

Memorandum

Date: February 7, 2022

To: Administrative Record of *Deepwater Horizon* NRDA

From: USDA Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Team

Subject: Site-specific environmental compliance documents completed to date for the Alabama Trustee Implementation Group's (TIG) Nutrient Reduction Weeks Bay project.

The programmatic environmental compliance review for this project can be found in the *Alabama Trustee Implementation Group 2019 Restoration Plan 2*. Conservation practices to be implemented for this project fall within USDA categorical exclusions and therefore would not normally require an environmental assessment or impact statement if implemented under USDA authority. However, because this project is funded under the DWH NRDA consent decree and not all trustees have such categorical exclusions, the Alabama TIG created an environmental assessment tool-the Environmental Evaluation Worksheet (EEW)-to aid in site-specific component planning, decision making, and environmental compliance. A separate site-specific EEW is completed for each project component.

USDA has determined and documented therein that the planned actions will not exceed the maximum adverse impacts described in the RP/EA. There are no actions being proposed that would result in any significant adverse impacts on the environment. The landowner outreach program, conservation planning activities, and creation and implementation of conservation plans do not require further environmental review. Excerpts from the RP/EA relative to the NEPA approach for the Weeks Bay project are included at the end of this document.

Relative to the projects listed in the table below, site-specific Clean Water Act permits are not required because there are no conservation practices planned for implementation on the banks of or within waters of the United States.

Relative to the projects listed in the table below, site-specific consultation for the National Historic Preservation Act is not required because there are no known or high-probability cultural resources sites located on the treatment acres.

Table of Site-Specific Environmental Evaluation Worksheet

ID	HUC-12 Watershed	County	Acres
1	Weeks Bay	Baldwin	237.26
2	Weeks Bay	Baldwin	10.00
3	Weeks Bay	Baldwin	1015.80
4	Weeks Bay	Baldwin	34.16
5	Weeks Bay	Baldwin	689.00
6	Weeks Bay	Baldwin	151.90
7	Weeks Bay	Baldwin	225.50
8	Weeks Bay	Baldwin	605.10
9	Weeks Bay	Baldwin	1501.63
10	Weeks Bay	Baldwin	341.59

A. Client Name: [REDACTED]

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED]

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

Improve soil quality and health in row crop fields. Improve soil nutrients with an organic alternative. Decrease wind, sheet and reel erosion.

C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required):

E. Need for Action:

Improve soil nutrient levels, soil health and water quality.
Improve soil nutrient levels, soil health and water quality.
Improve soil nutrient levels, soil health and water quality.

H. Alternatives

No Action ✓ if RMS ☐

Cropland is seasons when a cash crop could not grow is more likely to be a victim to wind, sheet or reel erosion. Bare ground cover could deplete the soils without any type of forage and will negatively affect the

Alternative 1 ✓ if RMS ☐

Install practices to promote healthier soils and water in cropland fields with Cover Crop (340)

Alternative 2 ✓ if RMS ☐

Resource Concerns

In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process.
(See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions

(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action

Amount, Status, Description

(Document both short and long term impacts)

Alternative 1

Amount, Status, Description

(Document both short and long term impacts)

Alternative 2

Amount, Status, Description

(Document both short and long term impacts)

SOIL

Sheet, Rill & Wind Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern.
Erosion is less than T on all fields

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

Concentrated Flow - Ephemeral Gully Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern.
Ephemeral gullies are not occurring.

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

Concentrated Flow - Classic Gully Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern.
Classic gullies are not present.

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

Excessive Bank Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern.
Streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels are not on or adjacent to cropland field(s).

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

Subsidence - Crop

Not a Resource Concern.
Histosols are not present.

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

Compaction - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems.

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

Organic matter depletion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. SCI is positive ____.

Bare grounds in cropland fields will continue to be a victim of wind, sheet and reel erosion with nothing to hold soils in place during the seasons a crop is not growing.

☐

NOT meet PC

Cover crop will be planted during seasons that a cash crop is not growing reducing erosion. A cover crop will also add natural nutrients as they decay in the soils (organic matter) and adding pore space.

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

Concentration of salts or other chemicals - Crop

Not a Resource Concern.
Activities do not cause salinity/drainage problems

☐

NOT meet

☐

NOT meet

☐

NOT meet

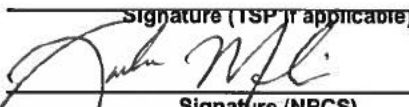
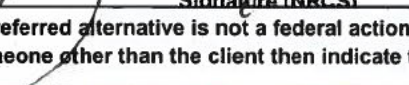
Salinity/sodicity problems.		meet PC		meet PC		meet PC
WATER						
Excess (Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps, and drifted ground - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Ponding, flooding, and seasonal high water tables are not a problem and activities do not		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Insufficient (Inefficient moisture management) - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause insufficient moisture		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excess (Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps, and drifted ground - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Ponding, flooding, and seasonal high water tables are not a problem and activities do not		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Insufficient (Inefficient moisture management) - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause insufficient moisture		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrient amendments are being applied according to soil test recommendations; however conservation practices are NOT		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation practices and managements ARE NOT in place to minimize surface/ground water impacts		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark	I. (continued)					
	No Action Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If does NOT meet PC	Alternative 1 Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If does NOT meet PC	Alternative 2 Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If does NOT meet PC
AIR						
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Particulate matter emissions are managed to meet Client's		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. GHG emissions are managed to meet Client's objectives.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Emissions of Ozone Precursors - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Operations ARE present that produce ozone precursor		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Objectionable odors - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not occur that produce objectionable odors.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
PLANTS						
Excessive plant pest pressure - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Pest damage to plants are BELOW economic and environmental		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Wildfire hazard is not a concern.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
ANIMALS						

No resource concern identified		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
No resource concern identified		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
No resource concern identified		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
ENERGY						
Equipment and facilities - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities to reduce energy usage.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Farming/ranching practices and field operations - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving farming practices and field operations to reduce energy		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Human Economic and Social Considerations						
Capital	No increase in Capital requirements		Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment		Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment	
sufficient capital for farm operation and conservation						
Labor	No increase in Labor		increase: more intensive soil sampling		increase: more intensive soil sampling	
labor level average for farms in the area						
Management Level	No increase in management		increase: must learn new technology and maintenance		increase: must learn new technology and maintenance	
management level average for farms in the area						
Profitability	Profitability will continue to be limited		Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer will be purchased and yields		Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer/pesticides will be purchased	
Profitability limited due to excess fertilizer/pesticide use						
Risk	With no action, risk level will remain.		Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient runoff/leaching potential.		Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient/pesticide runoff/leaching potential.	
High risk for water contamination and subsequent health effects on						
Public Health and Safety	With no action, Negative effects for the client and/or community may result due to offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides.		Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.		Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.	
Potential of offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides.						

Special Environmental Concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.

In Section "G" complete and attach Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation as applicable. Items with a "•" may require a federal permit or consultation/coordination between the lead agency and another government agency. In these cases, effects may need to be determined in consultation with another agency. Planning and practice implementation may proceed for

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	if needs further action
•Clean Air Act <i>Guide Sheet</i> No Nonattainment or Maintenance areas designated	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. <i>Guide Sheet</i> No waters of the U.S. present in the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Coastal Zone Management <i>Guide Sheet</i> No Coastal Zone Management Areas are in the planning area	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coral Reefs <i>Guide Sheet</i> No coral reefs or associated water bodies are present in the	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties <i>Guide Sheet</i>	Not applicable No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Endangered and Threatened Species <i>Guide Sheet</i> Wood Stork, Alabama Red- Bellied Turtle, and Eastern Indigo Environmental Justice <i>Guide Sheet</i> No low-income or minority populations or Indian Tribes live	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Essential Fish Habitat <i>Guide Sheet</i> No EFH is present in or downstream of the planning Floodplain Management <i>Guide Sheet</i> No 100-year floodplain present in the planning area. Source:	May Affect Client's actions may adversely affect EFH due to potential of run- off/leaching of excess nutrients.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Practices will not result in disruptions or alterations that could adversely affect EFH because	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Practices will not result in disruptions or alterations that could adversely affect EFH because	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species <i>Guide Sheet</i> No invasive species are present or known to occur in proximity to	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <i>Guide Sheet</i> No habitat for migratory birds, bald or golden eagles is present	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Areas <i>Guide Sheet</i> There are no designated natural areas present in or near the	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prime and Unique Farmlands <i>Guide Sheet</i> Prime Farmland map units are present in the planning area.	No Effect No effect due to no change in land use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riparian Area <i>Guide Sheet</i> No riparian areas are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenic Beauty <i>Guide Sheet</i> Annual Cropland	No Effect No change from benchmark conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>

Wetlands <i>Guide Sheet</i> No wetlands are present in or near the planning area. Source:	No Effect No impact to wetlands is expected without NRCS assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild and Scenic Rivers <i>Guide Sheet</i> No Federal or State designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.	None Required		None Required		None Required	
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)	Agricultural land in the watershed cumulatively impacts receiving waterbodies.		Action will result in the installation of conservation practices that will improve soil health and reduce sediment entering watershed.		Practices will reduce overapplication of nutrients and pesticides limiting their potential for contamination.	
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)	None		None		None	
M. Preferred Alternative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> preferred alternative <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Reason	<input type="checkbox"/> none known Operator wishes to concentrate on nutrient management at this time, and work towards integrating Pest Management in the future.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementing conservation practices helps to improve and sustain the resources.	<input type="checkbox"/> none known		
N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis)		local	local	local		
The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.						
O. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:						
In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.						
Signature (TSP if applicable)		Title		Date		
		Soil Con.		6/4/20		
Signature (NRCS)		Title		Date		
						
If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.						
The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)						
NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.						
P. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances						
To answer the questions below, consider the severity (intensity) of impacts in the contexts identified above. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.						
If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.						
Yes	No					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?				

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "P" .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse</u> environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding**R.1**

Findings Documentation

R.2Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s)
(more than one may apply)

7 CFR Part 650 Compliance With NEPA, subpart 650.6 Categorical Exclusions states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.

