

307.14 High Tunnel System

High Tunnel System

Description/Summary: The High Tunnel System (practice code 325) is a new conservation practice released in March 2015 to replace the previous Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (practice code 798). The purpose of the High Tunnel System conservation practice is to assist producers to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner. The practice has the potential to assist producers to improve plant health and vigor.

Note: The High Tunnel System practice is gaining recognition in many populated or urban areas. NRCS must consider and support all producers who submit an application regardless of their operation location. It is important to note that program eligibility is not limited based on zoning. There is a common misconception that areas zoned as “urban” or “residential” (or other similar zoning types) are not eligible based on the zoning classification. However, while the applicant and land may meet program eligibility requirements, zoning or other local regulation may restrict a participant from installing certain practices. Participants who carry out conservation practices are responsible for obtaining the authorities, rights, easements, permits, or other approvals necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of conservation practices in keeping with the applicable laws and regulations.

Practice Availability: The NRCS promotes the use of the High Tunnel System conservation practice at the State level rather than through a national initiative. All States and authorized territories are required to offer the High Tunnel System to producers. The State Conservationist may determine whether to offer the practice through a state initiative or as part of their State’s general program opportunities. States that offer the practice through a State-led initiative should select the “High Tunnel System” account type and are responsible for establishing their own ranking criteria and list of supporting practices

States may not limit the extent (i.e., size) of the High Tunnel System (325) practice within a contract. States may however, establish a practice payment cap that is consistent with policy found at **440-CPM, Part 512, Subpart, Section H, 512.60**.

Applicable Programs

- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program – All AMA authorized States must offer the practice through AMA.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – All States and authorized territories must offer the practice through EQIP.

Program Contact Information

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