent contamination of ground and surface water by efficiently and uniformly applying chemicals
- Establish desired vegetation



Irrigation System, Sprinkler - 442

Practice Description

An irrigation system in which all necessary equipment and facilities are installed for efficiently applying water by means of nozzles operated under pressure

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to achieve one or more of the following:

- Efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water to maintain adequate soil water for the desired level of plant growth and production without causing excessive water loss, erosion, or water quality impairment
- Climate control and/or modification
- Applying chemicals, nutrients, and/or waste water
- Leaching for control or reclamation of saline or sodic soils
- Reduction in particulate matter emissions to improve air quality



**Irrigation System,
Surface and
Subsurface - 443**

Practice Description

A system in which all necessary earthwork, multi-outlet pipelines, and water-control structures have been installed for distribution of water by surface means, such as furrows, borders, and contour levees, or by subsurface means through water table control

Purpose

Applied as part of a resource conservation system to achieve one or more of the following:

- Efficiently convey and distribute irrigation water to the surface point of application without causing excessive water loss, erosion, or water quality impairment
- Efficiently convey and distribute irrigation water to the subsurface point of application without causing excessive water loss or water quality impairment
- Apply chemicals and/or nutrients as part of a surface irrigation system in a manner which protects water quality
- Improve energy use efficiency



**Irrigation Tailwater
Recovery - 447**

Practice Description

A planned irrigation system in which all facilities utilized for the collection, storage, and transportation of irrigation tailwater and/or rainfall runoff for reuse have been installed

Purpose

This practice shall be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following:

- Conserve irrigation water supplies
- Improve off-site water quality



**Irrigation Water
Management - 449**

Practice Description

The process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Manage soil moisture to promote desired crop response
- Optimize use of available water supplies
- Minimize irrigation induced soil erosion
- Decrease non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources
- Manage salts in the crop root zone
- Manage air, soil, or plant micro-climate
- Proper and safe chemigation or fertigation
- Improve air quality by managing soil moisture to reduce particulate matter movement



**Karst Sinkhole
Treatment - 527**

Practice Description

The treatment of sinkholes in karst areas to reduce contamination of groundwater resources, and/or to improve farm safety

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system in karst topography, which is an area underlain by solutioned carbonate bedrock with sinkholes and caverns. The practice supports one or more of the following purposes:

- Improve water quality
- Improve farm safety



Land Clearing - 460

Practice Description

Removing trees, stumps, and other vegetation to achieve a conservation objective

Purpose

This practice applies to wooded areas where the removal of trees, stumps, brush, and other vegetation is needed in carrying out a conservation plan to allow needed land use adjustments and improvements in the interest of conservation.



**Land Reclamation,
Abandoned Mined
Land - 543**

Practice Description

Reclamation of land and water areas adversely affected by past mining activities

Purpose

Apply this practice to abandoned mined land that degrades the quality of the environment and prevents or interferes with the beneficial uses of soil, water, air, plant or animal resources, or endangers human health and safety to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Stabilize abandoned mined areas to decrease erosion and sedimentation, support desirable vegetation and improve off-site water quality and or quantity
- Maintain or improve landscape visual and functional quality
- Protect public health, safety and general welfare



**Land Reclamation,
Landslide Treatment -
453**

Practice Description

Managing natural materials, mine spoil (excavated over-burden), mine waste or overburden to reduce down-slope movement.

Purpose

Apply where in-place material, mine spoil, waste, or overburden, or rock cut road banks are unstable, moving, or judged to have potential of moving down slope in a manner that will cause damage to life, property, or the environment to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Repair unstable slopes caused by slope failure, and reduce the chance of enlargement or movement of slope surfaces
- Protect life and property
- Prevent excessive erosion and sedimentation
- Improve water quality and landscape resource quality
- Create a condition conducive to establishing surface protection and beneficial land use

This practice does not apply to constructed embankment surfaces (road fills, dams, dikes, levees and terraces.



Land Smoothing - 466

Practice Description

Removing irregularities on the land surface. To improve surface drainage, provide for more uniform cultivation, and improve equipment operation and efficiency.

Purpose

This practice applies on areas where depressions, mounds, old terraces, turn-rows, and other surface irregularities interfere with the application of needed soil and water conservation and management practices. It is limited to areas having adequate soil depth or where topsoil can be salvaged and replaced. This practice does not apply to the regular maintenance on irrigated land or on land that has been modified using practice standards Precision Land Forming (462) or Irrigation Land Leveling (464).



