

**CONTOUR ORCHARD
(CODE 331)**

DESCRIPTION

The design and layout of a contour system for orchards so that all cultural operations are done on the contour.

PURPOSE

To establish a contour orchard system on non-terraced land to prevent nutrients, sediment, animal wastes or agricultural chemicals from reaching the waters of the State.

CONDITION

Apply this practice on sloping land where soil and water loss needs to be controlled, especially if a permanent cover is not established.

POLICIES

1. The cost-effectiveness must be shown to be \$40/ton of soil saved or less to be eligible for MACS funding. If the cost-effectiveness of the proposed BMP exceeds \$40/ton of soil saved, use the variable rate formula to determine the maximum amount of cost-share funds the applicant could receive from all funding sources.
2. Cost-sharing *is authorized* for the establishment of a contour farming system and:
 - a. The removal of obstacles such as fences, stone walls, or hedgerows where necessary.
 - b. Subsurface drainage on 5 percent or greater slopes *only* if needed to stabilize the practice.
3. Cost-sharing *is not authorized* for repeating any approved measure under this practice with the same person on the same acreage, nor on any acreage which is approved under Strip-Cropping (Codes 585 or 586).
4. NRCS Standards and Specifications for Contour Orchards (Code 331) shall be followed when applying this practice.
5. The acreage approved in the established system must be properly maintained for a minimum of five (5) years. If subsurface drainage is installed as part of the system, the acreage and drainage must be properly maintained for a minimum of ten (10) years. The applicant agrees to provide all equipment, labor and materials needed to meet this requirement.

COST-SHARE RATE

The State cost-share payment shall not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$35,000 per project.

ATTACHMENTS

Applicant(s) with an outstanding Unsatisfactory On-Farm Status Review of BMP Maintenance and Use of previous project(s) may be ineligible for further MACS Cost-Share funding. When a previous project expires with outstanding unsatisfactory status, the applicant is ineligible for any future MACS funding.

The following items are needed:

1. A copy of a recorded deed(s) for the parcel(s) where the BMP is located. If the current, appropriate deed is already on file in the MACS Office, then record both the agreement number of the file where the deed is kept and the liber/folio numbers in the General Comments section of the application.
2. A copy of the Real Property Data Search page from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation's website (www.dat.state.md.us) indicating the Maryland Property View Account ID Number and owner information.
3. An aerial photograph indicating the property lines as well as all existing and proposed BMPs. For sediment control practices, indicate the drainage area and the direction of flow.
4. A plan view sketch graphically demonstrating the layout and details of the proposed BMP.