|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Operation Name:** |  | **Date:** |  |

► Complete this form for all acreage to be included under certification.

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| **NOP §205.203** Soil fertility must be managed through rotations, cover crops, and applications of plant and animal materials. Farms must maintain or improve soil organic matter, while not contaminating soil and water. Crop rotation includes sod, cover crops, green manure, and catch crops. Perennial systems are also required to have a rotation or cover which maintains or improves soil organic matter **(**ground cover, alley-cropping, etc.**)** Applications of compost containing only plant materials are not restricted. Uncomposted manure however, must be applied 90/120 days prior to harvest of crops intended for human consumption depending on the type of crop in production. One Hundred and Twenty (120) days for crops where the edible portion has contact with the ground (strawberries, potatoes, lettuce, etc.) and 90 days for crops where the edible portion is above ground (apples, broccoli, pole beans, etc.) Synthetic micronutrients may be used with a documented deficiency |

**4.1 TILLAGE AND CULTIVATION** [ ]  N/A; No-till (skip to Section 4.2)

1) Select all tillage practices in use throughout the season; describe further below:

[ ]  Discing [ ]  Ripping [ ]  Mowing/weeding [ ]  Manual / hand digging

[ ]  Other:

2) Indicate practices in use to protect the soil and minimize erosion: [ ]  N/A; No erosion (will be verified at inspection)

[ ]  Conservation (minimum tillage) [ ]  Contour farming [ ]  Leveling [ ]  Cover crop/winter cover

[ ]  Micro-irrigation [ ]  Terraces [ ]  Strip cropping [ ]  Permanent ground cover

[ ]  Windbreaks [ ]  Other:

**4.2 CROP ROTATION**

1) Describe your crop rotation plan:

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|       |

2) For perennial cropping systems (*e.g.*, orchard, grove, bog, pasture) select all biodiversity practices used in lieu of rotation**:**

[ ]  Native grasses/natural vegetation [ ]  Diverse mixtures of native trees/shrubs/grasses/forbs

[ ]  Hedgerows [ ]  Allow non-invasive plants in fencerows/ditches/understory

[ ]  Windbreaks [ ]  Replace weedy areas with native plants

[ ]  Insectary plants [ ]  Cover crops

[ ]  Intercropping/Alley cropping [ ]  Allow flowers to go to seed

[ ]  Other:

**4.3 MANURE**

## Do you apply uncomposted (raw) animal manure? *Note: animal manure that is not composted in accordance with §205.203(c)(2) is considered raw; records must verify composting process for manure and all materials containing manure.*

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No (skip to Section 4.4)

1. Is the manure purchased or produced off-farm? [ ]  No (skip to question 3) [ ]  Yes

If Yes, provide a product label or supplier statement verifying the manure is not treated with any prohibited substance.
[ ]  Documentation attached

1. Is the manure applied to crops intended for human consumption?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No (skip to question 5)

1. How is uncomposted manure applied (check all that apply)?

[ ]  Incorporated at least 120 days before harvest of crops with edible portions that contact soil.

[ ]  Incorporated at least 90 days before harvest of crops with edible portions that do not contact soil.

[ ]  Manure is processed or pelleted (heated to 160 F or 150 F for one hour with a max. moisture of 12%)

1. How do you ensure that manure applications do not contaminate water sources?

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**4.4 COMPOST** [ ]  N/A, No compost use (skip to section 4.5)

1. Check all that apply, and provide additional information as noted:

[ ]  I produce compost (and/or tea) - Answer question 3 below. This compost:

 [ ]  does not contain manure

 [ ]  does contain manure

[ ]  I purchase compost (and/or tea) - Provide product information in **Section C11.** This compost:

 [ ]  does not contain manure

 [ ]  does contain manure

1. List all compost feedstocks/ingredients and describe the initial C:N ratio of the compost you produce:

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1. How is your compost produced?

[ ]  Windrows: must be aerated, reach 131-170° F (55 to 76.7° C) for at least 15 days, and be turned a minimum of 5 times during the 15-day period.

[ ]  In-vessel or static system: must be aerated and reach 131-170° F (55 to 76.7° C) for at least 3 days.

[ ]  Manure-fed vermicompost with a 70-90% moisture level, and made under aerobic conditions.

1. How and where do you document your composting processes? (will be verified at inspection)

[ ]  Temperature log

[ ]  Turning log

[ ]  Moisture level log

[ ]  Other:

**4.5 MICRONUTRIENTS**

1) Do you apply micronutrients (boron, zinc, copper, etc.)? [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

If Yes, describe how the deficiency is documented to comply with the restriction:

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**4.6 MONITORING**

1) Indicate how you monitor the effectiveness of your fertility management plan (select all that apply):

[ ]  Soil observation [ ]  Crop health observation [ ]  Crop yield comparison

[ ]  Soil analysis [ ]  Crop quality analysis [ ]  Plant tissue analysis [ ]  Microbiological analysis

[ ]  Other:

2) If you use crop or soil tests / lab analysis, how often do you test? (results will be verified at inspection)

[ ]  N/A; No testing performed

[ ]  With each crop

[ ]  Seasonally

[ ]  Annually

[ ]  Other: