



United States Department of Agriculture

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 **Nebraska Crop
Management
Conference**



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Resources
Conservation
Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

Carlos Villarreal, NE State Soil Scientist
Aaron Hird, NE State Soil Health
Specialist



NRCS Soil Testing Conservation Practice: Measuring and Monitoring Soil Health



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NRCS Conservation Planning

A tool designed to help you better manage your natural resources on your operation based on desired future condition.

What are your conservation and production goals and objectives?

Producer is provided:

Schedule of voluntary conservation practices

List of management decisions

Inventory of natural resources and concerns

216 – Soil Sampling Conservation Practice



CP 216 - Soil Sampling Practice

- **Facilitating CP**
- **Quantitative analysis of soil physical, chemical, and biological properties**
- **Assist in designing Soil Health Management System (implementation requirements) based on results of the soil test**
- **5-yr recommendation; 3-yr preference**
- **CP made available for FY2021**



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Soil Health Indicators

Basic Soil Health Suite + Comprehensive Chemical Analysis:

- Soil Organic Carbon
- Soil Aggregation
- Bulk Density
- Bioavailable Nitrogen
- Respiration
- Phospholipid Fatty Acid (PLFA)
- Chemical soil test within last 2 years
 - Macro + Micronutrients



CP 216 - Soil Sampling Practice

Typical scenario:

Conservation Planner and Producer identify *Compaction and Sheet and Rill Erosion* as potential resource concerns.

Participant chooses to adopt *cover cropping and residue management* conservation practices.

There are still decision to be made!

- **Cover crop mix/seeding rate**
- **Residue type/amount**
- **Tillage system**



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3 to 5 years down the road...

Repeat Soil Sampling

Evaluate Environmental Benefits and Outcomes

Make Plan Adjustments

Share Information

Support Education



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For more information

Contact your local USDA-NRCS Service Center to speak with an NRCS Conservation Planner

Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) - to learn about expected physical effects of conservation management systems

Web Soil Survey - for general land use planning and decision making



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