Lighting System Improvement - 670

Practice Description

Complete replacement or retrofitting of one or more components of an existing agricultural lighting system.

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to reduce energy use.



Livestock Shelter Structure - 576

Practice Description

A permanent or portable structure with less than four walls and/or a roof to provide for improved utilization of pastureland and rangeland and to shelter livestock from negative environmental factors. This structure is not to be construed to be a building

Purpose

- To provide protection for livestock from excessive heat, wind, cold, or snow.
- Protect surface waters from nutrient and pathogen loading.
- Protect wooded areas from accelerated erosion and excessive nutrient deposition by providing alternative livestock shelter/shade location.
- Improve the distribution of grazing livestock to enhance wildlife habitat, reduce overused areas, or correct other resource concerns resulting from improper livestock distribution



Mulching - 484

Practice Description

Applying plant residues or other suitable materials produced off site, to the land surface

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Conserve soil moisture
- Moderate soil temperature
- Provide erosion control
- Suppress weed growth
- Establish vegetative cover
- Improve soil condition and increase soil fertility



Nutrient Management - 590

Practice Description

Managing the amount, source, placement, form and timing of the application of plant nutrients and soil amendments

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Budget and supply nutrients for plant production
- Properly utilize manure or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source
- Minimize agricultural non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources
- Protect air quality by reducing nitrogen emissions (ammonia and NO₂ compounds) and the formation of atmospheric particulates
- Maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of soil



Obstruction Removal - 500

Practice Description

Removal and disposal of buildings, structures, other works of improvement, vegetation, debris or other materials

Purpose

To safely remove and dispose of unwanted obstructions in order to apply conservation practices or facilitate the planned land use.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On any land where existing obstructions interfere with planned land use development, public safety or infrastructure. This standard is not intended for the removal of obstructions from aquatic environments



Open Channel - 582

Practice Description

Pipeline having an inside diameter of 4 inches or less where conveyance of water is desirable or necessary to conserve the supply, or maintain the quality of water

Purpose

This practice is applied to improve water quantity and quality by conveying water from a source of supply to points of use for livestock or wildlife; make practical the exclusion of livestock from ponds and streams.



Pipeline (Livestock Pipeline) - 516

Practice Description

A pipeline and appurtenances installed to convey water for livestock and wildlife

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a resource management system to achieve one or more of the following purposes:

- Convey water to the points of use for livestock or wildlife
- Reduce energy use
- Develop renewable energy systems



Pond - 378

Practice Description

A water impoundment made by constructing an embankment or by excavating a pit or dugout. Ponds constructed by the first method are referred to as embankment ponds, and those constructed by the second method are referred to as excavated ponds. Ponds constructed by both the excavation and the embankment methods are classified as embankment ponds if the depth of water impounded against the embankment at the auxiliary spillway elevation is 3 feet or more

Purpose

This practice is applied to provide water for livestock, fish and wildlife, recreation, fire control, and other related uses, and to maintain or improve water quality.



Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Sealant - 521c

Practice Description

A liner for a pond or waste storage impoundment consisting of a compacted soil-bentonite mixture.

Purpose

This practice is applied to reduce seepage losses from ponds or waste impoundments for water conservation and environmental protection to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Soils are suitable for treatment with bentonite
- Ponds or waste storage impoundments require treatment to reduce seepage rates and to impede the migration of contaminants to within acceptable limits



Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment - 521d

Practice Description

A liner for a pond or waste storage impoundment constructed using compacted soil without soil amendments

Purpose

Apply this practice to reduce seepage losses from ponds or waste storage impoundments constructed for water conservation and environmental protection to accomplish one or more of the following:

- In-place soils at the site would exhibit seepage rates in excess of acceptable limits or would allow an unacceptable migration of contaminants from the impoundment
- An adequate quantity of soil suitable for constructing a clay liner without amendments is available at an economical haul distance



**Pond Sealing or Lining,
Flexible
Membrane - 521a**

Practice Description

Pond sealing with a flexible membrane is installing a liner made of impervious flexible material to reduce seepage to an acceptable level

Purpose

This practice is used to improve the functionality of a pond, and prevent damage to the natural resources including unacceptable loss of water from seepage. This method of pond sealing is relatively expensive, but often necessary for sandy textured sites and projects that require a very effective sealant. Ponds to be lined may include Irrigation Storage Reservoirs, Irrigation Pits, Waste Treatment Lagoons, Waste Treatment Ponds, and Ponds For Livestock/Wildlife.



