

## **“Core 6” Conservation Practices and Payments**

For the 2009 Organic Initiative, there are six “Core” practices that farmers and ranchers can apply to implement, through EQIP Funding. These are all available on a nationwide basis. A farmer can choose to implement any number of the following practices, and the more practices that a farmer plans to implement the higher priority the application will be. These practices address the NRCS resource concern categories of soil quality, soil erosion, domestic animals, plant condition, water quality, and fish and wildlife.

Study these practices and see how they fit with the new practices you will undertake to become a certified organic farmer or are of general conservation benefit to you. Ask NRCS to help. The practices are the following (link to conservation practice standard listed for each; link to job sheets are included where available):

### **1. Conservation Crop Rotation**

Code: Practice Number 328

Rate Increase: 34% bump up over regular State EQIP payment rate

NRCS Conservation Crop Rotation Practice Standard:

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/328.pdf>

### **2. Cover Crop**

Code: Practice Number 340

Rate Increase: 46% bump up over regular State EQIP payment rate

NRCS Cover Crop Practice Standard:

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/340.pdf>

### **3. Nutrient Management**

Code: Practice Number 590

Rate Increase: 30% bump up over regular State EQIP payment rate

NRCS Nutrient Management Practice Standard:

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/590.pdf>

Job Sheet:

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/jobsheets/590js.pdf>

### **4. Pest Management**

Code: Practice Number 595

Rate Increase: 60% bump up over regular State EQIP payment rate

NRCS Pest Management Practice Standard:

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/595.pdf>

Job Sheet:

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/jobsheets/595js.pdf>

### **5. Prescribed Grazing**

Code: Practice Number 528

Rate Increase: 2% bump up over regular State EQIP payment rate

NRCS Prescribed Grazing Practice Standard:

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/528.pdf>

### **6. Forage Harvest Management**

Code: Practice Number 511

Rate Increase: 2% bump up over State EQIP payment rate

NRCS Forage Harvest Management:

<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/511.pdf>