(19) Undertaking minor agricultural practices to maintain and restore ecological conditions in floodplains after a natural disaster or on lands impacted by human alteration. Examples of these practices include: mowing, haying, grazing, fencing, offstream watering facilities, and invasive species control which are undertaken when fish and wildlife are not breeding, nesting, rearing young, or during other sensitive timeframes

(20) Implementing soil control measures on existing agricultural lands, such as grade stabilization structures (pipe drops), sediment basins, terraces, grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian forest buffer, and critical area planting

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:*Joey Koptis*

DC

12/3/2020

Signature

Title

Date

Additional notes

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service		NRCS-CPA-52 4/2013															
ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET																	
D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose): Improve wildlife habitat while realizing short-term/long-term economical and aesthetic benefits of forested land.				NRDA BC 002													
E. Need for Action: The absence of proper forest management increases the risk of catastrophic wildfires and results in the degradation of historically native ecosystems of high risk, or threatened and endangered wildlife species		4. Alternatives <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No Action</th> <th>✓ if RMS</th> <th>Alternative 1</th> <th>✓ if RMS</th> <th>Alternative 2</th> <th>✓ if RMS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Management practices (e.g., prescribed burning, invasive species control, proper thinning, etc.) will continue to not be implemented.</td> <td></td> <td>Prescribed burning of timber stand using practice 394 (Firebreak) and practice 338 (Prescribed Burning) will be implemented. Site preparation (490) will be implemented to introduce native longleaf tree shrub establishment (612).</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				No Action	✓ if RMS	Alternative 1	✓ if RMS	Alternative 2	✓ if RMS	Management practices (e.g., prescribed burning, invasive species control, proper thinning, etc.) will continue to not be implemented.		Prescribed burning of timber stand using practice 394 (Firebreak) and practice 338 (Prescribed Burning) will be implemented. Site preparation (490) will be implemented to introduce native longleaf tree shrub establishment (612).			
No Action	✓ if RMS	Alternative 1	✓ if RMS	Alternative 2	✓ if RMS												
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		Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC										
SOIL: EROSION																	
No resource concern identified			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										
			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC										
			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										
			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC										
SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION																	
No resource concern identified			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										
			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC										
			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										
			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC										
WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER																	
No resource concern identified			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										
			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC										
WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION																	
No resource concern identified			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										
			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC										
			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										
			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC										

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	I. (continued)					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC
AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS						
No resource concern identified		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION						
Fire suppression and/or poor management has encouraged the accumulation of litter and herbaceous/shrubby fuels.	The lack of proper management will facilitate the continued accumulation of excess ground and litter fuels that could lead to catastrophic stand fires.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Prescribed burning will reduce the accumulation of hazardous fuel loads. Fire breaks will be necessary to assure a prescribed fire doesn't turn into a wildfire.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
	Natural regeneration of loblolly pines will occur resulting in lower quality seedling as well as gum species establishing. Forest will not be properly managed	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Establishment of containerized longleaf will result in highly productive native forest. The forest can be managed for timber as well as wildlife and aesthetics.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE						
Habitat degradation: Cover/Shelter		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION						
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE						
No resource concern identified		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
HUMAN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Profitability	Lack of management reduces timber quantity and quality, thus profitability.		Implemented practices encourage a more productive, higher quality timber stand and improves wildlife/recreation potential.			
Labor	Labor requirements are minimal		There will be an increase in Labor costs, but will be offset by long-term profit increase.			
Risk	Risks include catastrophic loss due to wildfire, disease, pests, etc.		Risks of catastrophic stand fires, disease, and pests are greatly reduced.			

Special Environmental Concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.

In Section "G" complete and attach Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation as applicable. Items with a "*" may require a federal permit or consultation/coordination between the lead agency and another government agency. In these cases, effects may need to be determined in consultation with another agency. Planning and practice implementation may proceed for practices not involved in consultation.

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2 Project area is not located within an EPA designated nonattainment area	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Perennial, intermittent, and/or ephemeral streams within project area	No Effect no action results in no effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Project will not directly impact a water of the U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Project area is not located within a Coastal Zone Management Area	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet None located in Project Area	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet See CR Review	No Effect No action results in no effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect See Cultural Resource Review form in Part 5 of Contract Folder.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Habitat of at-risk species including the Gopher Tortoise	May Effect no action results in habitat degradation	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Management practices will improve habitat for at risk and T&E species.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Low-income, minority and/or tribal populations may be in proximity	No Effect no negative effects to low-income, minority and/or tribal populations may be in proximity	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect no negative effects to low-income, minority and/or tribal populations may be in proximity	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet None in Project Area	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet None in Project Area	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Species present	May Effect Invasive will likely continue to spread	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Implemented practices will mitigate identified species.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No observed nests	No Effect no action results in no effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect management activities will be conducted outside of primary nesting season, and any identified nests will be avoided	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet None in Project Area	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Non-cropland	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Mandated SMZs on perennial streams in place	No Effect No action results in no effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect management activities will not affect riparian areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet None in Project Area	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Wetlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet None in Project Area	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Fact Sheet None in Project Area	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Wetlands <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> Not present	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild and Scenic Rivers <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> Not present in planning area	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns	No Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted	None	No action required or anticipated. However, the following may be consulted, if the need arises: ADEM for Clean Water Act, US Fish & Wildlife Service for ESA.	
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future)	Agricultural land in the watershed cumulatively impacts receiving waterbodies.	Action will result in the installation of conservation practices that will improve soil health, reduce sediment and animal wastes entering watersheds.	
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)	None	No Action Needed.	
M. Preferred Alternative	<input type="checkbox"/> preferred alternative <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting reason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementing conservation practices helps to improve and sustain the resources.	<input type="checkbox"/>

N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) local

The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.

O. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances

Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.


If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

P. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:
 In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.

<u>Timika Safford</u> Signature (TSP if applicable)	Program Assistant Title	<u>10/8/2019</u> Date
<u>R. John</u> Signature (NRCS)	District Conservationist Title	<u>10/8/2019</u> Date

If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)		
<p>NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.</p>		
Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)		
The preferred alternative:		Action required
<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O".	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u> .	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects <u>and has been formally adopted by NRCS</u> . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.
R. Rationale Supporting the Finding		
R.1 Findings Documentation	Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, March 2016	
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply) 7 CFR Part 650 Compliance With NEPA, subpart 650.6 Categorical Exclusions states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.115		
<p><i>I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.</i></p>		
S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Signature </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> District Conservationist Title </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> 10/8/2019 Date </div> </div>		
Additional notes		
<p>The Protracts application ranking tool linked HUA & water well to Inefficient use of Irrigation Water, which are not appropriate and, therefore, are not listed in Section F. The correct resource concerns for these practices are Degraded Plant Condition and Water Quality.</p> <p style="color: red;">Delete Note if not relevant</p>		

NRCS-CPA-52
4/2013

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

Improve soil quality and health in row crop fields. Improve soil nutrients with an organic alternative.
Decrease wind, sheet and reel erosion.

A. Client Name: [REDACTED]

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED]

C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required):

E. Need for Action:

Improve soil nutrient levels, soil health and water quality.

H. Alternatives

No Action	✓ if RMS <input type="checkbox"/>	Alternative 1	✓ if RMS <input type="checkbox"/>	Alternative 2	✓ if RMS <input type="checkbox"/>
Cropland is seasons when a cash crop could not grow is more likely to be a victim to wind, sheet or reel erosion. Bare ground cover could deplete the soils without any type of forage and will negatively affect the soils characteristics. Also, during this time frame		Install practices to promote healthier soils and water in cropland fields with Cover Crop (340)			

Resource Concerns

"In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process.
(See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance). "

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/
Benchmark Conditions

(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC

SOIL: **EROSION**

Sheet, Rill & Wind Erosion - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Erosion is less than T on all fields		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Concentrated Flow - Ephemeral Gully Erosion - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Ephemeral gullies are not occurring.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Concentrated Flow - Classic Gully Erosion- Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Classic gullies are not present.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excessive Bank Erosion - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels are not on or adjacent to cropland field(s).		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

SOIL: **SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION**

Subsidence - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Histosols are not present.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Compaction - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Organic matter depletion - Crop	Bare grounds in cropland fields will continue to be a victim of wind, sheet and reel erosion with nothing to hold soils in place during the seasons a crop is not growing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover crop will be planted during seasons that a cash crop is not growing reducing erosion. A cover crop will also add natural nutrients as they decay in the soils (organic	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. SCI is positive		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Concentration of salts or other chemicals - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause salinity/sodicity problems.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER

Excess (Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps, and drifted snow) - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. Ponding, flooding, and seasonal high water tables are not a problem and activities do not cause excess water problems.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Insufficient (Inefficient moisture management) - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause insufficient moisture management problems.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC

WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION

Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters - Crop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Nutrient amendments are being applied according to soil test recommendations; however conservation practices are NOT in place to minimize surface and ground water impacts.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters - Crop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation practices and managements ARE NOT in place to minimize surface/ground water impacts.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Excessive salts in surface and ground waters - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not contribute to excess salt concerns.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to receiving water sources - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Excessive sediment in surface waters - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. The water erosion rate is $\leq T$.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Elevated water temperature - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. Water course temperature is not a concern.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC

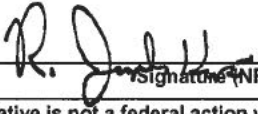
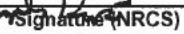
AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. Particulate matter emissions are managed to meet Client's objectives.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. GHG emissions are managed to meet Client's objectives.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Emissions of Ozone Precursors - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. Operations ARE present that produce ozone precursor emissions but they are managed to meet Client's objectives.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Objectionable odors - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not occur that produce objectionable odors.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC

PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION						
Undesirable plant productivity and health - Crop						
Plant production and health is a concern of the client. Plants DO NOT meet production goals.		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Excessive plant pest pressure - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Pest damage to plants are BELOW economic and environmental thresholds AND client identified criteria and plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Wildfire hazard is not a concern.		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT / FISH & WILDLIFE						
ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION						
ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE						
Equipment and facilities - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities to reduce energy usage.		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Farming/ranching practices and field operations - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving farming practices and field operations to reduce energy usage.		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
HUMAN: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Capital	No increase in Capital requirements	Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment	Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment			
sufficient capital for farm operation and conservation implementation						
Labor	No increase in Labor	increase: more intensive soil sampling	increase: more intensive soil sampling			
labor level average for farms in the area						
Management Level	No increase in management	increase: must learn new technology and maintenance	increase: must learn new technology and maintenance			
management level average for farms in the area						
Profitability	Profitability will continue to be limited	Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer will be purchased and yields may increase.	Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer/pesticides will be purchased and yields may increase.			
Profitability limited due to excess fertilizer/pesticide use						
Risk	With no action, risk level will remain.	Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient runoff/leaching potential.	Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient/pesticide runoff/leaching potential.			
High risk for water contamination and subsequent health effects on humans						
Public Health and Safety	With no action, Negative effects for the client and/or community may result due to offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides.	Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.	Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.			
Potential of offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides.						

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2 No Nonattainment or Maintenance areas designated for non-attainment of air quality standards AND there are no Class 1 areas nearby. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 404 Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No waters of the U.S. present in the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 303 Impaired Waters Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No "impaired" waters listed under Section 303(d) of the CWA are located in the planning area. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No point-source discharges occur in planning area based on planner observation of field conditions.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Coastal Zone Management Areas are in the planning area (above 10ft elevation). Source: ACAMP	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No coral reefs or associated water bodies are present in the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No cultural resources or historic properties are present in the Area of Potential Effect. See documentation in case file.	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Wood Stork, Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle, and Eastern Indigo Snake based on USFWS IPaC report	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Environmental Justice Guide Sheet No low-income or minority populations or Indian Tribes live in proximity to the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No EFH is present in or downstream of the planning area. Source: _____	May Effect Client's actions may adversely affect EFH due to potential of run-off/leaching of excess nutrients.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Practices will not result in disruptions or alterations that could adversely affect EFH because nutrients will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Practices will not result in disruptions or alterations that could adversely affect EFH because nutrients/pesticides will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No 100-year floodplain present in the planning area. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No invasive species are present or known to occur in proximity to the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No habitat for migratory birds, bald or golden eagles is present in the planning area because it is all annual cropland.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action

Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet There are no designated natural areas present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Prime Farmland map units are present in the planning area.	No Effect No effect due to no change in land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No riparian areas are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Annual Cropland	No Effect No change from benchmark conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wetlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No wetlands are present in or near the planning area. Source: _____	No Effect No impact to wetlands is expected without NRCS assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied to active cropland. Additionally, nutrients will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied to active cropland. Additionally, nutrients. Pesticides will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Federal or State designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river segments or rivers listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action

K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns		No Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2																											
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.		None Required	None Required	None Required																											
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)		Agricultural land in the watershed cumulatively impacts receiving waterbodies.	Action will result in the installation of conservation practices that will improve soil health and reduce sediment entering watershed.	Practices will reduce overapplication of nutrients and pesticides limiting their potential for contamination.																											
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)		None	None	None																											
M. Preferred Alternative	√ preferred alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																											
Describe impacts (+ or -) on any resources not identified above:		none known	Implementing conservation practices helps to improve and sustain the resources.	none known																											
Supporting reason		Operator wishes to concentrate on nutrient management at this time, and work towards integrating Pest Management in the future.																													
N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis)		local	local	local																											
The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.																															
O. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances																															
<p>Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.</p> <p>If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Yes	No		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? 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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?																													
P. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:																															
In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.																															
Signature (TSP if applicable) 		Title District Soil Conservationist		Date 6/22/2020																											
Signature (NRCS) 		Title [unclear]		Date [unclear]																											
If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.																															