**Pond Sealing or Lining,
Soil Dispersant - 521b**

Practice Description

A liner for a pond or waste storage impoundment consisting of a compacted soil-dispersant mixture

Purpose

Apply this practice to reduce seepage losses from ponds or waste impoundments for water conservation and environmental protection to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Soils are suitable for treatment with dispersants
- Ponds or waste storage impoundments require treatment to reduce seepage rates and to impede the migration of contaminants to within acceptable limits



**Precision Land
Forming - 462**

Practice Description

Reshaping the surface of land to planned grades

Purpose

All precision land forming shall be planned as an integral part of an overall system to facilitate the conservative use to improve surface drainage and control erosion.



Prescribed Burning - 338

Practice Description

Controlled fire applied to a predetermined area

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Control undesirable vegetation
- Prepare sites for harvesting, planting or seeding.
- Control plant disease.
- Reduce wildfire hazards
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Improve plant production quantity and/or quality
- Remove slash and debris
- Enhance seed and seedling production
- Facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals
- Restore and maintain ecological sites



Prescribed Grazing - 528

Practice Description

Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals

Purpose

This practice may be applied as a part of conservation management system to achieve one or more of the following:

- Improve or maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant communities
- Improve or maintain quantity and quality of forage for grazing
- Improve or maintain surface and/or subsurface water quality and quantity
- Improve or maintain riparian and watershed function
- Reduce accelerated soil erosion, and maintain or improve soil condition
- Improve or maintain the quantity and quality of food and/or cover available for wildlife
- Manage fine fuel loads to achieve desired conditions



Pumping Plant - 533

Practice Description

A facility that delivers water at a designed pressure and flow rate. Includes the required pump, associated power unit(s), plumbing, appurtenances, and may include on-site fuel or energy sources, and protective structures.

Purpose

This practice may be applied as a part of a resource management system to achieve one or more of the following:

- Delivery of water irrigation, water facilities
- Removal of excessive surface water
- Provide efficient use of water on irrigated land
- Transfer of animal waste as part of a manure transfer system
- Improve energy use efficiency
- Improve air quality



Residue & Tillage Management, Reduce Till - 345

Practice Description

Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting the soil-disturbing activities used to grow crops in systems where the entire field surface is tilled prior to planting.

Purpose

This practice is applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce sheet and rill erosion
- Reduce tillage-induced particulate emissions
- Maintain or increase soil quality and organic matter content
- Reduce energy use
- Increase plant-available moisture



Residue Management, No-Till, and Strip Till - 329

Practice Description

Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting soil-disturbing activities to only those necessary to place nutrients, condition residue and plant crops.

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Reduce sheet and rill erosion
- Reduce wind erosion
- Improve soil organic matter content
- Reduce CO₂ losses from soil
- Increase plant-available moisture
- Provide food and escape cover for wildlife



Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats - 643

Practice Description

Restoring and managing rare and declining habitats and their associated wildlife species to conserve biodiversity.

Purpose

This practice may be installed to provide habitat for rare and declining species.



Riparian Forest Buffer - 391

Practice Description

An area predominantly trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from water-courses or water bodies

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Create shade to lower or maintain water temperatures to improve habitat for aquatic organisms
- Create or improve riparian habitat and provide a source of detritus and large woody debris
- Reduce excess amounts of sediment, organic material, nutrients and pesticides in surface runoff and reduce excess nutrients and other chemicals in shallow groundwater flow
- Reduce pesticide drift entering the water body
- Restore riparian plant communities
- Increase carbon storage in plant biomass and soils



Road / Trail / Landing Closure - Treatment - 654

Practice Description

The closure, decommissioning, or abandonment of roads, trails, and/or landings and associated treatment to achieve conservation objectives.

Purpose

To minimize various resource concerns associated with existing roads, trails, and/or landings by closing them and treating to a level where one or more the following objectives are achieved:

- Controlling erosion (road, sheet and rill, gully, wind), chemical residues and off-site movement, sediment deposition and damage, accentuated storm runoff, and particulate matter generation;
- Restoring land to a productive state by reestablishing adapted plants and habitat (wildlife food, cover, and shelter), reconnecting wildlife habitat and migration corridors including streams and riparian areas, and controlling noxious and invasive species;
- Reestablishing drainage patterns that existed prior to construction of the road, trail, or landing to restore the form and integrity of associated hill slopes, channels and floodplains and their related hydrologic and geomorphic processes;
- Minimizing human impacts to the closure area to meet safety, aesthetic, sensitive area protection, or wildlife habitat requirements



Roof Runoff Structure - 558

Practice Description

Structures that collect, control, and transport precipitation from roofs

Purpose

This practice may be installed to improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, increase infiltration, protect structures, improve animal health, and/or increase water quantity.



