



Operation Name: _____ Date: _____

You must implement production practices which maintain or improve the natural resources of your operation, including soil and water quality. "Natural resources" are defined as the physical, hydrological, and biological features of your operation, including soil, water, wetlands, woodlands and wildlife. Biodiversity conservation refers to your efforts to improve and maintain the variety of plants, animals, insects and microorganisms on your farm and in your soil. This OSP section applies to all parcels in all operations engaged in crop and animal production including greenhouses, poultry production, and other non-field organic production systems. Attach additional pages and maps reflecting natural resource management as needed. Have all records available at your inspection.

A. Biodiversity Conservation & Natural Resource Management

1) Do you have a current conservation plan or contract with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or other conservation agency?

No Yes.

a) Please list the conservation practices that you are implementing and be prepared to show your plan at inspection.

2) How do you maintain or improve your water resources (consider both quantity and quality)?

- Efficient irrigation Use (quantity, timing and technology) Allocate water to non-crop areas for wildlife and habitat
 Target and meter fertilizer use to prevent nutrient runoff Manage excess water towards on-site retention and infiltration
 Vegetative cover filters for sediments and other pollutant Use fish screens Other (describe):

3) How do you improve and/or maintain natural resources in non-crop areas, such as borders, fallow ag land, and non ag habitats?

- Preserve/restore wetlands and riparian areas Increase and protect native plants/wildlife Minimize erosion
 Preserve/restore wildlife corridors Leave areas as undisturbed habitat refuge Wildlife friendly fences
 Establish legal conservation areas Restore degraded areas Native habitats not converted to farmland since certification
 Other (describe):

4) How are you managing habitat for pollinators, natural enemy insects and other wildlife throughout the production season?

- Hedgerows Windbreaks Raptor perches or trees at field edge Bird or bat boxes Ensure a clean water source
 Plant flowers interspersed with crops Implement measures to support a variety of bee species
 Allow non-invasive plants in non-cropped, fallow, & border areas Provide extended food supply Other (describe):

5) What actions do you take to prevent or control invasive plant/animal species, especially those threatening natural areas?

- Learn to identify invasive plant and animal species Monitor for new introductions and suppress or remove immediately
 Plant competing beneficial native plants Use weed & pest-free seed/planting stock/soil amendments/mulches
 State or Federal agency controls invasive species Other (describe):

6) If you restrict wildlife from your production areas due to food safety or other crop production concerns, or if you have converted wildlife habitat to crop production, how do you mitigate the resulting loss of wildlife habitat?

- Develop or enhance habitat in other areas of your farm Plant buffers between crop and habitat areas
 Leave room for habitat when using fencing (riparian or corridor) Other (describe):

Not applicable (explain why not):



7) Please describe additional measures taken to conserve natural resources:

B. Conservation Involving Livestock Not applicable, no livestock involved

1) How do you protect riparian areas and sensitive habitats from impacts due to livestock?

- Limit livestock access to riparian areas, sensitive habitats and designated stream crossings
 - Locate feed stations, water troughs and mineral blocks away from streams and water sources
 - Conserve native vegetation along waterways Manage excess manure to minimize erosion Other (describe):
-

2) How do you improve or protect your pasture or rangeland?

- Manage the frequency, density and timing of grazing to allow plant regeneration Reseed trampled or eroded areas
 - Plant a diversity of native species Provide adequate shaded areas to minimize soil compaction Other (describe):
-

3) What management practices do you use to ensure a healthy relationship between livestock and wildlife?

- Use guard animals Graze when predation is low House livestock overnight in protected area Use electric fencing
 - Provide water troughs with escape ramps for wildlife Other (describe):
-

C. Biodiversity and Natural Resources Monitoring Plan

1) How do you monitor or evaluate whether your conservation measures benefit the natural resources of your operation?

- Before and after photographs Visual observations Track fertility & pest control cost trends
 - Water use tracking/metering Plant, animal, insect surveys Farm logs and journals Maintain conservation map
 - Water testing Soil testing Periodic expert evaluation and report (such as NRCS) Other (describe):
-