

Section C

Cropping History



Why is Section C Important?

- To identify practices associated with **soil, nutrient, and pesticide losses**
 - Type of tillage
 - Row width
 - Timing of harvest/planting
 - Use of cover crop
 - Grazing livestock
 - Crop rotation and other data



Goals of Section C

Big Picture:

- **3-year** cropping history on the **selected field**

Learning Objectives:

- Definition of “**crop year**”
- Understand how to record a crop rotation plan
- Correctly record **cover crops**



Definitions

- **Crop Year**- year in which the crop was harvested/terminated
 - Vegetables- report when harvest **ended**
- **Double Cropping**- harvesting two crops on the same land in the same crop year
- **Cover Crop**- crop grown to cover and/or enrich the soil
- **Strip Cropping (uncommon)**- strips of different crops
- **Nurse Crop (uncommon)**- annual crop used to assist the establishment of a perennial crop



Question 1

- Record all crops grown **in order of planting** during a single crop year
 - including cover crops, double cropping, replanting the same crop
- For 3+ crops, use the cropping history supplement

C CROPPING HISTORY & CONSERVATION PRACTICES — SELECTED FIELD C

1. Now I'd like to ask you about the field where the point is located and obtain the cropping and land use history for the past 3 years. (Please include all crops planted for cover crop, double crop, multiple crop, replanting of same crop and if strip cropped, all crops in the strip crop scheme. [Use a separate column for each use of the field in each year.]

Let's begin with the 2024 crop year. What was/were the:		1	2	3
		2024	2024	2024
Crop(s) planted or Land Use?	Crop			
a. Crop(s) code or Land Use Code. [See Respondent Booklet pgs. 4 - 7 for codes.]	Code	1005	1037	1069
b. Intended use of Crop(s). [See Respondent Booklet pg. 7 for codes.]	Code	1006	1038	1070



c. Acres planted? [Include previous planted crops.]	Acres	1007 _____	1039 _____	1071 _____
d. Date planted, transplanted, or established? (MM DD YY)	Date	1008 ____ _	1040 ____ _	1072 ____ _
e. Row Width (for row crops)?	Inches	1011 _____	1043 _____	1075 _____

- **c. acres planted**
 - if all/part of the field is **prevented planting**, enter the total number of acres and leave a note (e.g., 200 ac. field and 20 ac. prevented planting → 180 ac. harvested)
- **d. date planted**
 - if planting occurred prior to Jan 1, 1925, then enter 999999 and leave a note with the correct date
 - If planting occurred over several days, select the day on which **at least half** of the field was planted
- **e. row width**
 - If **broadcast** planting was used, leave blank with a note




SECTION C, ITEM 1, Line k1 & m1

Unit Codes for Yield
1 - Pounds
2 - Cwt (hundredweight)
3 - Tons
4 - Bushels
5 - Other (Specify) _____
6 - Barrels
13 - Quart
23 - 50-lb bag
24 - Peck

- **k/m: EXPECTED vs ACTUAL yield**
 - Ensure that harvest **unit codes** in items **k1** and **m1** are correct
- If land was **idle**, record number of acres and skip e-h and j-n

k. EXPECTED yield/acre at planting (yield goal)?	Number	1012	_____	1044	_____	1076	_____
(1) Unit: [See Respondent Booklet pg. 7 for codes]	Code	1013		1045		1077	
l. Acres harvested?	Acres	1015	_____	1047	_____	1079	_____
(1) Date harvested? (MM DD YY)	Date	1016	____	1048	____	1080	____
m. ACTUAL yield at harvest/acre?	Number	1017	_____	1049	_____	1081	_____
(1) Unit: [See Respondent Booklet pg. 7 for codes.]	Code	1018		1050		1082	
n. Acres Abandoned or NOT harvested?	Acres	1019	_____	1051	_____	1083	_____



**Repeat
Section C for
Crop Years
2023 and 2022**



Multiple Harvests of the Same Crop

- If the crop is harvested more than once (for example, hay and vegetables), record the date of the **last harvest** on line I(1)
- Do **not** record the date of **gleaning** operations as the final harvest date
- If the primary crop is a grain, and straw or stubble is also harvested, the date of the **grain** harvest should be recorded in Section C.
- Record the **total** yield for all harvests.
 - If 3 cuttings of hay are expected and each cutting is expected to yield 1.5 tons/acre, then the expected yield is $3 \times 1.5 = 4.5$ tons/acre



Special Situations – Vegetables

- If **more than 3** vegetables in 2024, then use section C supplement, which has 9 columns for additional crops
 - If more than 9 crops, then record the 9 with the largest acreage along with a detailed comment
- For 2023 and 2022, do not use the vegetable supplement if there are more than 3 veg crops
 - Include only the **first 3** planted vegetable crops
 - Leave a comment stating that later crops in the same year were skipped



Crop Rotation Plan

- First year of rotation should be 2024
 - Include cover crops

2. Do you have a planned crop rotation for this field?

1343 Yes — Continue No — Go to Item 3.

a. Let's record your crop rotation plan. Use the crop codes from the Respondent Booklet pgs. 4-7. Use multiple codes to capture strip cropping, double cropping, and cover crops in a planned rotation.