Roofs and Covers - 367

Practice Description

A rigid, semi-rigid, or flexible manufactured membrane, composite material, or roof structure placed over a waste management facility

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Water quality improvement
- Diversion of clean water from animal management areas (i.e. barnyard, feedlot or exercise area) and/or waste storage facilities
- Capture of biogas for energy production
- Reducing net effect of greenhouse gas emissions
- Air quality improvement and odor reduction



High Tunnel System - 325

Practice Description

An enclosed polyethylene, polycarbonate, plastic, or fabric covered structure that is used to cover and protect crops from sun, wind, excessive rainfall, or cold to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner

Purpose

Improve plant health and vigor.



Sediment Basin - 350

Practice Description

A basin constructed to collect and store debris or sediment

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Preserve the capacity of reservoirs, wetlands, ditches, canals, diversion, waterways, and streams
- Prevent undesirable deposition on bottom lands and developed areas
- Trap sediment originating from construction sites or other disturbed areas
- Reduce or abate pollution by providing basins for deposition and storage of silt, sand, gravel, stone, agricultural waste solids, and other detritus



Shallow Water Development and Management - 646

Practice Description

The inundation of lands to provide habitat for fish and/or wildlife

Purpose

To provide habitat for wildlife such as shore-birds, waterfowl, wading birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and other species that require shallow water for at least a part of their life cycle.



Silvopasture Establishment - 381

Practice Description

An application establishing a combination of trees or shrubs and compatible forages on the same acreage

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Provide forage for livestock and the production of wood products
- Increase carbon sequestration
- Improve water quality
- Reduce erosion
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Reduce fire hazard
- Provide shade for livestock
- Develop renewable energy systems



Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility - 632

Practice Description

A filtration or screening device, settling tank, settling basin, or settling channel used to separate a portion of solids from a liquid waste stream

Purpose

This practice is applied to partition solids, liquids and their associated nutrients as part of a conservation management system to achieve one or more of the following:

- Improve or protect air quality
- Improve or protect water quality
- Improve or protect animal health
- Meet management objectives



Spoil Spreading - 572

Practice Description

Disposal of surplus excavated materials

Purpose

This practice applies to sites where spoil material is available from the excavation of open channels, ponds or other construction sites to dispose of excess soil from construction activities in an environmentally sound manner that minimizes soil erosion, protects water quality and fits with the land use and landscape



Spring Development - 574

Practice Description

Collection of water from springs or seeps to provide water for a conservation need

Purpose

In areas where a spring or seep will provide a dependable supply of suitable water to improve the quantity and/or quality of water for livestock, wildlife or other agricultural uses



Stream Crossing - 578

Practice Description

Controlling the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff

Purpose

To control stormwater runoff to achieve one or more of the following:

- Minimize erosion and sedimentation during and following construction activities.
- Reduce the quantity of stormwater leaving developing or developed sites.
- Improve the quality of stormwater leaving developing or developed sites



Storm Water Runoff Control - 570

Practice Description

A stabilized area or structure constructed across a stream to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment, or vehicles

Purpose

This practice may be applied to achieve improved water quality by the following:

- Reduce sediment, nutrient, organic, and inorganic loading of the stream
- Reduce stream bank and streambed erosion
- Provide crossing for access to another land unit
- Provide limited access for livestock water use



Stream Habitat Improvement and Management - 395

Practice Description

Maintain, improve or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream, and its associated riparian zone, necessary for meeting the life history requirements of desired aquatic species.

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Provide suitable habitat for desired fish and other aquatic species
- Provide stream channel and associated riparian conditions that maintain stream corridor ecological processes and hydrological connections of diverse stream habitat types important to aquatic species



Streambank and Shoreline Protection - 580

Practice Description

Treatment(s) used to stabilize and protect banks of streams or constructed channels, and shorelines of lakes, reservoirs, or estuaries

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- To prevent the loss of land or damage to land uses, or facilities adjacent to the banks of streams or constructed channels, shoreline of lakes, reservoirs, or estuaries including the protection of known historical, archeological, and traditional cultural properties
- To maintain the flow capacity of streams or channels
- Reduce the off-site or downstream effects of sediment resulting from bank erosion
- To improve or enhance the stream corridor for fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and recreation



Stripcropping - 585

Practice Description

Growing planned rotations of row crops, forages, small grains, or fallow in a systematic arrangement of equal width strips across a field

Purpose

This practice may be applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Reduce soil erosion from water and transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants
- Reduce soil erosion from wind
- Protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles



Structure For Water Control - 587

Practice Description

A structure in a water management system that conveys water, controls the direction or rate of flow, maintains a desired water surface elevation or measures water

Purpose

The practice may be applied as a management component of a water management system to control the stage, discharge, distribution, delivery or direction of water flow.



