



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 form applies to all parcels engaged in organic crop and livestock production, including greenhouses, poultry production, and other non-field organic production systems. If needed, attach additional pages and/or maps reflecting natural resource management practices.

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) If yes, list the conservation practices that are being implemented 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) Operations producing crops within enclosed structures/buildings (i.e. greenhouses, sprout or mushroom production, etc): Describe additional conservation measures implemented at your operation.  Not applicable
- Water conservation  Energy conservation  Recycling  Composting  Diverse outdoor plantings
- Surrounding habitat restoration  Sustainable packaging  Crop rotation within greenhouses  Other (describe):
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- 9) Describe any additional measures taken to conserve natural resources:  Not applicable
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## B. Biodiversity and Natural Resources Monitoring Plan

- 1) How do you verify the effectiveness of your conservation measures and document whether they improve or maintain the natural resources of your operation?
- Photograph logs  Document fertility & pest control cost trends  Document water use trends
- Plant, animal, insect surveys  Observations in farm logs and journals  Maintain conservation map
- Water testing  Soil testing  Periodic expert evaluation and report (such as NRCS)  Other (describe):
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## 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 prevent nutrient and pathogen pollution
- Allow the natural process of plant regeneration along stream banks  Other (describe):
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- 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):
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- 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):
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- 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):
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