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

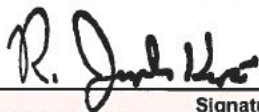
<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O" .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u> .	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding

R.1 Findings Documentation	Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, March 2016
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply) 7 CFR Part 650 <i>Compliance With NEPA</i> , subpart 650.6 <i>Categorical Exclusions</i> states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.	

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:



Signature

District Conservationist

Title

6/22/2020

Date

Additional notes

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

Improve soil quality and health in row crop fields. Improve soil nutrients with an organic alternative. Decrease wind, sheet and reel erosion.

A. Client Name:

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional):

C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required):

E. Need for Action:

Improve soil nutrient levels, soil health and water quality.

H. Alternatives

No Action	✓ if RMS	Alternative 1	✓ if RMS	Alternative 2	✓ if RMS
Cropland is seasons when a cash crop could not grow is more likely to be a victim to wind, sheet or reel erosion. Bare ground cover could deplete the soils without any type of forage and will negatively affect the soils characteristics. Also, during this time frame	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install practices to promote healthier soils and water in cropland fields with Cover Crop (340)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Resource Concerns

"In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance). "

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/

Benchmark Conditions
(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)
✓ if does NOT meet PC	✓ if does NOT meet PC	✓ if does NOT meet PC

SOIL: EROSION

Sheet, Rill & Wind Erosion - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Erosion is less than T on all fields	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Concentrated Flow - Ephemeral Gully Erosion - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Ephemeral gullies are not occurring.	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Concentrated Flow - Classic Gully Erosion- Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Classic gullies are not present.	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Excessive Bank Erosion - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels are not on or adjacent to cropland field(s).	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC

SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION

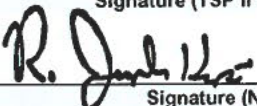
Subsidence - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Histosols are not present.	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Compaction - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems.	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Organic matter depletion - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. SCI is positive _____	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC
Concentration of salts or other chemicals - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause salinity/sodicity problems.	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC	NOT meet PC

WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER						
Excess (Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps, and drifted snow) - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Ponding, flooding, and seasonal high water tables are not a problem and activities do not cause excess water problems.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Insufficient (Inefficient moisture management) - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause insufficient moisture management problems.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION						
Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters - Crop		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrient amendments are being applied according to soil test recommendations; however conservation practices are NOT in place to minimize surface and ground water impacts.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters - Crop		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation practices and managements ARE NOT in place to minimize surface/ground water impacts.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excessive salts in surface and ground waters - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not contribute to excess salt concerns.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to receiving water sources - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excessive sediment in surface waters - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. The water erosion rate is \leq T.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Elevated water temperature - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Water course temperature is not a concern.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS						
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Particulate matter emissions are managed to meet Client's objectives.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. GHG emissions are managed to meet Client's objectives.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Emissions of Ozone Precursors - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Operations ARE present that produce ozone precursor emissions but they are managed to meet Client's objectives.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Objectionable odors - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not occur that produce objectionable odors.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION						
Undesirable plant productivity and health - Crop						
Plant production and health is a concern of the client. Plants DO NOT meet production goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Excessive plant pest pressure - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Pest damage to plants are BELOW economic and environmental thresholds AND client identified criteria and plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Wildfire hazard is not a concern.	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT / FISH & WILDLIFE						
ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION						
ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE						
Equipment and facilities - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities to reduce energy usage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Farming/ranching practices and field operations - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving farming practices and field operations to reduce energy usage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
HUMAN: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Capital	No increase in Capital requirements	Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment	Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment			
sufficient capital for farm operation and conservation implementation						
Labor	No increase in Labor	increase: more intensive soil sampling	increase: more intensive soil sampling			
labor level average for farms in the area						
Management Level	No increase in management	increase: must learn new technology and maintenance	increase: must learn new technology and maintenance			
management level average for farms in the area						
Profitability	Profitability will continue to be limited	Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer will be purchased and yields may increase.	Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer/pesticides will be purchased and yields may increase.			
Profitability limited due to excess fertilizer/pesticide use						
Risk	With no action, risk level will remain.	Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient runoff/leaching potential.	Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient/pesticide runoff/leaching potential.			
High risk for water contamination and subsequent health effects on humans						
Public Health and Safety	With no action, Negative effects for the client and/or community may result due to offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides.	Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.	Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.			
Potential of offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides.						

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2 No Nonattainment or Maintenance areas designated for non-attainment of air quality standards AND there are no Class 1 areas nearby. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 404 Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No waters of the U.S. present in the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 303 Impaired Waters Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No "impaired" waters listed under Section 303(d) of the CWA are located in the planning area. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No point-source discharges occur in planning area based on planner observation of field conditions.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Coastal Zone Management Areas are in the planning area (above 10ft elevation). Source: ACAMP	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No coral reefs or associated water bodies are present in the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No cultural resources or historic properties are present in the Area of Potential Effect. See documentation in case file.	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Wood Stork, Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle, and Eastern Indigo Snake based on USFWS IPaC report	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Environmental Justice Guide Sheet No low-income or minority populations or Indian Tribes live in proximity to the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No EFH is present in or downstream of the planning area. Source : _____	May Effect Client's actions may adversely affect EFH due to potential of run-off/leaching of excess nutrients.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Practices will not result in disruptions or alterations that could adversely affect EFH because nutrients will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Practices will not result in disruptions or alterations that could adversely affect EFH because nutrients/pesticides will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No 100-year floodplain present in the planning area. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No invasive species are present or known to occur in proximity to the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No habitat for migratory birds, bald or golden eagles is present in the planning area because it is all annual cropland.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action

Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet There are no designated natural areas present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Prime Farmland map units are present in the planning area.	No Effect No effect due to no change in land use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No riparian areas are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Annual Cropland	No Effect No change from benchmark conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No wetlands are present in or near the planning area. Source: _____	No Effect No impact to wetlands is expected without NRCS assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied to active cropland. Additionally, nutrients will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied to active cropland. Additionally, nutrients. Pesticides will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Federal or State designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river segments or rivers listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>

K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns		No Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.		None Required	None Required	None Required
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)		Agricultural land in the watershed cumulatively impacts receiving waterbodies.	Action will result in the installation of conservation practices that will improve soil health and reduce sediment entering watershed.	Practices will reduce overapplication of nutrients and pesticides limiting their potential for contamination.
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)		None	None	None
M. Preferred Alternative	✓ preferred alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describe impacts (+ or -) on any resources not identified above:		none known	Implementing conservation practices helps to improve and sustain the resources.	none known
Supporting reason		Operator wishes to concentrate on nutrient management at this time, and work towards integrating Pest Management in the future.		
N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis)		local	local	local
The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.				
O. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances				
<p>Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.</p> <p>If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.</p>				
Yes	No			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?		
P. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:				
In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.				
Signature (TSP if applicable)		Title	Date	
			6/22/2020	
Signature (NRCS)		Title	Date	
If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.				

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O" .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u> .	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding

R.1 Findings Documentation	Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, March 2016
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply) 7 CFR Part 650 <i>Compliance With NEPA</i> , subpart 650.6 <i>Categorical Exclusions</i> states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.	

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:

	DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST	6-22-2020
Signature	Title	Date

Additional notes

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ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

Improve soil quality and health in row crop fields. Improve soil nutrients with an organic alternative. Decrease wind, sheet and reel erosion.

A. Client Name:

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional):

C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required):

E. Need for Action:

Improve soil nutrient levels, soil health and water quality.

H. Alternatives

No Action ☒ if RMS ☐

Alternative 1 ☒ if RMS ☐

Alternative 2 ☒ if RMS ☐

Cropland is seasons when a cash crop could not grow is more likely to be a victim to wind, sheet or reel erosion. Bare ground cover could deplete the soils without any type of forage and will negatively affect the soils characteristics. Also, during this time frame

Install practices to promote healthier soils and water in cropland fields with Cover Crop (340)

Resource Concerns

"In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance). "

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions

(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Amount, Status, Description

Amount, Status, Description

Amount, Status, Description

(Document both short and long term impacts)

(Document both short and long term impacts)

(Document both short and long term impacts)

SOIL: EROSION

Sheet, Rill & Wind Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Erosion is less than T on all fields



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC

Concentrated Flow - Ephemeral Gully Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Ephemeral gullies are not occurring.



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC

Concentrated Flow - Classic Gully Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Classic gullies are not present.



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC

Excessive Bank Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels are not on or adjacent to cropland field(s).



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC

SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION

Subsidence - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Histosols are not present.



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC

Compaction - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems.



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC

Organic matter depletion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. SCI is positive ____.

Bare grounds in cropland fields will continue to be a victim of wind, sheet and reel erosion with nothing to hold soils in place during the seasons a crop is not growing



NOT
meet
PC

Cover crop will be planted during seasons that a cash crop is not growing reducing erosion. A cover crop will also add natural nutrients as they decay in the soils (organic



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC

Concentration of salts or other chemicals - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause salinity/sodicity problems.



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC



NOT
meet
PC

WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER

Excess (Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps, and drifted snow) - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Ponding, flooding, and seasonal high water tables are not a problem and activities do not cause excess water problems.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

Insufficient (Inefficient moisture management) - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause insufficient moisture management problems.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC**WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION**

Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters - Crop

Nutrient amendments are being applied according to soil test recommendations; however conservation practices are NOT in place to minimize surface and ground water impacts.

☒NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters - Crop

Conservation practices and managements ARE NOT in place to minimize surface/ground water impacts.

☒NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

Excessive salts in surface and ground waters - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not contribute to excess salt concerns.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to receiving water sources - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

Excessive sediment in surface waters - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. The water erosion rate is \leq T.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

Elevated water temperature - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Water course temperature is not a concern.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC**AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS**

Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Particulate matter emissions are managed to meet Client's objectives.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. GHG emissions are managed to meet Client's objectives.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

Emissions of Ozone Precursors - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Operations ARE present that produce ozone precursor emissions but they are managed to meet Client's objectives.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

Objectionable odors - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not occur that produce objectionable odors.

☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC☐NOT
meet
PC

PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION						
Undesirable plant productivity and health - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant production and health is a concern of the client. Plants DO NOT meet production goals.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excessive plant pest pressure - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Pest damage to plants are BELOW economic and environmental thresholds AND client identified criteria and plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Wildfire hazard is not a concern.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT / FISH & WILDLIFE						
ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION						
ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE						
Equipment and facilities - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities to reduce energy usage.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Farming/ranching practices and field operations - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving farming practices and field operations to reduce energy usage.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
HUMAN: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Capital	No increase in Capital requirements	Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment	Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment			
sufficient capital for farm operation and conservation implementation						
Labor	No increase in Labor	increase: more intensive soil sampling	increase: more intensive soil sampling			
labor level average for farms in the area						
Management Level	No increase in management	increase: must learn new technology and maintenance	increase: must learn new technology and maintenance			
management level average for farms in the area						
Profitability	Profitability will continue to be limited	Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer will be purchased and yields may increase.	Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer/pesticides will be purchased and yields may increase.			
Profitability limited due to excess fertilizer/pesticide use						
Risk	With no action, risk level will remain.	Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient runoff/leaching potential.	Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient/pesticide runoff/leaching potential.			
High risk for water contamination and subsequent health effects on humans						
Public Health and Safety	With no action, Negative effects for the client and/or community may result due to offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides.	Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.	Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.			
Potential of offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides.						