Structure for Wildlife - 649

Practice Description

A structure installed to replace or modify a missing or deficient wildlife habitat component.

PURPOSE

To provide structures, in proper amounts, locations and seasons to:

Purpose

A structure installed to replace or modify a missing or deficient wildlife habitat component.

PURPOSE

To provide structures, in proper amounts, locations and seasons to:

- Enhance or sustain non-domesticated wildlife; or
- Modify existing structures that pose a hazard to wildlife



Surface Drain Field Ditch - 607

Practice Description

A graded ditch for collecting excess water in a field

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a resource conservation system to achieve one or more of the following:

- Interception of excess subsurface water and conveyance to an outlet
- Collection or interception of excess surface water, such as sheet flow from natural and graded land surfaces or channel flow from furrows, and conveyance to an outlet
- Drainage of surface depressions



Surface Drain, Main or Lateral - 608

Practice Description

An open drainage constructed to a designed cross section alignment and grade

Purpose

This practice is applied as part of a water management system (tailwater recovery) to collect and convey excess irrigation water to storage area for reuse throughout the growing season.



Terrace - 600

Practice Description

An earthen embankment, or a combination ridge and channel, constructed across the field slope

Purpose

This practice is applied as part of a resource management system for one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce erosion by reducing slope length
- Retain runoff for moisture conservation



**Tree/Shrub
Establishment - 612**

Practice Description

Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration

Purpose

This practice is applied to establish woody plants for:

- Forest products such as timber, pulpwood, and energy biomass
- Wildlife habitat
- Long-term erosion control and improvement of water quality
- Treating waste
- Storing carbon in biomass
- Energy conservation
- Improving or restoring natural diversity
- Enhancing aesthetics



**Tree/Shrub
Pruning - 660**

Practice Description

The removal of all or part of selected branches, leaders or roots from trees and shrubs

Purpose

This practice when applied may achieve one or more of the following:

- Improve the appearance of trees or shrubs, e.g., ornamental plants and Christmas trees
- Improve the quality of wood products
- Improve the production of plant products, e.g., nuts, fruits, boughs and tips
- Reduce fire and/or safety hazards
- Improve the growth and vigor of understory plants
- Adjust the foliage and branching density or rooting length for other specific intents, such as wind and snow control, noise abatement, access control, and visual screens and managing competition
- Improve health and vigor of woody plants e.g. disease, insect and injury management



**Tree/Shrub Site
Preparation - 490**

Practice Description

Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs

Purpose

This practice when applied may achieve one or more of the following:

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants
- Permit artificial establishment of woody plants



**Underground
Outlet - 620**

Practice Description

A conduit or system of conduits installed beneath the surface of the ground to convey surface water to a suitable outlet.

Purpose

This practice is applied to carry water to a suitable outlet from terraces, water and sediment control basins, diversions, waterways, surface drains or other similar practices without causing damage by erosion or flooding.



**Upland Wildlife
Habitat
Management - 645**

Practice Description

Provide and manage upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife.

Purpose

Treating upland wildlife habitat concerns identified during the conservation planning process that enable movement, or provide shelter, cover, food in proper amounts, locations and times to sustain wild animals that inhabit uplands during a portion of their life cycle.



**Vegetated Treatment
Area - 635**

Practice Description

An area of permanent vegetation used for agricultural wastewater treatment.

Purpose

To improve water quality by reducing loading of nutrients, organics, pathogens, and other contaminants associated with livestock, poultry, and other agricultural operations.



