

Correlation Chart for NRCS Conservation Practices and NOP Requirements

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

Production Practice	NOP Final Rule 7 CFR Part 205, Section and Practice Standard	Wording in NOP Final Rule (Key phrases from the National Organic Program regulation)	NRCS Mission Goals	NRCS Practice Standard (Name and Number)	Definition/Purposes (Highlights from the practice standards)
Natural Resource Conservation	205.200 General	Production practices implemented in accordance with this subpart must maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities		
Natural Resource Conservation	205.2 Terms defined: “Natural Resources of the Operation”	“The physical, hydrological, and biological features of a production operation, including soil, water, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife.”	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities		
Conservation of Biodiversity	205.2 Terms defined: “Organic production”	“A production system that is managed in accordance with the Act and regulations in this part to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity.”	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities		
Cover Cropping	205.203 Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrient Management	The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of the soil; manage soil fertility through rotations, cover crops... maintain or improve soil organic matter.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water	340 Cover Crop	Seasonal cover to reduce erosion, increase soil organic matter, manage excess nutrients, promote biological nitrogen fixation, increase biodiversity, suppress weeds, manage soil moisture.

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Crop Rotation (perennial crops) Crop Rotation (perennial crops, cont'd)	205.2 Terms defined: "Crop Rotation" 205.203 Soil fertility... (see above) 205.205 Crop Rotation practice standard 205.206 Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.	"...Perennial cropping systems employ means such as alley cropping, intercropping, and hedgerows to introduce biological diversity in lieu of crop rotation." The producer must ... minimize soil erosion. The producer must: (a) maintain or improve soil organic matter content; (b) provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops; (c) manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and (d) provide erosion control. (a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases including but not limited to: (1) Crop rotation... (b)(2) Development of habitat for natural enemies of pests.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities	311 Alley cropping Related Practice Standards: 386 Field Border 380 Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment 422 Hedgerow planting 704 Agroforestry Planting	Trees or shrubs planted...with crops, or forages produced in the alleys between the rows of woody plants to improve or optimize the economic viability of the operation... to reduce excess surface water runoff and erosion, improve utilization and recycling of soil nutrients ...create habitat for biological pest management, improve crop diversity, quantity, quality and economic returns, enhance aesthetics, increase net carbon storage in the vegetation and soil.
Erosion Control	205.203 Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard 205.205	The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion. The producer must ... provide erosion	Productive Soils	330 Contour Farming 331 Contour Orchard and other fruit areas 332 Contour Buffer strips Related Practice Standards:	Tillage, planting, and other farming operations performed on or near the contour of the field slope to reduce erosion and transport of sediment and other water-borne contaminants downslope, reduce soil and water loss, to better control and use water, and to operate farm equipment more

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Erosion Control (cont'd)	Crop Rotation practice standard	control.		393 Filter Strip 329 A, B, C and 344 Residue Management 344 Residue Management, 350 Sediment Basin, 386 Field Border, 412 Grassed Waterway, 423 Hillside Ditch, 342 Critical Area Planting, 390 Riparian Herbaceous cover, 484 Mulching, 557 Row Arrangement, 570 Runoff Management (continued in next column)	easily, and enhance wildlife habitat. Related Program regulation (continued from previous column: 586 Stripcropping, 599 A and C Cross Wind Ridges, 612 Tree and shrub planting, 601 Vegetative barrier, 603 Herbaceous wind barriers, 741 Vegetative buffer strip, and many others.
Protection of Water Quality	205.202 Land Requirements	Any field or farm parcel from which harvested crops are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as “organic,” must: (a) Have been managed in accordance with the provisions of §§ 205.203 through 205.206; (b) Have had no prohibited substances, as listed in § 205.105, applied to it for a period of 3 years immediately preceding harvest of the crop; and (c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the crop or contact with a prohibited	Clean & Abundant Water		

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		substance applied to adjoining land that is not under organic management.			
Protection of Air Quality	205.203(e)(3)	The producer must not use: Burning as a means of disposal for crop residues produced on the operation: Except, that, burning may be used to suppress the spread of disease or to stimulate seed germination.	Clean Air; Productive Soils	660 Tree/shrub pruning/smoke reduction	
Protection of Air Quality	205.203(e)(3)				
Nutrient Management and Fertilization	205.203(c) Soil fertility and crop nutrient management practice standard	The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil or water with plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water	590 Nutrient Management 633 Waste Utilization Related Practice Standards: 484 Mulching 317 Composting Facility	...supply nutrients for plant production to properly utilize manure or organic by-products as a plant nutrient source, minimize agricultural non-point source pollution, maintain or improve the physical, chemical and biological condition of soil. Using agricultural wastes such as manure...and other organic residues; to protect water quality, provide fertility for crop, forage, fiber...and forest products, improve or maintain soil structure...
Pest Management	205.206 Crop Pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.	The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases including but not limited to: (1) crop rotation and soil and crop nutrient management... (2) sanitation measures to remove disease vectors, weed seeds, and habitat for pest organisms, (3) cultural practices that	Healthy Plant & Animal Communities	595 Pest Management Related Practice Standards: 422 Hedgerow planting	Manage agricultural pest infestations (including weeds, insects, and diseases) to reduce adverse effects on plant growth, crop production, and environmental resources. To develop a pest management program that is both consistent with selected crop production goals and environmentally acceptable.