3. Special Environmental Concerns
Document existing/ benchmark conditions)

J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns

	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action
Clean Air Act Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2 No Nonattainment or Maintenance areas designated for non-attainment of air quality standards AND there are no Class 1 areas nearby. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Clean Water Act / Sec 404 Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No waters of the U.S. present in the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Clean Water Act / Sec 303 Impaired Waters Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No "impaired" waters listed under Section 303(d) of the CWA are located in the planning area. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Clean Water Act / Sec 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No point-source discharges occur in planning area based in planner observation of field conditions.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Coastal Zone Management Areas are in the planning area (above 10ft elevation). Source: ACAMP	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No coral reefs or associated water bodies are present in the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No cultural resources or historic properties are present in the Area of Potential Effect. See documentation in case file.	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Wood Stork, Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle, and Eastern Indigo Snake based on USFWS IPaC report	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Environmental Justice Guide Sheet No low-income or minority populations or Indian Tribes live in proximity to the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No EFH is present in or downstream of the planning area. Source : _____	May Effect Client's actions may adversely affect EFH due to potential of run- off/leaching of excess nutrients.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Practices will not result in disruptions or alterations that could adversely affect EFH because nutrients will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Practices will not result in disruptions or alterations that could adversely affect EFH because nutrients/pesticides will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run- off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No 100-year floodplain present in the planning area. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No invasive species are present or known to occur in proximity to the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No habitat for migratory birds, bald or golden eagles is present in the planning area because it is all annual cropland.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action

Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet There are no designated natural areas present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Prime Farmland map units are present in the planning area.	No Effect No effect due to no change in land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No riparian areas are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Annual Cropland	No Effect No change from benchmark conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wetlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No wetlands are present in or near the planning area. Source: _____	No Effect No impact to wetlands is expected without NRCS assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied to active cropland. Additionally, nutrients will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied to active cropland. Additionally, nutrients. Pesticides will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Federal or State designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river segments or rivers listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action

C. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns

Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.

No Action

None Required

Alternative 1

None Required

Alternative 2

None Required

Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)

Agricultural land in the watershed cumulatively impacts receiving waterbodies.

Action will result in the installation of conservation practices that will improve soil health and reduce sediment entering watershed.

Practices will reduce overapplication of nutrients and pesticides limiting their potential for contamination.

... Mitigation

Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)

None

None

None

M. Preferred Alternative

√ preferred alternative



Describe impacts (+ or -) on any resources not identified above:

none known

Implementing conservation practices helps to improve and sustain the resources.

None known

Supporting reason

Operator wishes to concentrate on nutrient management at this time, and work towards integrating Pest Management in the future.

4. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis)

local

local

local

The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.

5. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances**Intensity:** Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.If you answer **ANY** of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.

Yes No

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? |

6. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:

In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.

Signature (TSP if applicable)

Title

Date

Signature (NRCS)

Title

Date

If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

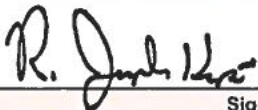
<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O" .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u> .	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding

R.1 Findings Documentation	Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, March 2016
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply)	
<p>7 CFR Part 650 <i>Compliance With NEPA</i>, subpart 650.6 <i>Categorical Exclusions</i> states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.</p>	

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:



Signature

DC

Title

6/22/20

Date

Additional notes

<div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> NRCS <small>ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET</small> </div>		<small>NRCS-CPA-52 4/2013</small>		A. Client Name: [REDACTED]													
D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose): Improve soil quality and health in row crop fields. Improve soil nutrients with an organic alternative. Decrease wind, sheet and reel erosion.		B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED]															
		C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required): [REDACTED]															
E. Need for Action: Improve soil nutrient levels, soil health and water quality.		H. Alternatives <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width:33%;">No Action</th> <th style="width:10%; text-align: center;">√ if RMS</th> <th style="width:33%;">Alternative 1</th> <th style="width:10%; text-align: center;">√ if RMS</th> <th style="width:33%;">Alternative 2</th> <th style="width:10%; text-align: center;">√ if RMS</th> </tr> <tr> <td> Cropland is seasons when a cash crop could not grow is more likely to be a victim to wind, sheet and reel erosion. Bare ground cover could deplete the soils without any type of forage and will negatively affect the soils characteristics. Also, during this time frame </td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td> Install practices to promote healthier soils and water in cropland fields with Cover Crop (340) </td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>				No Action	√ if RMS	Alternative 1	√ if RMS	Alternative 2	√ if RMS	Cropland is seasons when a cash crop could not grow is more likely to be a victim to wind, sheet and reel erosion. Bare ground cover could deplete the soils without any type of forage and will negatively affect the soils characteristics. Also, during this time frame	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install practices to promote healthier soils and water in cropland fields with Cover Crop (340)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
No Action	√ if RMS	Alternative 1	√ if RMS	Alternative 2	√ if RMS												
Cropland is seasons when a cash crop could not grow is more likely to be a victim to wind, sheet and reel erosion. Bare ground cover could deplete the soils without any type of forage and will negatively affect the soils characteristics. Also, during this time frame	<input type="checkbox"/>	Install practices to promote healthier soils and water in cropland fields with Cover Crop (340)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>												
Resource Concerns																	
"In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance). "																	
F. Resource Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)		I. Effects of Alternatives <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width:33%;">No Action</th> <th style="width:10%; text-align: center;">√ if does NOT meet PC</th> <th style="width:33%;">Alternative 1</th> <th style="width:10%; text-align: center;">√ if does NOT meet PC</th> <th style="width:33%;">Alternative 2</th> <th style="width:10%; text-align: center;">√ if does NOT meet PC</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i></th> <th></th> <th>Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i></th> <th></th> <th>Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i></th> <th></th> </tr> </table>				No Action	√ if does NOT meet PC	Alternative 1	√ if does NOT meet PC	Alternative 2	√ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>		Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>		Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	
		No Action	√ if does NOT meet PC	Alternative 1	√ if does NOT meet PC	Alternative 2	√ if does NOT meet PC										
Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>		Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>		Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>													
SOIL: EROSION																	
Sheet, Rill & Wind Erosion - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Erosion is less than T on all fields		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC												
Concentrated Flow - Ephemeral Gully Erosion - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Ephemeral gullies are not occurring.		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC												
Concentrated Flow - Classic Gully Erosion- Crop Not a Resource Concern. Classic gullies are not present.		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC												
Excessive Bank Erosion - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels are not on or adjacent to cropland field(s).		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC												
SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION																	
Subsidence - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Histosols are not present.		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC												
Compaction - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems.		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC												
Organic matter depletion - Crop Not a Resource Concern. SCI is positive _____.		Bare grounds in cropland fields will continue to be a victim of wind, sheet and reel erosion with nothing to hold soils in place during the seasons a crop is not growing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover crop will be planted during seasons that a cash crop is not growing reducing erosion. A cover crop will also add natural nutrients as they decay in the soils (organic	<input type="checkbox"/>												
Concentration of salts or other chemicals - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause salinity/sodicity problems.		<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC												

WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER

Excess (Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps, and drifted snow) - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Ponding, flooding, and seasonal high water tables are not a problem and activities do not cause excess water problems.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Insufficient (Inefficient moisture management) - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause insufficient moisture management problems.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION

Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters - Crop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrient amendments are being applied according to soil test recommendations; however conservation practices are NOT in place to minimize surface and ground water impacts.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters - Crop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation practices and managements ARE NOT in place to minimize surface/ground water impacts.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, bio-solids or compost applications - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excessive salts in surface and ground waters - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not contribute to excess salt concerns.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to receiving water sources - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excessive sediment in surface waters - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. The water erosion rate is \leq T.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Elevated water temperature - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Water course temperature is not a concern.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Particulate matter emissions are managed to meet Client's objectives.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. GHG emissions are managed to meet Client's objectives.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Emissions of Ozone Precursors - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Operations ARE present that produce ozone precursor emissions but they are managed to meet Client's objectives.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Objectionable odors - Crop	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not occur that produce objectionable odors.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION						
Undesirable plant productivity and health - Crop						
Plant production and health is a concern of the client. Plants DO NOT meet production goals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Excessive plant pest pressure - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Pest damage to plants are BELOW economic and environmental thresholds AND client identified criteria and plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Wildfire hazard is not a concern.	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
ANIMALS: <i>INADEQUATE HABITAT / FISH & WILDLIFE</i>						
ANIMALS: <i>LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION</i>						
ENERGY: <i>INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE</i>						
Equipment and facilities - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities to reduce energy usage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
Farming/ranching practices and field operations - Crop						
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving farming practices and field operations to reduce energy usage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT meet PC
HUMAN: <i>ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</i>						
Capital sufficient capital for farm operation and conservation implementation	No increase in Capital requirements		Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment		Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment	
Labor labor level average for farms in the area	No increase in Labor		increase: more intensive soil sampling		increase: more intensive soil sampling	
Management Level management level average for farms in the area	No increase in management		increase: must learn new technology and maintenance		increase: must learn new technology and maintenance	
Profitability Profitability limited due to excess fertilizer/pesticide use	Profitability will continue to be limited		Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer will be purchased and yields may increase.		Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer/pesticides will be purchased and yields may increase.	
Risk High risk for water contamination and subsequent health effects on humans	With no action, risk level will remain.		Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient runoff/leaching potential.		Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient/pesticide runoff/leaching potential.	
Public Health and Safety Potential of offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides.	With no action, Negative effects for the client and/or community may result due to offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides.		Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.		Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.	

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2 No Nonattainment or Maintenance areas designated for non-attainment of air quality standards AND there are no Class 1 areas nearby. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 404 Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No waters of the U.S. present in the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 303 Impaired Waters Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No "impaired" waters listed under Section 303(d) of the CWA are located in the planning area. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No point-source discharges occur in planning area based on planner observation of field conditions.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Coastal Zone Management Areas are in the planning area (above 10ft elevation). Source: ACAMP	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No coral reefs or associated water bodies are present in the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No cultural resources or historic properties are present in the Area of Potential Effect. See documentation in case file.	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No "undertakings" with the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties are planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Wood Stork, Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle, and Eastern Indigo Snake based on USFWS IPaC report	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No Effect to at-risk species because planning area is cropland, and not suitable habitat for said species.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Environmental Justice Guide Sheet No low-income or minority populations or Indian Tribes live in proximity to the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No EFH is present in or downstream of the planning area. Source : _____	May Effect Client's actions may adversely affect EFH due to potential of run-off/leaching of excess nutrients.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Practices will not result in disruptions or alterations that could adversely affect EFH because nutrients will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Practices will not result in disruptions or alterations that could adversely affect EFH because nutrients/pesticides will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No 100-year floodplain present in the planning area. Source: NEPAassist	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No invasive species are present or known to occur in proximity to the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No habitat for migratory birds, bald or golden eagles is present in the planning area because it is all annual cropland.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action

Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet There are no designated natural areas present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Prime Farmland map units are present in the planning area.	No Effect No effect due to no change in land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No riparian areas are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Annual Cropland	No Effect No change from benchmark conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wetlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No wetlands are present in or near the planning area. Source: _____	No Effect No impact to wetlands is expected without NRCS assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied to active cropland. Additionally, nutrients will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied to active cropland. Additionally, nutrients. Pesticides will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Federal or State designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river segments or rivers listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action

K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns		No Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.		None Required	None Required	None Required
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)		Agricultural land in the watershed cumulatively impacts receiving waterbodies.	Action will result in the installation of conservation practices that will improve soil health and reduce sediment entering watershed.	Practices will reduce overapplication of nutrients and pesticides limiting their potential for contamination.
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)		None	None	None
M. Preferred Alternative	√ preferred alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describe impacts (+ or -) on any resources not identified above:		none known	Implementing conservation practices helps to improve and sustain the resources.	none known
Supporting reason		Operator wishes to concentrate on nutrient management at this time, and work towards integrating Pest Management in the future.		