Waste Facility Closure - 360

Practice Description

The closure of waste impoundments (treatment lagoons and liquid storage facilities), that are no longer used for their intended purpose, in an environmentally safe manner

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Protect the quality of surface water and groundwater resources
- Eliminate a safety hazard for humans and livestock
- Safeguard the public health



Waste Recycling - 633

Practice Description

Using agricultural wastes such as manure and wastewater or other organic residues

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Protect water quality
- Protect air quality
- Provide fertility for crop, forage, fiber production and forest products
- Improve or maintain soil structure
- Provide feedstock for livestock
- Provide a source of energy



Waste Storage Facility - 313

Practice Description

A waste storage impoundment made by constructing an embankment and/or excavating a pit or dugout, or by building a structure

Purpose

This practice is installed to temporarily store wastes such as manure, to protect from runoff as a component of an agricultural waste management system.



Waste Transfer - 634

Practice Description

A system using structures, conduits or equipment to convey by-products (wastes) from agricultural operations to points of usage

Purpose

To transfer agricultural material associated with production, processing, and/or harvesting through a hopper or reception pit, a pump (if applicable), a conduit, and/or hauling equipment to:

- A storage/treatment facility
- A loading area, and/or
- Agricultural land for final utilization as a resource



Waste Treatment - 629

Practice Description

The mechanical, chemical or biological treatment of agricultural waste

Purpose

To use mechanical, chemical, or biological treatment facilities and/or processes as part of an agricultural waste management system:

- Improve ground and surface water quality by reducing the nutrient content, organic strength, and/or pathogen levels of agricultural waste
- Improve air quality by reducing odors and gaseous emissions
- Produce value added by-products
- Facilitate desirable waste handling, storage, or land application alternatives



Waste Treatment Lagoon - 359

Practice Description

A waste treatment impoundment made by constructing an embankment and/or excavating a pit or dugout

Purpose

To biologically treat waste, such as manure and wastewater, and thereby reduce pollution potential by serving as a treatment component of a waste management system.

- Where the lagoon is a component of a planned agricultural waste management system
- Where treatment is needed for organic wastes generated by agricultural production or processing
- On any site where the lagoon can be constructed, operated and maintained without polluting air or water resources
- To lagoons utilizing embankments with an effective height of 35 feet or less where damage resulting from failure would be limited to damage of farm buildings, agricultural land, or township and country roads



Water Harvesting Catchment - 636

Practice Description

The closure of waste impoundments (treatment lagoons and liquid storage facilities), that are no longer used for their intended purpose, in an environmentally safe manner

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Protect the quality of surface water and groundwater resources
- Eliminate a safety hazard for humans and livestock
- Safeguard the public health



Water and Sediment Control Basin - 638

Practice Description

An earthen embankment or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope of minor watercourses to form a sediment trap and water detention basin with a stable outlet

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a resource management system for one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce watercourse and gully erosion
- Trap sediment
- Reduce and manage on-site and downstream runoff



Watering Facility - 614

Practice Description

A permanent or portable device to provide an adequate amount and quality of drinking water for livestock and or wildlife

Purpose

To provide access to drinking water for livestock and/or wildlife in order to:

- Meet daily water requirements
- Improve animal distribution



Water Well - 642

Practice Description

A hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted or otherwise constructed to an aquifer for water supply

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Provide water for livestock, wildlife, irrigation, and other agricultural uses
- Facilitate proper use of vegetation, such as keeping animals on rangeland and pastures and away from streams, and providing water for wildlife



Water Well Decommissioning - 351

Practice Description

The sealing and permanent closure of an inactive, abandoned, or unusable water well

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Eliminate physical hazard to people, animals, and farm machinery; and to prevent entry of animals, debris, or other foreign substances
- Prevent contamination of groundwater by surface water inflow
- Restore the natural hydrogeologic conditions, to the extent possible, by preventing vertical cross-contamination or commingling of groundwaters between separate water bearing zones
- Eliminate the possibility of the water well being used for any other purpose
- Allow future alternative use or management of the site



Wetland Creation - 658

Practice Description

The creation of a wetland on a site that was historically non-wetland

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a resource management system to create wetland functions and values.



Wetland Enhancement - 659

Practice Description

The rehabilitation of a degraded wetland or the re-establishment of a former wetland so that soils, hydrology, vegetative community, and habitat are a close approximation of the original natural condition and boundary that existed prior to the modification

Purpose

To provide specific wetland conditions to favor specific wetland functions and targeted species by:

- Hydrologic enhancement (depth duration and season of inundation, and/or duration and season of soil saturation)
- Vegetative enhancement (including the removal of undesired species, and/or seeding or planting of desired species)



Wetland Restoration - 657

Practice Description

The rehabilitation of a degraded wetland or the reestablishment of a wetland so that soils, hydrology, vegetative community, and habitat are a close approximation of the original natural condition that existed prior to modification to the extent practicable

