



Unlocking the Secrets to Soil Health Success in Organic Systems

Ben Bowell
Organic Education Specialist, Oregon Tilth
Organic Conservation Specialist, USDA NRCS

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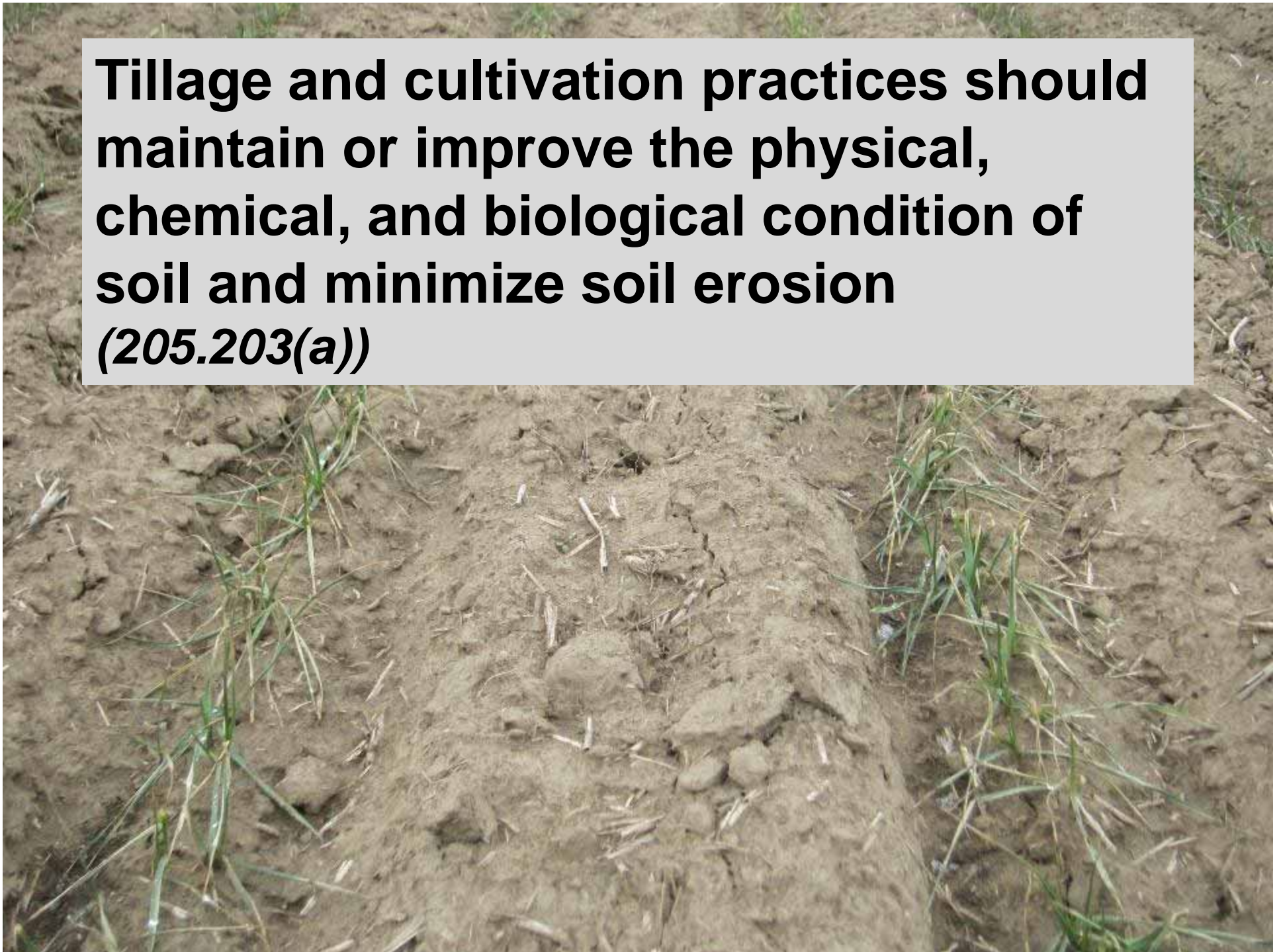


Logistics & Participants

USDA Organic Standards & Guidance



Tillage and cultivation practices should maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion
(205.203(a))





Organic practices “must maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.”

§ 205.200

Natural Resources & Biodiversity

- “maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.”
- “natural resources of the operation” defined as *soil, water, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife.*”
- Guidance: Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (NOP 5020)
- Examples that demonstrate compliance with this broad section


Natural Resources & Biodiversity

- Soil Composition (adding organic matter through crop diversity, increasing diversity of soil organisms)
- Soil Stability (vegetative covers; minimizing disturbance, maximize living roots, diversity and cover; conservation tillage; cover crops)

| Topics | NRCS Assistance May Be Available ³ | Examples of Activities ⁴ |
|--|---|--|
| Examples Relevant to All Types of Organic Certification | | |
| Soil Stability and Water Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Creating, conserving, and restoring vegetative covers (forests, shrublands, woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and wetland areas) that control erosion and filter nutrient, pesticide, and pathogen pollutants. Minimizing disturbances, maximizing diversity, living roots and cover. |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Using no-till or permanent cover, conservation tillage, terracing, contour farming, micro-irrigation, windbreaks, cover crops, grass waterways and soil health practices. |

Natural Resources & Biodiversity

- Link with NRCS
- Producers can refer to NRCS conservation plan or contract in OSP to show compliance

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | NATURAL RESOURCES | Section C6 |
| Electronic versions available at www.tilth.org Page 1 of 2 | | |

6.1 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1) Do you have a current conservation plan or contract with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other conservation agency? Yes No (proceed to question 2)

a. If yes, please list the conservation practices that you are implementing from your plan on your operation:

Questions?

Ben Bowell

Ben@tilth.org

503-580-4767

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