N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) ☐ local ☐ local ☐ local
The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.

O. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances


Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.


If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | • Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? |

P. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:

In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.

Signature (TSP if applicable)

Signature (NRCS)

Title

Title

Date
5/26/20
Date

If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

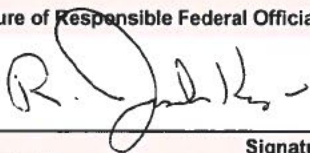
<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O" .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u> .	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding

R.1 Findings Documentation	Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, March 2016
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply) 7 CFR Part 650 <i>Compliance With NEPA</i> , subpart 650.6 <i>Categorical Exclusions</i> states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sidebar criteria. See NECH 610.116.	

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:



Signature

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Title

6-22-2020

Date

Additional notes

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

A. Client Name: [REDACTED]

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED]

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

To reduce input costs, retain or improve productivity, and conserve resource base for future.

C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required):

E. Need for Action:

Current management allows over application of fertilizer and pesticides, leading to higher potential of field loss and subsequent water quality degradation and undesirable plant productivity.

No Action

✓ if RMS ☐

Client will continue existing operation without change.

Alternative 1

✓ if RMS ☐

CROPLAND: Cover Crop (340) Nutrient Management (590)

Alternative 2

✓ if RMS ☐

CROPLAND: Forage and Biomass Planting (512) Nutrient Management (590) Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Resource Concerns

In Section F below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions

(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Amount, Status, Description

✓ if does NOT meet PC

(Document both short and long term impacts)

Amount, Status, Description

✓ if does NOT meet PC

(Document both short and long term impacts)

Amount, Status, Description

✓ if does NOT meet PC

(Document both short and long term impacts)

SOIL: WIND AND WATER EROSION

Sheet & Rill Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (water erosion rate is less than or equal to T according to Current NRCS water erosion technology)

Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action

☐
NOT meet PC

With cover crops, Increased cover during erosive periods will reduce soil detachment. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion.

☐
NOT meet PC

The establishment of forage and biomass plant species increases vegetative cover and reduces erosion potential. During the establishment period, there may be a slight to moderate risk of erosion, depending on seedbed preparation, and seeding method. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion. With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosion in the short term; once trees are established erosion will decrease.

☐
NOT meet PC

Wind Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. CART assessment existing condition is above threshold.

Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action

☐
NOT meet PC

With cover crops, Increased cover during erosive periods will reduce soil detachment. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion.

☐
NOT meet PC

The establishment of forage and biomass plant species increases vegetative cover and reduces erosion potential. During the establishment period, there may be a slight to moderate risk of erosion, depending on seedbed preparation, and seeding method. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion. With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive wind energy. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosion in the short term; once trees are established erosion will decrease.

☐
NOT meet PC

SOIL: CONCENTRATED EROSION						
Ephemeral Gully Erosion - Crop	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/>	With cover crops, increased cover during erosive periods will reduce concentrated flow and associated soil detachment. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion. With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: No ephemeral gullies observed)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Classic Gully Erosion	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy and the vegetation binds the soil making it resistant to water flow erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: No classic gullies observed)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excessive Bank Erosion - Crop, Forest, Range, Farmstead, Developed Land, Associated Ag Land or Other	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy and the vegetation binds the soil making it resistant to water flow erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: Banks are stable)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
SOIL: SOIL QUALITY LIMITATIONS						
Compaction - Associated Ag Land, Crop, Farmstead, Forest, Other Rural Land, Developed Land	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/>	With cover crops, increased biomass and roots improve aggregation, which gives better resistance to compaction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity decreasing compaction. Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root penetration and increased organic matter helps restore soil structure. During site preparation the use of heavy equipment compacts soil in the short term; once trees are established compaction will decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: No observed evidence of compaction, such as ponding, stunted plant growth, or root growth limitation.)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Organic matter depletion - Crop	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With cover crops, more biomass produced will increase organic matter. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production and organic matter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity increasing organic matter. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production and organic matter. Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root and shoot development, decomposition increases soil organic matter. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter decreases organic matter in the short term; once trees are established organic matter will increase.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does not meet planning criteria (Current NRCS water erosion technology: Soil Condition Index < 1.0 or Soil Tillage Intensity Ratio > 20)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Soil organism habitat loss or degradation - Crop	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With cover crops, more biomass produced will increase organic matter improving soil organism habitat. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and soil organism habitat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity increasing organic matter and improving soil organism habitat. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and soil organism habitat. Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root and shoot development, decomposition increases soil organic matter and soil organism habitat. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter decreases organic matter in the short term; once trees are established organic matter will increase.	<input type="checkbox"/>
CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

Aggregate instability - Crop CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With cover crops, more biomass produced will increase organic matter improving aggregate stability. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and aggregate stability. .	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity increasing organic matter and aggregate stability. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and aggregate stability. . Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root and shoot development, decomposition increases soil organic matter and aggregate stability. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter decreases organic matter in the short term; once trees are established organic matter will increase.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

WATER: FIELD SEDIMENT, NUTRIENT AND PATHOGEN LOSS

Nutrients transported to groundwater - Crop CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover reducing the potential for leaching losses. With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Nutrients transported to surface water - Crop CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cover crops reduce erosion and runoff and transport of nutrients. With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover reducing the potential for runoff losses. With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Sediment transported to surface water - Crop, Farmstead, Developed Land, Water, Associated Ag Land or Other land Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Current NRCS water erosion technology: Water Erosion < T AND Current NRCS wind erosion technology: Wind Erosion < T AND Client input and/or Planner Observation: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows, ephemeral gullies, and classic gullies to water bodies and Stream water crossings are stable.)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover crops will reduce erosion and transport of sediment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide improved vegetative cover with a reduction of runoff, erosion and sedimentation. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosion in the short term; once trees are established erosion will decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

WATER: FIELD PESTICIDE LOSS

Pesticides transported to ground waters CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Effect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover and decrease the potential for pesticide leaching. With site preparation, thinning of trees may require increase pesticide use.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Pesticides transported to surface waters CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cover crops reduce runoff and erosion and increases soil organic matter, biological activity, and pesticide uptake.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover and decrease runoff, erosion and pesticide loss. With site preparation, thinning of trees may require increase pesticide use.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION

Plant productivity and health - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Yield data and Crop Health Information: Crop yield is greater or equal to 75% of the realistic yield expectations found in Land Grant University Guidelines or realistic yield tables; (lowest value should be used when indices differ).	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Cover crops are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health and can contribute to subsequent crop health and productivity. With nutrient management, nutrients and soil amendments are optimized to enhance health and vigor of desired species.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance health and vigor of desired plant communities. With nutrient management, nutrients and soil amendments are optimized to enhance health and vigor of desired species. Trees and shrubs are established and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Plant pest pressure - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or planner observation: Pest damage to plants are below economic, historic, pest model or environmental thresholds.)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Trees and shrubs are established and managed to control undesired species.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC

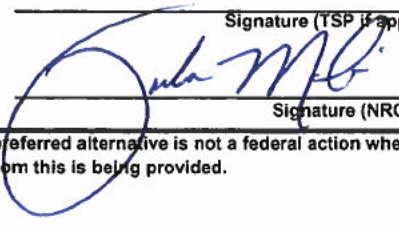
HUMAN: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Land Use Current Land use is cropland	No effect	No Effect	Some land may be taken out of production to establish trees and/or shrubs.
Capital limited capital without FA to implement conservation measures	No effect	Slight increase to plant and terminate cover crops. Slight increase to apply nutrients, however, proper management may reduce fertilizer use.	Slight increase to establish forage and biomass plant species. Slight increase to apply nutrients, however, proper management may reduce fertilizer use. Slight increase to establish trees and/or shrubs. Slight increase to conduct site preparation.
Labor Existing labor adequate for operation	No effect	Slight increase to terminate cover crop and plant primary crop.	No Effect
Management Level current management adequate	No effect	Slight increase to manage planting of primary crop into cover crops. Slight increase to manage proper application of nutrients.	Slight increase to manage proper application of nutrients.
Profitability current operation is break even or no profit	No effect	Benefits of cover crops will increase profitability. Slight increase due to properly applied nutrients and increased production.	Slight increase due to properly applied nutrients and increased production.
Risk low risk	No effect	No Effect	No Effect
Public Health and Safety no concerns	No effect	No Effect	No Effect

Special Environmental Concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.

In Section "G" complete and attach Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation as applicable. Items with a "e" may require a federal permit or consultation/coordination between the lead agency and another government agency. In these cases, effects may need to be determined in consultation with another agency. Planning and practice implementation may proceed for practices not involved in consultation.

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action		✓ if needs further action		✓ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act No Nonattainment or Maintenance areas designated for non-attainment of air quality standards AND there are no Class 1 areas nearby. Source: EPA website	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Sec 404 Waters of the U.S. Wetlands, lakes, streams, channels, or other water conveyances are potential Waters of the US present in the planning area. Source: aerial photos, USGS topographic maps	No effect, Client activities do not involve the discharge of dredged or fill material or other pollutants into potential Waters of the US.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No discharge or placement of dredged or fill material into potential Waters of the US is planned or likely to occur from implemented practices.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No discharge or placement of dredged or fill material into potential Waters of the US is planned or likely to occur from implemented practices.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Sec 303 Impaired Waters Impaired waterbodies under Section 303(d) of the CWA located in proximity of the planning area.	May effect, Without NRCS assistance, sediment/nutrients/ pathogens/pesticides transported to 303(d) listed surface waters remains the same.	<input type="checkbox"/>	May effect, Practices will reduce degradation of 303(d) listed stream segment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	May effect, Practices will reduce degradation of 303(d) listed stream segment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Sec 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination No point-source discharges occur in planning area based on planner observation of field conditions.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Coastal Zone Management No Coastal Zone Management Areas are in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coral Reefs No coral reefs or associated water bodies (e.g. embayment areas) are present in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties There may be cultural resources or historic properties present in the Area of Potential Effect. See documentation in case file.	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Consultation with SHPO/Tribes will be completed and no adverse effect to cultural resources or historic properties is anticipated in the proposed APE. See attached documentation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Consultation with SHPO/Tribes will be completed and no adverse effect to cultural resources or historic properties is anticipated in the proposed APE. See attached documentation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
•Endangered and Threatened Species Some T&E species and/or their habitats are present in proximity to the planning area	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Affect, but are Not Likely to Adversely Affect because practices are wholly beneficial. Critical habitat will not be destroyed or adversely modified.	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Affect, but are Not Likely to Adversely Affect because practices are wholly beneficial. Critical habitat will not be destroyed or adversely modified.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice Low income and Tribal members may be in proximity to area	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No disproportionately high and adverse environmental or human health effect on a low-income population, minority population, or Indian Tribe will occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No disproportionately high and adverse environmental or human health effect on a low-income population, minority population, or Indian Tribe will occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Essential Fish Habitat No EFH is present in or downstream of the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplain Management No 100-year floodplain present in or near the planning area. Source: FEMA Maps.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species Cogongrass, Chinese Tallow Tree, Japanese Climbing Fern, Kudzu, and Chinese/Japanese Privets are prevalent in proximity to planning area	No effect, Client controls invasive species adequately and prevents their introduction and spread.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Habitat for migratory birds is present in the planning area. No bald or golden eagle foraging, roosting, or nesting habitat is in or near the planning area.	No effect, Continuation of benchmark conditions has no potential to take migratory birds, nests, or eggs and will not take or disturb eagles..	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No take of any migratory bird, nest, or egg is expected to occur and/or planned practices will not take or disturb eagles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No take of any migratory bird, nest, or egg is expected to occur and/or planned practices will not take or disturb eagles.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Areas There are no designated natural areas present in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prime and Unique Farmlands Prime/unique farmlands or farmlands of statewide/local importance are present in the planning area.	No effect due to no change in land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Riparian Area Riparian areas along/around streams are present in the planning area. Source: aerial photos, personal observation.	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Planned practice(s) will not conflict with the conservation values and functions of the riparian area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Planned practice(s) will not conflict with the conservation values and functions of the riparian area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Scenic Beauty Cropland	No effect, No change from benchmark conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wetlands Wetlands are present in proximity to the planning area.	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Practices will avoid any adverse impacts to wetlands in or near the planning area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Practices will avoid any adverse impacts to wetlands in or near the planning area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wild and Scenic Rivers No Federal or State designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river segments or rivers listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) are present in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.	None Required		None Required		None Required	
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)	Potential of nutrient, pesticide, and/or sediment load to impact nearby waterbodies.		Nutrient, pesticide, and/or sediment load to be reduced to nearby waterbodies.		Nutrient, pesticide, and/or sediment load to be reduced to nearby waterbodies.	
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)	None		None		None	
M. Preferred Alternative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> preferred alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting reason	Selected alternative best meets clients objectives while improving and conserving the resource base.					
N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis)		local	local	local	local	local
The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.						
O. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete: In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.						
Signature (TSP if applicable)		Signature (NRCS)		Soil Conservationist	Title	Date
						4/27/20
If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.						