Purpose

To restore wetland function, value, habitat, diversity, and capacity to a close approximation of the pre-disturbance by:

- Restoring hydric soil
- Restoring hydrology (depth duration and season of inundation, and/or duration and season of soil saturation)
- Restoring native vegetation (including the removal of undesired species, and/or seeding or planting of desired species)



Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management - 644

Practice Description

Retaining, developing or managing wetland habitat for wetland wildlife

Purpose

To maintain, develop, or improve wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, fur-bearers, or other wetland dependent or associated flora and fauna on or adjacent to wetlands, rivers, lakes and other water bodies where wetland associated wildlife habitat can be managed. This practice applies to natural wetlands and/or water bodies as well as wetlands that may have been previously restored (657), enhanced (659), and created (658).



Woody Residue Treatment - 384

Practice Description

Treating woody plant residues created during forestry, agroforestry and horticultural activities to achieve management objectives

Purpose

This practice is applied to achieve one or more of the following:

- Reduce hazardous fuels
- Reduce the risk of harmful insects and disease
- Protect/maintain air quality by reducing the risk of wildfire
- Improve access to forage for grazing and browsing animals
- Enhance aesthetics
- Reduce the risk of harm to humans and livestock
- Improve the soil organic matter
- Improve the site for natural or artificial regeneration

County/Field Service Center Index

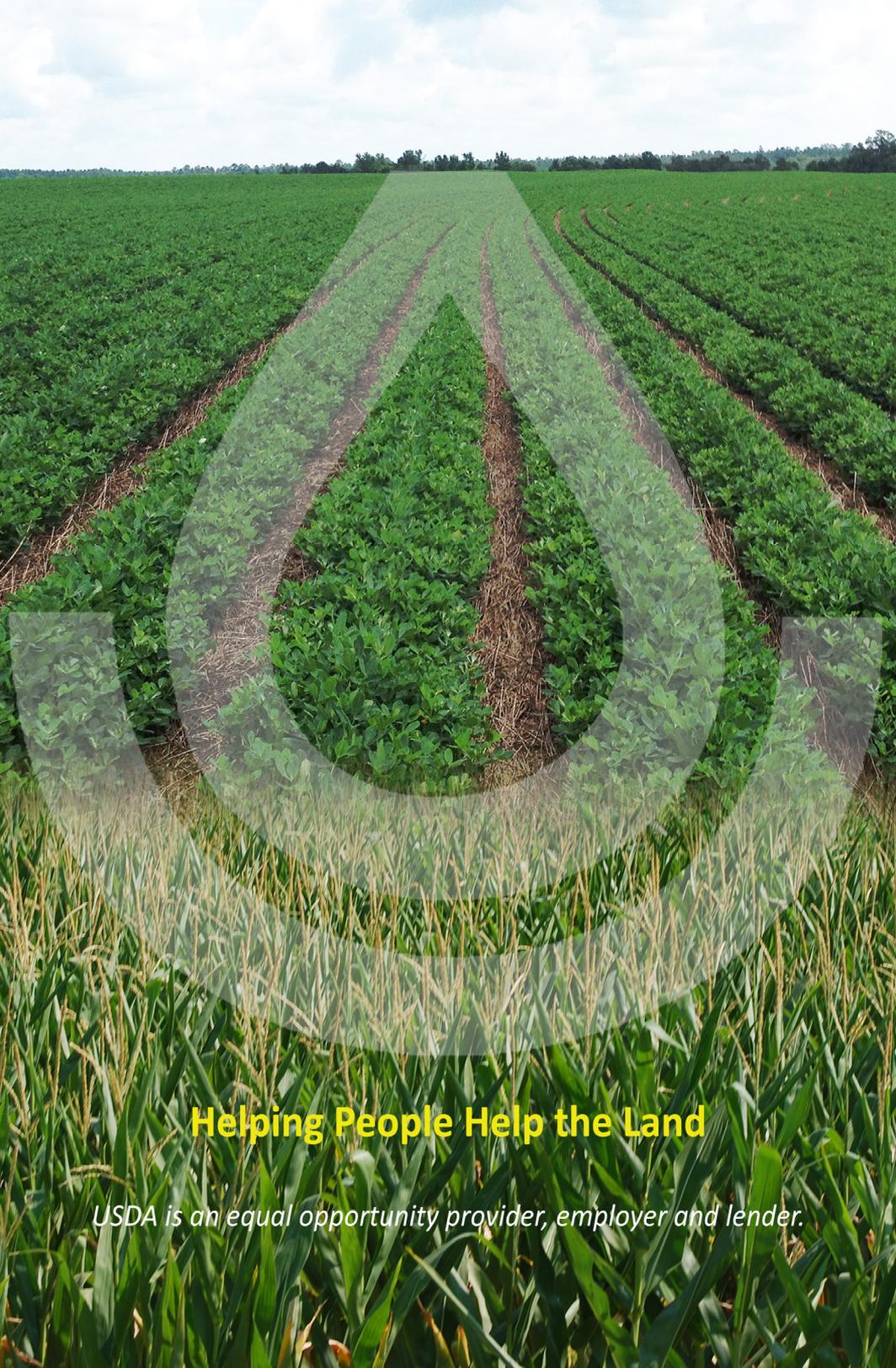
County	Field Service Center	Phone
Autauga	Autaugaville	(334) 365-5532
Baldwin	Bay Minette	(251) 937-3297
Barbour	Clayton	(334) 775-3266
*Bibb	Centerville	(334) 926-4360
Blount	Oneonta	(205) 274-2363
*Bullock	Union Springs	(334) 738-2079
Butler	Greenville	(334) 382-8538
Calhoun	Anniston	(256) 835-7821
*Chambers	LaFayette	(334) 864-9983
Cherokee	Centre	(256) 927-8732
*Chilton	Clanton	(205) 646-0277
*Choctaw	Butler	(205) 459-2496
Clarke	Jackson	(251) 246-0245
*Clay	Ashland	(256) 354-7512
*Cleburne	Heflin	(256) 463-2877
Coffee	New Brockton	(334) 894-5581
Colbert	Tuscumbia	(256) 383-4323
Conecuh	Evergreen	(251) 578-1520
*Coosa	Rockford	(256) 377-4750
Covington	Andalusia	(334) 222-3519
Crenshaw	Luverne	(334) 335-3613
Cullman	Cullman	(256) 734-6471
Dale	Ozark	(334) 774-4749
Dallas	Selma	(334) 872-2611
Dekalb	Rainsville	(256) 638-6398
Elmore	Wetumpka	(334) 567-2264
Escambia	Brewton	(251) 867-3185
Poarch Band of Creek Indians		(251) 368-0826
Etowah	Gadsden	(256) 546-2336
Fayette	Fayette	(205) 932-8959
Franklin	Russellville	(256) 332-0274
Geneva	Geneva	(334) 684-2235
Greene	Eutaw	(205) 372-3271
Hale	Greensboro	(334) 624-3856
Henry	Abbeville	(334) 585-2284
Houston	Dothan	(334) 793-2310
Jackson	Scottsboro	(256) 574-1005
Jefferson	Bessemer	(205) 424-9990
Lamar	Vernon	(205) 695-7622

