

Saginaw Bay Watershed Conservation Partnership

Working with Farmers to Grow Clean Water

USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program



RCPP-EQIP Conservation Practices /Practice Codes	Description
<p>Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) (104)</p> <p>Nutrient Management (590)</p>	<p>After taking a soil test, setting realistic yield goals, and taking credit for contributions from previous years' crops and manure applications, crop nutrient needs are determined and included in a NMP. NMPs are prepared in collaboration with the grower and, if included in a Conservation Program Contract, must be written by a Technical Service Provider.</p> <p>Nutrients are applied according to a NMP. Recordkeeping is required. Sound nutrient management reduces input costs and protects water quality by preventing over-application of nutrients.</p>
<p>Drainage Water Management (DWM)(554)</p> <p><i>Supporting Practices:</i></p> <p>Structure for Water Control (587)</p> <p>Underground Outlet (620)</p> <p>Critical Area Planting (342)</p> <p>Mulching (484)</p> <p>Drainage Water Management Plan (DWMP) (130)</p>	<p>DWM is the control of soil water table elevations and the timing of water discharges from agricultural drainage systems using water control structures. DWM improves water quality by reducing nutrient loading from drainage systems into waters downstream; improves plant productivity, health and vigor; reduces the rate of oxidation of organic soils; reduces wind erosion; and provides seasonal wildlife habitat.</p> <p>A DWMP provides the grower a framework for the implementation of DWM. If the plan is included in a Conservation Program Contract, it must be written by a Technical Service Provider.</p>
<p>Conservation Cover (327)</p>	<p>Permanent vegetative cover is established and maintained to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water and soil quality, and enhance wildlife habitat.</p>
<p>Residue and Tillage Management - No-Till (329)</p> <p>Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till (345)</p>	<p>Leaving last year's crop residue on the surface before and during planting provides cover for the soil at a critical times of the year. The residue is left on the surface by reducing tillage operations and turning less soil. The residue prevents soil erosion and protects water quality; improves soil tilth; and adds organic matter to the soil. Fewer trips and less tillage reduces soil compaction, and saves time, energy and labor.</p>
<p>Cover Crop (340)</p>	<p>Grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants are established to reduce erosion caused by water or wind; help increase soil organic matter; capture and recycle excess nutrients; fix nitrogen for the next year's crop; attract beneficial insects and provide over-wintering sites for the next year; suppress weed populations; and increase available soil moisture by providing insulating mulch.</p>
<p>Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)</p>	<p>Areas of grasses and forbs established adjacent to a stream or lake to provide wildlife habitat, and improve and protect water quality by removing nutrients and sediment from surface runoff.</p>
<p>Filter Strip (393)</p>	<p>Areas of grass and/or forbs that remove nutrients and sediment from overland flow before it reaches environmentally sensitive areas. These areas also provide wildlife habitat.</p>

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Natural Resource Concern & Component	RCCP-EQIP Conservation Practices/Codes Providing Positive Impacts
Surface Water Quality Degradation	
Nutrients	Conservation Cover (327)
	Cover Crop (340)
	Drainage Water Mgmt. (554)/Structure for Water Control (587)
	Filter Strip (393)
	Nutrient Management (590)
	Residue and Tillage Mgmt.--No-Till (329) or Reduced Till (345)
	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
Sediment	Conservation Cover (327)
	Cover Crop (340)
	Filter Strip (393)
	Residue and Tillage Mgmt.--No-Till (329) or Reduced Till (345)
	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
Soil Erosion	
Sheet and Rill	Conservation Cover (327)
	Cover Crop (340)
	Residue and Tillage Mgmt.--No-Till (329) or Reduced Till (345)
	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
Wind	Conservation Cover (327)
	Cover Crop (340)
	Drainage Water Mgmt.(554)/Structure for Water Control (587)
	Residue and Tillage Mgmt.--No-Till (329) or Reduced Till (345)
Soil Quality Degradation	
Organic Matter Depletion	Conservation Cover (327)
	Cover Crop (340)
	Drainage Water Mgmt.(554)/Structure for Water Control (587)
	Filter Strip (393)
	Nutrient Management (590)
	Residue and Tillage Mgmt.--No-Till (329) or Reduced Till (345)
	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)
Compaction	Conservation Cover (327)
	Cover Crop (340)
	Filter Strip (393)
	Residue and Tillage Mgmt.--No-Till (329) or Reduced Till (345)
	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program promotes coordination between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

Saginaw Bay, an embayment of Lake Huron, hosts the largest coastal wetland in Lake Huron and faces numerous water quality challenges, including loss of habitat, excessive nutrients and sediment, and algal blooms. The Saginaw Bay Watershed Conservation Partnership has set ecologically relevant implementation goals and is harnessing the influence of agribusiness as a complementary delivery mechanism in order to reach its goals by 2019.