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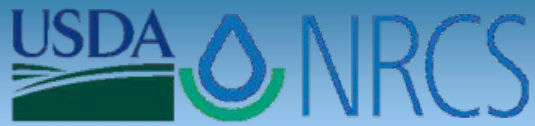
# Organic Planning for the Natural Resources Conservation Service

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# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

## Organic Provisions

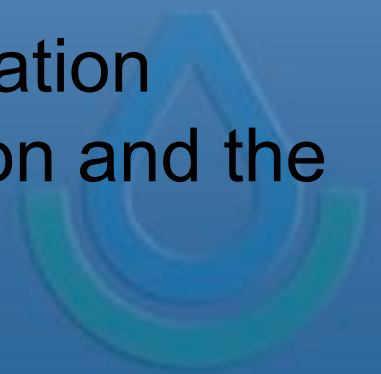




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## Farm Bill Provisions

- Purpose of program includes “...assisting producers to make beneficial, cost-effective changes to production system (including conservation practices related to organic production)...”
- Payments are authorized for conservation practices, related to organic production and the transition to organic production





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# Farm Bill Provisions

- Eligibility requirements include:
  - Develop and carry out an Organic System Plan (OSP)
  - Develop and implement conservation practices consistent with an OSP
- Payment limitations
  - Payments for conservation practices related to organic production, directly or indirectly, may not exceed in aggregate \$20,000 per fiscal year or \$80,000 during any six-year period



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# Farm Bill Provisions

- Payments may not be made to cover the costs associated with organic certification or for practices that are eligible for financial assistance payment under the National Organic Program (NOP)





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# Interim Final Rule Provisions

- Conservation plan is basis of application
- Practices must meet the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS's) standards and specifications
- Farm Bill provisions

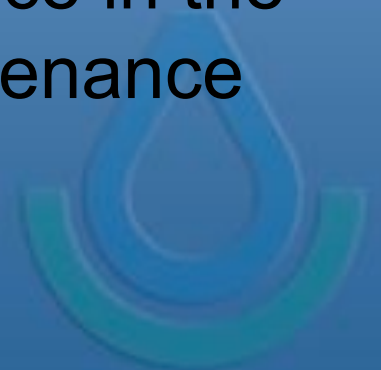




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## Interim Final Rule Provisions

- Must meet all eligibility requirements (conservation compliance, adjusted gross income, control of land, etc.)
- Tied to same contract requirements as other EQIP applications (must start a practice in the first 12 months, operations and maintenance [O&M], etc.)

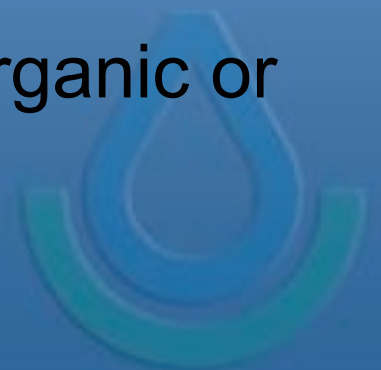




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## Kansas Overview

- Kansas organic fact sheet available at [ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/KS/Outgoing/Web\\_Files/Programs/eqip/2009/fs\\_organic.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/KS/Outgoing/Web_Files/Programs/eqip/2009/fs_organic.pdf).
- All acres in the application must be organic or transitioning to organic



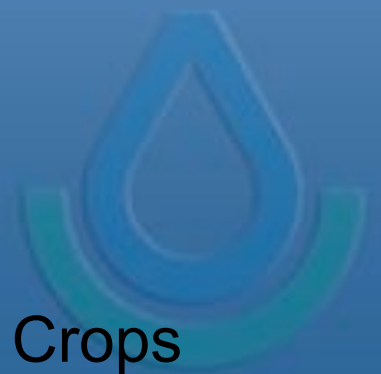




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## Kansas Overview

- At this time, there are specific organic scenarios for conservation practices:
  - 328, Conservation Crop Rotation
  - 340, Cover Crop
  - 441, Irrigation System, Microirrigation
  - 511, Forage Harvest Management
  - 528, Prescribed Grazing
  - 590, Nutrient Management
  - 595, Pest Management
  - 798, Seasonal High Tunnel Systems for Crops





## ELIGIBILITY

- Participants applying as “Organic – Transition” will be required to:
  - Submit a self certification letter to the district conservationist stating that they agree to develop and implement conservation practices for certified organic production consistent with an OSP.
  - Submit the name of the U.S. Department of Agricultural (USDA) accredited certifying official they have contacted for certification
  - BOTH must be received PRIOR to obligation of the contract