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.

P. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances

To answer the questions below, consider the severity (intensity) of impacts in the contexts identified above. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.

If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.

Yes No

- ☐ ☒ • Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?
- ☐ ☒ • Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?
- ☐ ☒ • Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?
- ☐ ☒ • Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?
- ☐ ☒ • Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?
- ☐ ☒ • Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
- ☐ ☒ • Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.
- ☐ ☒ • Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

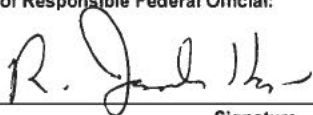
<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O".	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS. NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding

R.1 Findings Documentation	Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, December 2019
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply) 7 CFR Part 650 <i>Compliance With NEPA</i> , subpart 650.6 <i>Categorical Exclusions</i> states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.	

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that, made the finding indicated above.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:



Signature

District Conservationist

Title

6-22-2020

Date

Additional notes

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET		NRCS-CPA-52 11/2019 A. Client Name: [REDACTED] B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED] C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required): [REDACTED]																			
D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose): To reduce input costs, retain or improve productivity, and conserve resource base for future.																					
E. Need for Action: Current management allows over application of fertilizer and pesticides, leading to higher potential of field loss and subsequent water quality degradation and undesirable plant productivity.	H. Alternatives <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width:33%;">No Action</th> <th style="width:33%;">Alternative 1</th> <th style="width:33%;">Alternative 2</th> </tr> <tr> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> if RMS Client will continue existing operation without change. </td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> if RMS CROPLAND: Cover Crop (340) Nutrient Management (590) </td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> if RMS CROPLAND: Forage and Biomass Planting (512) Nutrient Management (590) Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) </td> </tr> </table>			No Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	<input type="checkbox"/> if RMS Client will continue existing operation without change.	<input type="checkbox"/> if RMS CROPLAND: Cover Crop (340) Nutrient Management (590)	<input type="checkbox"/> if RMS CROPLAND: Forage and Biomass Planting (512) Nutrient Management (590) Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)												
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Resource Concerns																					
In Section F below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).																					
F. Resource Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	I. Effects of Alternatives <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="width:33%;">No Action</th> <th colspan="2" style="width:33%;">Alternative 1</th> <th colspan="2" style="width:33%;">Alternative 2</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="width:50%;">Amount, Status, Description</th> <th style="width:10%;"></th> <th style="width:50%;">Amount, Status, Description</th> <th style="width:10%;"></th> <th style="width:50%;">Amount, Status, Description</th> <th style="width:10%;"></th> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: bottom;"> <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i> </td> <td style="vertical-align: bottom;"> <input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC </td> <td style="vertical-align: bottom;"> <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i> </td> <td style="vertical-align: bottom;"> <input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC </td> <td style="vertical-align: bottom;"> <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i> </td> <td style="vertical-align: bottom;"> <input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC </td> </tr> </table>			No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2		Amount, Status, Description		Amount, Status, Description		Amount, Status, Description		<i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC	<i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC	<i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC
No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2																	
Amount, Status, Description		Amount, Status, Description		Amount, Status, Description																	
<i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC	<i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC	<i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC																
SOIL: WIND AND WATER EROSION																					
Sheet & Rill Erosion - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (water erosion rate is less than or equal to T according to Current NRCS water erosion technology)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	With cover crops, increased cover during erosive periods will reduce soil detachment. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species increases vegetative cover and reduces erosion potential. During the establishment period, there may be a slight to moderate risk of erosion, depending on seedbed preparation, and seeding method. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion. With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosion in the short term, once trees are established erosion will decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC															
Wind Erosion - Crop Not a Resource Concern. CART assessment existing condition is above threshold.	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	With cover crops, increased cover during erosive periods will reduce soil detachment. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species increases vegetative cover and reduces erosion potential. During the establishment period, there may be a slight to moderate risk of erosion, depending on seedbed preparation, and seeding method. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion. With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive wind energy. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosion in the short term; once trees are established erosion will decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC															

SOIL: CONCENTRATED EROSION						
Ephemeral Gully Erosion - Crop	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/>	With cover crops, increased cover during erosive periods will reduce concentrated flow and associated soil detachment. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion. With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: No ephemeral gullies observed)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Classic Gully Erosion	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy and the vegetation binds the soil making it resistant to water flow erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: No classic gullies observed)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excessive Bank Erosion - Crop, Forest, Range, Farmstead, Developed Land, Associated Ag Land or Other	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy and the vegetation binds the soil making it resistant to water flow erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: Banks are stable)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
SOIL: SOIL QUALITY LIMITATIONS						
Compaction - Associated Ag Land, Crop, Farmstead, Forest, Other Rural Land, Developed Land	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/>	With cover crops, increased biomass and roots improve aggregation, which gives better resistance to compaction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity decreasing compaction. Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root penetration and increased organic matter helps restore soil structure. During site preparation the use of heavy equipment compacts soil in the short term; once trees are established compaction will decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: No observed evidence of compaction, such as ponding, stunted plant growth, or root growth limitation.)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Organic matter depletion - Crop	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With cover crops, more biomass produced will increase organic matter. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production and organic matter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity increasing organic matter. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production and organic matter. Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root and shoot development, decomposition increases soil organic matter. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter decreases organic matter in the short term; once trees are established organic matter will increase.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does not meet planning criteria (Current NRCS water erosion technology: Soil Condition Index < 1.0 or Soil Tillage Intensity Ratio > 20)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Soil organism habitat loss or degradation - Crop	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With cover crops, more biomass produced will increase organic matter improving soil organism habitat. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and soil organism habitat.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity increasing organic matter and improving soil organism habitat. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and soil organism habitat. Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root and shoot development, decomposition increases soil organic matter and soil organism habitat. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter decreases organic matter in the short term; once trees are established organic matter will increase.	<input type="checkbox"/>
CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

Aggregate instability - Crop CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With cover crops, more biomass produced will increase organic matter, improving aggregate stability. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and aggregate stability. .	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity increasing organic matter and aggregate stability. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and aggregate stability. . Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root and shoot development, decomposition increases soil organic matter and aggregate stability. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter decreases organic matter in the short term; once trees are established organic matter will increase.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

WATER: FIELD SEDIMENT, NUTRIENT AND PATHOGEN LOSS

Nutrients transported to groundwater - Crop CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover reducing the potential for leaching losses. With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Nutrients transported to surface water - Crop CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cover crops reduce erosion and runoff and transport of nutrients. With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover reducing the potential for runoff losses. With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Sediment transported to surface water - Crop, Farmstead, Developed Land, Water, Associated Ag Land or Other land Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Current NRCS water erosion technology: Water Erosion < T AND Current NRCS wind erosion technology: Wind Erosion < T AND Client input and/or Planner Observation: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows, ephemeral gullies, and classic gullies to water bodies and Stream water crossings are stable.)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cover crops will reduce erosion and transport of sediment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide improved vegetative cover with a reduction of runoff, erosion and sedimentation. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosion in the short term; once trees are established erosion will decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

WATER: FIELD PESTICIDE LOSS

Pesticides transported to ground waters CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover and decrease the potential for pesticide leaching. With site preparation, thinning of trees may require increase pesticide use.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Pesticides transported to surface waters CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cover crops reduce runoff and erosion and increases soil organic matter, biological activity, and pesticide uptake.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover and decrease runoff, erosion and pesticide loss. With site preparation, thinning of trees may require increase pesticide use.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION

Plant productivity and health - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Yield data and Crop Health Information: Crop yield is greater or equal to 75% of the realistic yield expectations found in Land Grant University Guidelines or realistic yield tables; (lowest value should be used when indices differ).	Current resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Cover crops are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health and can contribute to subsequent crop health and productivity. With nutrient management, nutrients and soil amendments are optimized to enhance health and vigor of desired species.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance health and vigor of desired plant communities. With nutrient management, nutrients and soil amendments are optimized to enhance health and vigor of desired species. Trees and shrubs are established and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Plant pest pressure - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or planner observation: Pest damage to plants are below economic, historic, pest model or environmental thresholds.)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Trees and shrubs are established and managed to control undesired species.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC

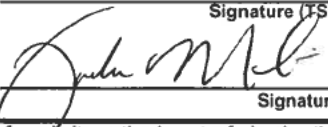
HUMAN: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Land Use Current Land use is cropland	No effect	No Effect	Some land may be taken out of production to establish trees and/or shrubs.
Capital limited capital without FA to implement conservation measures	No effect	Slight increase to plant and terminate cover crops. Slight increase to apply nutrients, however, proper management may reduce fertilizer use.	Slight increase to establish forage and biomass plant species. Slight increase to apply nutrients, however, proper management may reduce fertilizer use. Slight increase to establish trees and/or shrubs. Slight increase to construction site preparation.
Labor Existing labor adequate for operation	No effect	Slight increase to terminate cover crop and plant primary crop.	No Effect
Management Level current management adequate	No effect	Slight increase to manage planting of primary crop into cover crops. Slight increase to manage proper application of nutrients.	Slight increase to manage proper application of nutrients.
Profitability current operation is break even or no profit	No effect	Benefits of cover crops will increase profitability. Slight increase due to properly applied nutrients and increased production.	Slight increase due to properly applied nutrients and increased production.
Risk low risk	No effect	No Effect	No Effect
Public Health and Safety no concerns	No effect	No Effect	No Effect

Special Environmental Concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.

In Section "G" complete and attach Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation as applicable. Items with a "*" may require a federal permit or consultation/coordination between the lead agency and another government agency. In these cases, effects may need to be determined in consultation with another agency. Planning and practice implementation may proceed for practices not involved in consultation.

