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Appendix A

Eligible Practices for the PA-MEB Program

CBP Practice Name (Practice Credit Duration)	Definition	Other Common Practice Names and Standards
Tillage Management (Annual, 1 year)	<p>Conservation tillage involves the planting, growing and harvesting of crops with minimal disturbance to the soil. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Residue Tillage: Maintains 15 to 29 percent crop residue coverage immediately after planting • Conservation Tillage: maintains 30 to 59 percent crop residue coverage immediately after planting • High Residue, Minimum Soil Disturbance Tillage: Maintains at least 60 percent crop residue coverage immediately after planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (NRCS 329) • Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (NRCS 345)
Tree Planting (10 years)	<p>Any trees planted on agricultural land, except those used to establish riparian forest buffers, targeting lands that are highly erodible or identified as critical resource areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windbreak/shelter establishment (NRCS 380) • Tree/Shrub Establishment (NRCS 612) • Tree Planting (FSA CP3) • Hardwood Tree Planting (FSA CP3A)
Wetland Restoration (15 years)	<p>Includes any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland Restoration (re-establishment): The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former wetland. • Wetland Rehabilitation: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded wetland. • Wetland Enhancement: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a wetland to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific function(s). • Wetland Creation (establishment): The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop a wetland that did not previously exist at a site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland restoration (NRCS 657); • CRP or CREP wetland restoration (CP23) and wetland restoration, non-floodplain (CP23A)
Prescribed Grazing (10 years)	<p>Pasture management and grazing techniques to improve the quality and quantity of the forages grown on pastures and reduce the impact of animal travel lanes, animal concentration areas or other degraded areas. Prescribed grazing systems must maintain a vegetative cover of 60% or greater.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed intensive grazing; Prescribed grazing (NRCS 528 or 528A)



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<p>Animal Waste Management Systems (15 years)</p>	<p>Any structure designed for collection, transfer and storage of manures and associated wastes generated from the confined portion of animal operations and complies with NRCS 313 (Waste Storage Facility) or NRCS 359 (Waste Treatment Lagoon) practice standards. Manure conserved through reduced storage and handling losses associated with AWMS implementation are available for land application or export from the farm.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste storage facility (NRCS 313) • Waste treatment lagoon (NRCS 359)
<p>Manure Incorporation (Annual, 1 year)</p>	<p>The mixing of dry, semi-dry, or liquid organic nutrient sources (including manures, biosolids, and compost) into the soil profile within a specified time period from application by a range of field operations. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High disturbance incorporation: Provides the highest degree of mixing of organic nutrient sources into the root zone, but effectively eliminates the erosion control benefits of conservation tillage. Incorporation plus additional field operations retain <30% of residue cover at planting. • Low disturbance incorporation: leaves greater quantities of organic nutrient sources on the soil surface, but maintains most of the benefits of conservation tillage. Incorporation plus additional field operations retains at least 30 % of residue cover at planting. 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Manure Injection (Annual, 1 year)</p>	<p>A specialized category of placement in which organic nutrient sources (including manures, biosolids, and composted materials) are mechanically applied into the root zone with surface soil closure at the time of application. Total soil surface disturbance for injection plus planting and any other field operations should be less than 40%.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Manure Transport (Annual, 1 year)</p>	<p>Transport of excess manure in or out of a county. Manure may be of any type – poultry, dairy, or any animal categories. Movement within the same county should not be included.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