## ELIGIBILITY

- Participants applying as “Organic – Certified” will be required to:
  - Submit a copy of their OSP
  - Submit the name of the USDA accredited certifying official
  - BOTH must be received PRIOR to obligation of the contract



## ELIGIBILITY

- Participants applying as “Organic – Certified” or “Organic-Transition” that sell less than \$5,000 in agricultural products and are exempt from the certification (organic exempt) will be required to provide the same information
  - Must provide documentation that they sell less than \$5,000 in organic products.
  - i.e., if they do not have an OSP, they will need to work toward preparing one



## ELIGIBILITY

- Must be an agricultural operation that has produced or sold at least \$1,000 in agricultural products
- Must own or have control of the land for the contract period
- Must be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions, as well as payment limitation and adjusted gross income (AGI) requirements

- General Planning Overview**
- Conservation Practices**

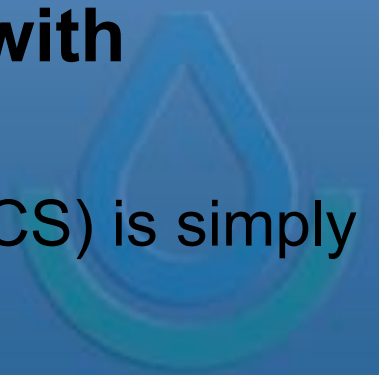




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# Planning

- Use the same nine-step, three-phase process**
- Producer objectives will be similar**
- Resource concerns will be similar**
- Alternatives to address resource concerns may vary**
  - Traditional nutrients and pest control methods will not comply with the organic standards
- Producers responsibility to comply with organic standards**
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is simply developing a conservation plan





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# Conservation Practices

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)**
- Cover Crop (340)**
- Prescribed Grazing (528)**
- Nutrient Management (590)**
- Integrated Pest Management (595)**
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)**
- Brush Management (314)**
  
- Engineering (ENG) Practices**
- Ecological Science (ECS) Practices**







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# 328—Conservation Crop Rotation

- Will play an integral role to aid in controlling crop pests (weed/disease/insect) and managing nutrients**
  - Cover crops
  - Pest management





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# 340—Cover Crops

## Purpose

- Nitrogen-fixing crops**
  - Legumes
- Nitrogen scavenging**
- Biomass**
- Weed suppression**
- Forage**





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# 590—Nutrient Management

- Soils test**
- Nutrient types**
  - Organic compounds
  - Manure
- Nutrient analysis**





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# 595—Integrated Pest Management

## ☐ Crops

- Integrated pest management
  - Scout for pest (insect/plant)
  - Identify if pests exceed thresholds
  - Treat with organic practices



# 314—Brush Management

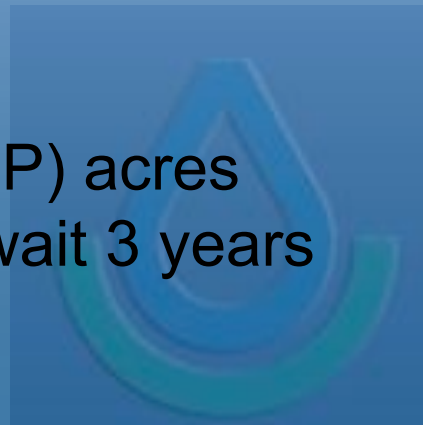
## 314 Construction Specifications, Tables

## Treatment Methods

- Mechanical
- Chemical
  - List of prohibited substances
  - KSU recommendations

## Re-sprouting Species

- Repeated treatment—perpetual
- Remove from Organic System Plan (OSP) acres and treat chemically—gain control and wait 3 years to include in organic acres



# 315—Herbaceous Weed Control

## □ Range/Pasture

- Mechanical methods
  - Mowing
  - Flaming
  - Hand clipping
- Organic options for Serecia?
  - Traditional chemicals not an option to use on organic farm and comply with state law for control/eradication
  - No technically sound cultural or biological control methods to control/eradicate
  - Exclude area from OSP, treat





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# ENG Practices

- No significant differences in planning and application of engineering practices to address resource concerns**





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# ECS Practices

## No significant differences in planning and application of ecological science practices to address resource concerns

- Fence (382)
  - Post types for new fences
    - Steel
    - Un-treated posts
    - Fiberglass







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# NRCS Organic Contacts

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