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action		✓ if needs further action		✓ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act No Nonattainment or Maintenance areas designated for non-attainment of air quality standards AND there are no Class 1 areas nearby. Source: EPA website	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Sec 404 Waters of the U.S. Wetlands, lakes, streams, channels, or other water conveyances are potential Waters of the US present in the planning area. Source: aerial photos, USGS topographic maps	No effect, Client activities do not involve the discharge of dredged or fill material or other pollutants into potential Waters of the US.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No discharge or placement of dredged or fill material into potential Waters of the US is planned or likely to occur from implemented practices.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No discharge or placement of dredged or fill material into potential Waters of the US is planned or likely to occur from implemented practices.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Sec 303 Impaired Waters Impaired waterbodies under Section 303(d) of the CWA located in proximity of the planning area.	May effect, Without NRCS assistance, sediment/nutrients/ pathogens/pesticides transported to 303(d) listed surface waters remains the same.	<input type="checkbox"/>	May effect, Practices will reduce degradation of 303(d) listed stream segment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	May effect, Practices will reduce degradation of 303(d) listed stream segment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Sec 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination No point-source discharges occur in planning area based on planner observation of field conditions.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Coastal Zone Management No Coastal Zone Management Areas are in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coral Reefs No coral reefs or associated water bodies (e.g. embayment areas) are present in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties There may be cultural resources or historic properties present in the Area of Potential Effect. See documentation in case file.	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Consultation with SHPO/Tribes will be completed and no adverse effect to cultural resources or historic properties is anticipated in the proposed APE. See attached documentation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Consultation with SHPO/Tribes will be completed and no adverse effect to cultural resources or historic properties is anticipated in the proposed APE. See attached documentation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
•Endangered and Threatened Species Some T&E species and/or their habitats are present in proximity to the planning area	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Affect, but are Not Likely to Adversely Affect because practices are wholly beneficial. Critical habitat will not be destroyed or adversely modified.	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Affect, but are Not Likely to Adversely Affect because practices are wholly beneficial. Critical habitat will not be destroyed or adversely modified.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice Low income and Tribal members may be in proximity to area	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No disproportionately high and adverse environmental or human health effect on a low-income population, minority population, or Indian Tribe will occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No disproportionately high and adverse environmental or human health effect on a low-income population, minority population, or Indian Tribe will occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Essential Fish Habitat No EFH is present in or downstream of the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplain Management No 100-year floodplain present in or near the planning area. Source: FEMA Maps.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species Cogongrass, Chinese Tallow Tree, Japanese Climbing Fern, Kudzu, and Chinese/Japanese Privets are prevalent in proximity to planning area	No effect, Client controls invasive species adequately and prevents their introduction and spread.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Habitat for migratory birds is present in the planning area. No bald or golden eagle foraging, roosting, or nesting habitat is in or near the planning area.	No effect, Continuation of benchmark conditions has no potential to take migratory birds, nests, or eggs and will not take or disturb eagles..	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No take of any migratory bird, nest, or egg is expected to occur and/or planned practices will not take or disturb eagles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, No take of any migratory bird, nest, or egg is expected to occur and/or planned practices will not take or disturb eagles.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Areas There are no designated natural areas present in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prime and Unique Farmlands Prime/unique farmlands or farmlands of statewide/local importance are present in the planning area.	No effect no change in land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect. No conversion of farm nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect. No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Riparian Area Riparian areas along/around streams are present in the planning area. Source: aerial photos, personal observation.	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect. Planned practice(s) will not conflict with the conservation values and functions of the riparian area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect. Planned practice(s) will not conflict with the conservation values and functions of the riparian area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Scenic Beauty Cropland	No effect. No change from benchmark conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect. Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect. Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wetlands Wetlands are present in proximity to the planning area.	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect. Practices will avoid any adverse impacts to wetlands in or near the planning area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect. Practices will avoid any adverse impacts to wetlands in or near the planning area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wild and Scenic Rivers No Federal or State designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river segments or rivers listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) are present in or near the planning area.	No effect. Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect. Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect. Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.	None Required		None Required		None Required	
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)	Potential of nutrient, pesticide, and/or sediment load to impact nearby waterbodies.		Nutrient, pesticide, and/or sediment load to be reduced to nearby waterbodies.		Nutrient, pesticide, and/or sediment load to be reduced to nearby waterbodies.	
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)	None		None		None	
M. Preferred Alternative ✓ preferred alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Supporting reason	Selected alternative best meets clients objectives while improving and conserving the resource base.					
N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis)		local	local	local	local	
The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.						
O. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete: In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.						
Signature (TSP if applicable)		Signature (NRCS)		Title	Date	
				Soil Con	5/14/20	
If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.						

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.

P. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances

To answer the questions below, consider the severity (intensity) of impacts in the contexts identified above. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.

If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.

Yes No

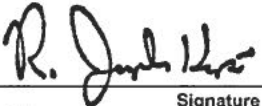
- ☐ ☒ • Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?
- ☐ ☒ • Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?
- ☐ ☒ • Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?
- ☐ ☒ • Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?
- ☐ ☒ • Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?
- ☐ ☒ • Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
- ☐ ☒ • Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.
- ☐ ☒ • Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O" .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u> .	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding	
R.1 Findings Documentation	Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, December 2019
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply)	
<p>7 CFR Part 650 <i>Compliance With NEPA</i>, subpart 650.6 <i>Categorical Exclusions</i> states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.</p>	
<p><i>I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that, made the finding indicated above.</i></p>	
<p>S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  _____ Signature </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> D.C _____ Title </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> 5.14.20 _____ Date </div> </div>	
Additional notes	

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

Improve soil quality and health in row crop fields. Improve soil nutrients with an organic alternative. Decrease wind, sheet and reel erosion.

A. Client Name:

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional):

C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required):

E. Need for Action:

Improve soil nutrient levels, soil health and water quality.

H. Alternatives

No Action
☐ if RMS

Alternative 1
☐ if RMS

Alternative 2
☐ if RMS

Cropland is seasons when a cash crop could not grow is more likely to be a victim to wind, sheet or reel erosion. Bare ground cover could deplete the soils without any type of forage and will negatively affect the soils characteristics. Also, during this time frame

Install practices to promote healthier soils and water in cropland fields with Cover Crop (340)

Resource Concerns

"In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process.

(See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance). "

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions

(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action
Alternative 1
Alternative 2

Amount, Status, Description
(Document both short and long term impacts)

☐ if does NOT meet PC

Amount, Status, Description
(Document both short and long term impacts)

☐ if does NOT meet PC

Amount, Status, Description
(Document both short and long term impacts)

☐ if does NOT meet PC

SOIL: **EROSION**

Sheet, Rill & Wind Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Erosion is less than T on all fields

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

Concentrated Flow - Ephemeral Gully Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Ephemeral gullies are not occurring

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

Concentrated Flow - Classic Gully Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Classic gullies are not present

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

Excessive Bank Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels are not on or adjacent to cropland field(s)

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

SOIL: **SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION**

Subsidence - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Histosols are not present.

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

Compaction - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems.

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

Organic matter depletion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. SCI is positive

Bare grounds in cropland fields will continue to be a victim of wind, sheet and reel erosion with nothing to hold soils in place during the seasons a crop is not growing

☐
NOT meet PC

Cover crop will be planted during seasons that a cash crop is not growing reducing erosion. A cover crop will also add natural nutrients as they decay in the soils (organic

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

Concentration of salts or other chemicals - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Activities do not cause salinity/sodicity problems

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

☐
NOT meet PC

PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION						
Undesirable plant productivity and health - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant production and health is a concern of the client. Plants DO NOT meet production goals.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excessive plant pest pressure - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Pest damage to plants are BELOW economic and environmental thresholds AND client identified criteria and plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Wildfire hazard is not a concern.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT / FISH & WILDLIFE						
ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION						
ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE						
Equipment and facilities - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities to reduce energy usage.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Farming/ranching practices and field operations - Crop		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Client is not interested in improving farming practices and field operations to reduce energy usage.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
HUMAN: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Capital	No increase in Capital requirements	Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment	Capital Requirements will increase short term due to acquisition of specialized equipment			
sufficient capital for farm operation and conservation implementation						
Labor	No increase in Labor	increase: more intensive soil sampling	increase: more intensive soil sampling			
labor level average for farms in the area						
Management Level	No increase in management	increase: must learn new technology and maintenance	increase: must learn new technology and maintenance			
management level average for farms in the area						
Profitability	Profitability will continue to be limited	Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer will be purchased and yields may increase.	Short term loss in profitability acquiring equipment; however long term increase as less fertilizer/pesticides will be purchased and yields may increase.			
Profitability limited due to excess fertilizer/pesticide use						
Risk	With no action, risk level will remain	Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient runoff/leaching potential.	Risk reduced as result of reduction in nutrient/pesticide runoff/leaching potential.			
High risk for water contamination and subsequent health effects on humans						
Public Health and Safety	With no action, Negative effects for the client and/or community may result due to offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides	Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.	Effects will be positive on the client and community. No hazards have been identified.			
Potential of offsite contamination by nutrients/pesticides						

Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet There are no designated natural areas present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Prime Farmland map units are present in the planning area.	No Effect No effect due to no change in land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No riparian areas are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Annual Cropland	No Effect No change from benchmark conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wetlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No wetlands are present in or near the planning area. Source: _____	No Effect No impact to wetlands is expected without NRCS assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied to active cropland. Additionally, nutrients will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No Effect No effect on wetlands in or near the planning area is expected because practices are only applied to active cropland. Additionally, nutrients Pesticides will be applied in a manner that nearly eliminates run-off and leaching potential.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Federal or State designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river segments or rivers listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) are present in or near the planning area.	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action

The following sections to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required


<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O" .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u> .	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding

R.1 Findings Documentation	Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Environmental Assessment, March 2016
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply) 7 CFR Part 650 <i>Compliance With NEPA</i> , subpart 650.6 <i>Categorical Exclusions</i> states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sidebar criteria. See NECH 610.116.	

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:


Signature

D.C.

Title

6-22-2020

Date

Additional notes

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

To reduce input costs, retain or improve productivity, and conserve resource base for future.

A. Client Name:

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional):

C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required):

E. Need for Action:

Current management allows over application of fertilizer and pesticides, leading to higher potential of field loss and subsequent water quality degradation and undesirable plant productivity.

No Action ☒ if RMS ☐

Client will continue existing operation without change.

Alternative 1 ☒ if RMS ☐

CROPLAND: Cover Crop (340) Nutrient Management (590)

Alternative 2 ☒ if RMS ☐

CROPLAND: Forage and Biomass Planting (512) Nutrient Management (590) Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Resource Concerns

In Section F below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process.
(See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions

(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action

Amount, Status, Description

(Document both short and long term impacts)

☐ if does NOT meet PC

Alternative 1

Amount, Status, Description

(Document both short and long term impacts)

☐ if does NOT meet PC

Alternative 2

Amount, Status, Description

(Document both short and long term impacts)

☐ if does NOT meet PC

SOIL: WIND AND WATER EROSION

Sheet & Rill Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (water erosion rate is less than or equal to T according to Current NRCS water erosion technology)

Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action

☐ NOT meet PC

With cover crops, Increased cover during erosive periods will reduce soil detachment. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion.

☐ NOT meet PC

The establishment of forage and biomass plant species increases vegetative cover and reduces erosion potential. During the establishment period, there may be a slight to moderate risk of erosion, depending on seedbed preparation, and seeding method. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion. With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosion in the short term; once trees are established erosion will decrease.

☐ NOT meet PC

Wind Erosion - Crop

Not a Resource Concern. CART assessment existing condition is above threshold.

Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action

☐ NOT meet PC

With cover crops, Increased cover during erosive periods will reduce soil detachment. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion.

☐ NOT meet PC

The establishment of forage and biomass plant species increases vegetative cover and reduces erosion potential. During the establishment period, there may be a slight to moderate risk of erosion, depending on seedbed preparation, and seeding method. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion. With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive wind energy. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosion in the short term; once trees are established erosion will decrease.

