



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) Describe the natural resources and biodiversity of your operation and surrounding ecosystems, including soil type and condition, bodies of water, nearby wetlands and woodlands, wildlife, windbreaks, hedgerows, native habitat and beneficial plantings. Include any problem areas such as erosion and invasive species.

2) 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.

3) 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):

4) 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):

5) 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):

6) 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):

7) 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):



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

B. 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):
-

C. Conservation Involving Livestock Not applicable, no livestock involved

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

- Limit livestock access to riparian areas, sensitive habitats and use 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 nutrient and pathogen pollution
 Allow the natural process of plan regeneration along stream banks 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
 Prevent excess deposits of manure Encourage plant growth that filters manure runoff
 Minimize grazing wetlands and other soggy areas 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 Small animals are grazed with large Predator lights are used
 Design fencing to minimize entrapment and provide for wildlife corridors
 Allow non-predatory wildlife, such as grazers and birds to co-exist with livestock Other (describe):
-

4) How do you manage yards, feeding pads, feedlots, laneways and housing to prevent runoff to surface water and to prevent dust from moving offsite?

- A plan for confinement areas is in place before severe erosion problems occur Livestock is rotated to multiple areas
 Concentrated runoff is diverted into a temporary storage lagoon Manure is periodically removed and composted
 Confined sites are large enough to handle the type and number of animals present Air filtration is used in housing
 Manure ground into dust in confined areas is watered down Windbreaks are used outside housing
 Confined sites are made of concrete or well-draining rock bases Other (describe):
-