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<p>Barnyard Runoff Control (10 years)</p>	<p>Includes the installation of practices to control runoff from barnyard areas. This includes practices such as roof runoff control, diversion of clean water from entering the barnyard and control of runoff from barnyard areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roof runoff structure (NRCS 558) • Diversion (NRCS 362) • Stormwater Runoff Control (NRCS 570) • Trails and Walkways (NRCS 575)
<p>Loafing Lot Management (10 years)</p>	<p>The stabilization of areas frequently and intensively used by people, animals or vehicles by establishing vegetative cover, surfacing with suitable materials, and/or installing needed structures. This does not include poultry pad installation.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Alternative Crops (10 years)</p>	<p>Accounts for those crops that are planted and managed as permanent, such as warm season grasses, to sequester carbon in the soil</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Retirement of Highly Erodible Land (10 years)</p>	<p>Agricultural land retirement takes marginal and highly erosive cropland out of production by planting permanent vegetative cover such as shrubs, grasses and/or trees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical area planting (NRCS 342); • Conservation cover (NRCS 327);
<p>Cover Crops –Traditional (Annual, 1 year)</p>	<p>A short-term crop grown after the main cropping season to reduce nutrient losses to ground and surface water by sequestering nutrients and may not be harvested in the spring. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional cover crops: This type of cover crop may not receive nutrients in the fall. • Traditional cover crops wit fall nutrient application: This type of cover crop is planted upon cropland where manure is applied following the harvest of a summer crop and prior to cover crop planting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover Crop (NRCS 340)
<p>Cover Crops – Commodity (Annual, 1 year)</p>	<p>A winter cereal crop planted for harvest in the spring which does not receive nutrient applications in the fall. Any winter cereal crop which did receive applications in the fall is not eligible for nutrient reductions.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Forest and Grass Buffers (10 years)</p>	<p>Linear vegetated areas that help filter nutrients, sediments and other pollutants from runoff as well as remove nutrients from groundwater. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Buffer: Wooded buffer at least 35’ wide, with recommendation for 100’ • Grass Buffer: Grass or other non-woody vegetative buffer at least 35’ wide, with recommendation for 100’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian Forest Buffer (NRCS 391) • Riparian Buffer (FSA CP22) • Riparian Herbaceous Cover (NRCS 390) • Filter Strip (NRCS 393) • Filter Strip (FSA CP21) • Field Border (NRCS 386) • Grass Waterway (NRCS 412) • Grass Waterway, Noneasement (FSA CP8A)



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<p>Forest and Grass Buffers with Stream Exclusion Fencing (10 years)</p>	<p>When buffers are implemented, pasture exclusion fencing is installed to prevent livestock from grazing and trampling the buffer or entering the stream. May include supporting practices like the use of alternative drinking water sources, such as permanent or portable livestock water troughs placed away from the stream corridor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Forest and Grass Buffers
<p>Core Nutrient Management – Nitrogen (Annual, 1 year)</p>	<p>The implementation of a site-specific combination of nutrient source, rate, timing, and placement into a strategy that seeks to optimize agronomic and environmentally efficient utilization of nitrogen (N).</p>	
<p>Supplemental Nutrient Management – N Rate (Annual, 1 year)</p>	<p>Applications of nitrogen are made in accordance with all elements of the Nitrogen Core Nutrient Management practice, and one or more of the following practices are implemented resulting in a reduction in application rate of nitrogen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen application rate made at less than land-grant university recommendations. • Nitrogen applications split across the growing season, resulting in lower-than-planned applications. • Nitrogen applications are made using variable rate goals, resulting in lower-than-planned applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient management (NRCS 590)*
<p>Supplemental Nutrient Management – N Placement (Annual, 1 year)</p>	<p>Applications of nitrogen are made in accordance with all elements of the Nitrogen Core Nutrient Management practice, and one or more of the following practices are implemented resulting in better placement and utilization of nitrogen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications of inorganic nitrogen are injected into the subsurface or incorporated into the soil. • Applications of nitrogen are made with setbacks from surface water features. 	<p>*Acres of nutrient management cost-shared under the NRCS 590 or enhanced 590 standards do not automatically fulfill the Core or Supplemental NM definitions. However, partners can verify how many of the acres meet which Core and/or Supplemental NM definitions.</p>
<p>Supplemental Nutrient Management – N Timing (Annual, 1 year)</p>	<p>Applications of nitrogen are made in accordance to all elements of the Nitrogen Core Nutrient Management practice, and are split across the growing season into multiple applications to increase utilization of nitrogen.</p>	
<p>Soil and Water Conservation Plans (Annual, 1 year)</p>	<p>Farm conservation plans that involve a combination of agronomic, management and engineered practices that protect and improve soil productivity and water quality and prevent deterioration of natural resources on all or part of a farm. Plans must meet applicable NRCS technical standards.</p>	<p>N/A</p>