

**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 \$55/ton of soil saved or less to be eligible for MACS funding up to 87.5% of the total eligible cost. If the cost-effectiveness of the proposed BMP exceeds \$55/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 it's 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.

6. The applicant and the farm's Nutrient Management Plan must be in compliance with Maryland's Nutrient Management regulations (COMAR 15.20.08) at the time of Application. No Applications will be approved without a Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).

**COST-SHARE RATE**

The State cost-share payment shall not exceed 87.5% of the total eligible cost, not to exceed \$150,000 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 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.maryland.gov](http://www.dat.maryland.gov)) 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.
5. Nutrient Management Plan Certification Form shall be submitted with the Application (SECTION III, #30).