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		enhance crop health, including selection of plant species and varieties with regard to suitability to site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent pests, weeds and diseases...		380 Windbreak	
Protection of Natural Areas Protection of Natural Areas	205.207 Wild crop harvesting practice standard	(b) A wild crop must be harvested in a manner that ensures that such harvesting or gathering will not be destructive to the environment and will sustain the growth and production of the wild crop.	Healthy Plant & Animal Communities		
Manure Management	205.203(c) Soil fertility (Composting of raw manure) 205.239(c) Livestock living conditions	Raw animal manure...must be composted unless it is (i) applied to land used for a crop not intended for human consumption; (ii) incorporated into the soil not less than 120 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion has direct contact with soil...(iii) ...90 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion does not have direct contact... The producer of an organic livestock operation must manage manure in such a manner that it does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, heavy metals or pathogenic organisms and optimizes recycling of nutrients.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water	634 Manure Transfer 635 Wastewater Treatment Strip Related Practice Standards: 575 Animal trails and walkways	Manure conveyance system ...to transfer animal manure (bedding material, spilled feed, process and wash water, and other residues... to agricultural land for final utilization. A treatment component of an agricultural waste management system consisting of a strip or area of herbaceous vegetation to improve water quality by reducing loading of nutrients, organics, pathogens, and other contaminants associated with animal manure and other wastes...
Livestock Operations	205.236 Origin of livestock	Livestock must be organic from the last third of gestation; dairy for 12 months; poultry from second day of life.	Healthy Plant & Animal Communities;	721 Rangeland fertilization 210 Hayland	Establish /prolong life of desirable plant species or plant cover for erosion control, wildlife

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Livestock Operations (cont'd)	<p>205.237 Livestock feed</p> <p>205.238 Livestock health care practice standard</p> <p>205.239 Livestock living conditions</p>	<p>Feed must be 100% organic. Ruminants must have access to pasture. Approved synthetic vitamin and mineral supplements are allowed. Feeding animal by-products, urea and manure is prohibited</p> <p>Preventative Health Care Selection of species...suitability for site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent diseases and parasites. Provision of feed rations sufficient to meet nutritional requirements...appropriate housing. Pasture conditions...minimize the occurrence and spread of diseases and parasites. ...allow exercise and freedom of movement...reduction of stress. Performance of physical alterations as needed for the animal's welfare. Administration of vaccines and veterinary biologics are allowed.</p> <p>Must accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals: Access to outdoors, shade, shelter, sun, fresh air... Pasture for ruminants. Appropriate clean, dry bedding.</p>	Working Farms & Ranches	<p>Management 512 Pasture and Hay Planting</p> <p>Related Practice Standards: 528: Prescribed grazing 548 Grazing land mechanical treatment 550 Range Planting 614 Watering Facility 511 Forage Harvest Management</p>	<p>habitat, to maintain or improve the quality and quantity of forage, protect the soil and reduce water loss.</p> <p>Establish adapted and compatible species, improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health, extend the length of the grazing season</p>

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Prescribed Grazing	205.239(a) Livestock living conditions 205.2 Terms defined: "Pasture"	(a) The producer of an organic livestock operation must establish and maintain livestock living conditions which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals, including: (1) Access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, and direct sunlight suitable to the species, its stage of production, the climate, and the environment; (2) Access to pasture for ruminants; "Land used for livestock grazing that is managed to provide feed value and maintain or improve soil, water, and vegetative resources."	Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities	528: Prescribed grazing	
Protection of Soil and Water Quality	205.239(b) Livestock living conditions	(b) The producer of an organic livestock operation may provide temporary confinement for an animal because of: (1) Inclement weather; (2) The animal's stage of production; (3) Conditions under which the health, safety, or well being of the animal could be jeopardized; or (4) Risk to soil or water quality.	Productive Soils; Clean & Abundant Water; Healthy Plant & Animal Communities; Working Farms & Ranches		

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