Note | Offices with an asterisk () are Soil and Water Conservation District Offices.

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County	Field Office	Phone
Laurderdale	Florence	(256) 764-5833
Lawrence	Moulton	(256) 974-1174
Lee	Opelika	(334) 745-4791
Limestone	Athens	(256) 232-4025
Lowndes	Haynesville	(334) 548-2767
Macon	Tuskegee	(334) 725-3321
Madison	Huntsville	(256) 532-1677
Marengo	Linden	(334) 295-8724
Marion	Hamilton	(205) 921-3103
Marshall	Guntersville	(256) 582-3923
Mobile	Mobile	(251) 441-6505
Monroe	Monroeville	(251) 743-2587
Montgomery	Montgomery	(334) 279-3579
Morgan	Hartselle	(256) 773-6541
Perry	Marion	(334) 683-9017
Pickens	Carrollton	(205) 367-8168
Pike	Troy	(334) 566-2300
Randolph	Wedowee	(256) 357-4561
Russell	Phenix City	(334) 297-6692
Shelby	Columbiana	(205) 669-5121
*St. Clair	Pell City	(205) 338-7215
Sumter	Livingston	(205) 652-5105
Talladega	Talladega	(256) 362-8210
Tallapoosa	Alexander City	(256) 329-3084
Tuscaloosa	Tuscaloosa	(205) 553-1733
Walker	Jasper	(205) 387-1879
*Washington	Chatom	(251) 847-6041
Wilcox	Camden	(334) 682-4117
*Winston	Double Springs	(205) 489-5227

Note | Offices with an asterisk () are Soil and Water Conservation District Offices.



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