Enter the crop name and crop code for the crops in rotation [only use as many years as are in the rotation scheme.]		Crops	Crop Code	Crop Code	Crop Code
i.	1 st year of rotation 2024		1344	1351	1358
ii.	2 nd year of rotation 2023		1345	1352	1359
iii.	3 rd year of rotation 2022		1346	1353	1360
iv.	4 th year of rotation 2021		1347	1354	1361
v.	5 th year of rotation 2020		1348	1355	1362
vi.	6 th year of rotation 2019		1349	1356	1363

Drainage

- **6b**: Subsurface (tile) drain spacing is usually 20 to 80 ft. apart
- **6d**: Tile drains are typically installed at 30 to 40 inches

6. Does this field have subsurface (tile) drainage?

₁ Yes — Continue
 ₃ No — Go to Item 7.
 ₂ Don't Know — Go to Item 7.

Code
1341

a. Are the drainage tiles organized in a pattern? Yes = 1 1781
 No = 3

[If Yes — Continue. If No — Go to Item 6c.]

b. What is the approximate subsurface (tile) drain spacing? Code
1782

₁ — less than 30 ft.
 ₂ — 30-59 ft.
 ₃ — 60-100 ft.
 ₄ — Greater than 100 ft.

c. Are the surface inlet pipes connected to the subsurface (tile) drains in this field? Yes = 1 1783
 No = 3

d. What depth are the subsurface tile drains installed at? Inches 0854

7. Does this field have surface drainage structures? Yes = 1 1342
 No = 3

Things to Remember

- Actions should match what is on the **field ops** table (Section I)
- Fill in **previous year** info even if operator says it's the same
- Pay attention to skip instructions
- Correctly record the crop in the correct **crop year**
 - **Question 1:** Oper planted winter wheat in fall '23 and harvested in summer of '24.
 - **Winter Wheat – CY 2024**
 - **Question 2:** Oper planted a cover crop in fall of '21 and it was terminated before planting soybeans in the spring of '22.
 - **CC/Soybeans – CY 2022**
 - **Question 3:** Oper harvested a vegetable crop from Nov '23 to Jan '24.
 - **Veg – CY 2024**





Questions?

Special Situations – Strip Cropping

- Specifically determine if the field arrangement is strip cropping.
- If field is not strip cropped, then record only the crop with the **LARGEST** acreage.
- If field is strip cropped,
 - Record all information for each crop, for example cropping history, operations, and application of fertilizer, manure, and pesticides.
 - If two or more strips are planted in the same crop, add up and record the total acreage in the strips for that crop. For example, a 50 acre field might have two 10 acre strips of corn alternated with two 15 acre strips of hay. Record 20 acres corn in one column, 30 acres hay in another column.
 - Check to see that Section B – Question 4(q) is marked “1” for strip cropping.
 - Include a note that the field is strip cropped.



o. Was the grass vegetation, straw, or stubble harvested?	Yes = 1 No = 3	1020	1052	1084
p. Was the field grazed? [If Yes — Enter 1 and continue. If No — Enter 3, then Go to Item t.]	Yes = 1 No = 3	1023	1055	1087
q. What type of livestock grazed the field (primarily)? [See Respondent Booklet pg. 7 for codes.]	Code	1024	1056	1088
r. Regardless of ownership, how many head of _____ grazed this field BEFORE harvest or termination?	Head	1025	1057	1089
(1) How many TOTAL days was the field grazed BEFORE harvest or termination?	Days	1026	1058	1090
s. Regardless of ownership, how many head of _____ grazed this field AFTER harvest or termination?	Head	1027	1059	1091
(1) How many TOTAL days was the field grazed AFTER harvest or termination?	Days	1028	1060	1092
t. Was any forage intentionally left behind for wildlife use, cover, and/or shelter?	Yes = 1 No = 3	2610	2611	2612

SECTION C, ITEM 1, Line q

Livestock	
1 - Cattle	
2 - Sheep	
3 - Goats	
4 - Horses	
6 - Bison	
7 - Llamas	
8 - Elk	
9 - Chickens	
10 - Deer	
99 - Other (Specify) _____	