☐ NOT meet PC

SOIL: CONCENTRATED EROSION						
Ephemeral Gully Erosion - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: No ephemeral gullies observed)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	With cover crops, Increased cover during erosive periods will reduce concentrated flow and associated soil detachment. Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Soil disturbance to incorporate fertilizer loosens the soil and buries surface residue which can increase erosion. Other fertilizer application methods do not contribute to erosion. With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Classic Gully Erosion Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: No classic gullies observed)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy and the vegetation binds the soil making it resistant to water flow erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Excessive Bank Erosion - Crop, Forest, Range, Farmstead, Developed Land, Associated Ag Land or Other Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: Banks are stable)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	With established trees or shrubs, the vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy and the vegetation binds the soil making it resistant to water flow erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
SOIL: SOIL QUALITY LIMITATIONS						
Compaction - Associated Ag Land, Crop, Farmstead, Forest, Other Rural Land, Developed Land Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or Planner Observation: No observed evidence of compaction, such as ponding, stunted plant growth, or root growth limitation.)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	With cover crops, Increased biomass and roots improve aggregation, which gives better resistance to compaction.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity decreasing compaction. Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root penetration and increased organic matter helps restore soil structure. During site preparation the use of heavy equipment compacts soil in the short term; once trees are established compaction will decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Organic matter depletion - Crop Does not meet planning criteria (Current NRCS water erosion technology: Soil Condition Index < 1.0 or Soil Tillage Intensity Ratio > 20)	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	With cover crops, more biomass produced will increase organic matter. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production and organic matter.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity increasing organic matter. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production and organic matter. Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root and shoot development, decomposition increases soil organic matter. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter decreases organic matter in the short term; once trees are established organic matter will increase.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Soil organism habitat loss or degradation - Crop CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	With cover crops, more biomass produced will increase organic matter improving soil organism habitat. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and soil organism habitat.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity increasing organic matter and improving soil organism habitat. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and soil organism habitat. Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root and shoot development, decomposition increases soil organic matter and soil organism habitat. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter decreases organic matter in the short term; once trees are established organic matter will increase.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC

Aggregate instability - Crop CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	With cover crops, more biomass produced will increase organic matter, improving aggregate stability. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and aggregate stability.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, and increase biological activity increasing organic matter and aggregate stability. With nutrient management, the proper management of pH and applying proper nutrients will maintain or enhance biomass production, organic matter and aggregate stability. Establishment of trees or shrubs can lead to increased root and shoot development, decomposition increases soil organic matter and aggregate stability. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter decreases organic matter in the short term; once trees are established organic matter will increase.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
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WATER: FIELD SEDIMENT, NUTRIENT AND PATHOGEN LOSS

Nutrients transported to groundwater - Crop CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover reducing the potential for leaching losses. With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Nutrients transported to surface water - Crop CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Cover crops reduce erosion and runoff and transport of nutrients. With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover reducing the potential for runoff losses. With nutrient management using the right amount, source, placement, and timing (4R) provides nutrients when plants need them most, decreasing nutrient loss.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Sediment transported to surface water - Crop, Farmstead, Developed Land, Water, Associated Ag Land or Other land Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Current NRCS water erosion technology: Water Erosion < T AND Current NRCS wind erosion technology: Wind Erosion < T AND Client input and/or Planner Observation: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows, ephemeral gullies, and classic gullies to water bodies and Stream water crossings are stable.)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Cover crops will reduce erosion and transport of sediment.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide improved vegetative cover with a reduction of runoff, erosion and sedimentation. During site preparation, disturbed soils or reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosion in the short term; once trees are established erosion will decrease.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC

WATER: FIELD PESTICIDE LOSS

Pesticides transported to ground waters CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover and decrease the potential for pesticide leaching. With site preparation, thinning of trees may require increase pesticide use.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Pesticides transported to surface waters CART assessment existing condition is below threshold.	Continued resource degradation without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Cover crops reduce runoff and erosion and increases soil organic matter, biological activity, and pesticide uptake.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will provide better vegetative cover and decrease runoff, erosion and pesticide loss. With site preparation, thinning of trees may require increase pesticide use.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC

PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION

Plant productivity and health - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Yield data and Crop Health Information: Crop yield is greater or equal to 75% of the realistic yield expectations found in Land Grant University Guidelines or realistic yield tables; (lowest value should be used when indices differ).	Currently, resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Cover crops are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health and can contribute to subsequent crop health and productivity. With nutrient management, nutrients and soil amendments are optimized to enhance health and vigor of desired species.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	The establishment of forage and biomass plant species will enhance health and vigor of desired plant communities. With nutrient management, nutrients and soil amendments are optimized to enhance health and vigor of desired species. Trees and shrubs are established and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
Plant pest pressure - Crop Not a Resource Concern. Meets planning criteria (Client input and/or planner observation: Pest damage to plants are below economic, historic, pest model or environmental thresholds.)	Currently not a resource concern however, resource degradation may occur with no action	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	Trees and shrubs are established and managed to control undesired species.	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC

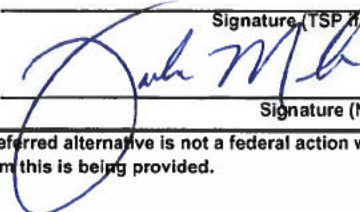
HUMAN: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Land Use Current Land use is cropland	No effect	No Effect	Some land may be taken out of production to establish trees and/or shrubs.
Capital limited capital without FA to implement conservation measures	No effect	Slight increase to plant and terminate cover crops. Slight increase to apply nutrients, however, proper management may reduce fertilizer use.	Slight increase to establish forage and biomass plant species. Slight increase to apply nutrients, however, proper management may reduce fertilizer use. Slight increase to establish trees and/or shrubs. Slight increase to conduct site preparation.
Labor Existing labor adequate for operation	No effect	Slight increase to terminate cover crop and plant primary crop.	No Effect
Management Level current management adequate	No effect	Slight increase to manage planting of primary crop into cover crops. Slight increase to manage proper application of nutrients.	Slight increase to manage proper application of nutrients.
Profitability current operation is break even or no profit	No effect	Benefits of cover crops will increase profitability. Slight increase due to properly applied nutrients and increased production.	Slight increase due to properly applied nutrients and increased production.
Risk low risk	No effect	No Effect	No Effect
Public Health and Safety no concerns	No effect	No Effect	No Effect

Special Environmental Concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.

In Section "G" complete and attach Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation as applicable. Items with a "a" may require a federal permit or consultation/coordination between the lead agency and another government agency. In these cases, effects may need to be determined in consultation with another agency. Planning and practice implementation may proceed for practices not involved in consultation.

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action		✓ if needs further action		✓ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act No Nonattainment or Maintenance areas designated for non-attainment of air quality standards AND there are no Class 1 areas nearby. Source: EPA website	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 404 Waters of the U.S. Wetlands, lakes, streams, channels, or other water conveyances are potential Waters of the US present in the planning area. Source: aerial photos, USGS topographic maps	No effect, Client activities do not involve the discharge of dredged or fill material or other pollutants into potential Waters of the US.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, No discharge or placement of dredged or fill material into potential Waters of the US is planned or likely to occur from implemented practices.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, No discharge or placement of dredged or fill material into potential Waters of the US is planned or likely to occur from implemented practices.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 303 Impaired Waters Impaired waterbodies under Section 303(d) of the CWA located in proximity of the planning area.	May effect, Without NRCS assistance, sediment/nutrients/ pathogens/pesticides transported to 303(d) listed surface waters remains the same.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	May effect, Practices will reduce degradation of 303(d) listed stream segment.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	May effect, Practices will reduce degradation of 303(d) listed stream segment.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Clean Water Act / Sec 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination No point-source discharges occur in planning area based on planner observation of field conditions.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Coastal Zone Management No Coastal Zone Management Areas are in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Coral Reefs No coral reefs or associated water bodies (e.g. embayment areas) are present in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties There may be cultural resources or historic properties present in the Area of Potential Effect. See documentation in case file.	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Consultation with SHPO/Tribes will be completed and no adverse effect to cultural resources or historic properties is anticipated in the proposed APE. See attached documentation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Consultation with SHPO/Tribes will be completed and no adverse effect to cultural resources or historic properties is anticipated in the proposed APE. See attached documentation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Endangered and Threatened Species Some T&E species and/or their habitats are present in proximity to the planning area	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	May Affect, but are Not Likely to Adversely Affect because practices are wholly beneficial. Critical habitat will not be destroyed or adversely modified.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	May Affect, but are Not Likely to Adversely Affect because practices are wholly beneficial. Critical habitat will not be destroyed or adversely modified.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Environmental Justice Low income and Tribal members may be in proximity to area	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, No disproportionately high and adverse environmental or human health effect on a low-income population, minority population, or Indian Tribe will occur.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, No disproportionately high and adverse environmental or human health effect on a low-income population, minority population, or Indian Tribe will occur.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Essential Fish Habitat No EFH is present in or downstream of the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Floodplain Management No 100-year floodplain present in or near the planning area. Source: FEMA Maps.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Invasive Species Cogongrass, Chinese Tallow Tree, Japanese Climbing Fern, Kudzu, and Chinese/Japanese Privets are prevalent in proximity to planning area	No effect, Client controls invasive species adequately and prevents their introduction and spread.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Habitat for migratory birds is present in the planning area. No bald or golden eagle foraging, roosting, or nesting habitat is in or near the planning area.	No effect, Continuation of benchmark conditions has no potential to take migratory birds, nests, or eggs and will not take or disturb eagles..	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, No take of any migratory bird, nest, or egg is expected to occur and/or planned practices will not take or disturb eagles.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, No take of any migratory bird, nest, or egg is expected to occur and/or planned practices will not take or disturb eagles.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Natural Areas There are no designated natural areas present in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action

Prime and Unique Farmlands Prime/unique farmlands or farmlands of statewide/local importance are present in the planning area.	No effect to no change in land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Riparian Area Riparian areas along/around streams are present in the planning area. Source: aerial photos, personal observation.	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Planned practice(s) will not conflict with the conservation values and functions of the riparian area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Planned practice(s) will not conflict with the conservation values and functions of the riparian area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Scenic Beauty Cropland	No effect, No change from benchmark conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Planned practice(s) are typical for the surrounding area and will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wetlands Wetlands are present in proximity to the planning area.	May effect	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Practices will avoid any adverse impacts to wetlands in or near the planning area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Practices will avoid any adverse impacts to wetlands in or near the planning area.	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
Wild and Scenic Rivers No Federal or State designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river segments or rivers listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) are present in or near the planning area.	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	No effect, Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.	None Required		None Required		None Required	
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)	Potential of nutrient, pesticide, and/or sediment load to impact nearby waterbodies.		Nutrient, pesticide, and/or sediment load to be reduced to nearby waterbodies.		Nutrient, pesticide, and/or sediment load to be reduced to nearby waterbodies.	
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)	None		None		None	
M. Preferred Alternative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> preferred alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting reason	Selected alternative best meets clients objectives while improving and conserving the resource base.					
N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis)	local		local		local	
The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.						
O. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:						
In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.						
Signature (TSP if applicable)		Soil Conservationist		Date		
				4/27/20		
Signature (NRCS)		Title		Date		
If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.						

The following questions are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.

P. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances

To answer the questions below, consider the severity (intensity) of impacts in the contexts identified above. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.

If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.

Yes No

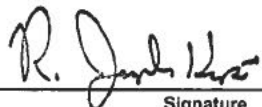
- ☐ Yes ☒ No • Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?
- ☐ Yes ☒ No • Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?
- ☐ Yes ☒ No • Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?
- ☐ Yes ☒ No • Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?
- ☐ Yes ☒ No • Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?
- ☐ Yes ☒ No • Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
- ☐ Yes ☒ No • Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.
- ☐ Yes ☒ No • Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O" .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u> .	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding	
R.1 Findings Documentation	Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, December 2019
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply)	
7 CFR Part 650 Compliance With NEPA, subpart 650.6 Categorical Exclusions states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.	
<p><i>I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that, made the finding indicated above.</i></p>	
<p>S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Signature </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> District Conservationist Title </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> 4-27-20 Date </div> </div>	
Additional notes	