Fiscal Year 2028 (FY28)

NMDA's Healthy Soil Program
Conservation Planning Template required for Individual Applicants with CROPLAND
USDA-NRCS in-field assessment and recommendations

NOTE: Conservation planning with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a **pre-application requirement** for Individual Applicants seeking Healthy Soil Program grants. If you are applying for a grant with a project that will occur on cropland, you must submit this template (or an existing conservation plan from NRCS) as part of your application. **This template was not designed for the Individual Applicant to complete themselves. This template *must* be completed by a USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)* certified conservation planner on or before February 19, 2027**. Failure to submit an NRCS conservation plan or this template (completed by a USDA certified conservation planner, including the planner's signature) as part of your Healthy Soil Program application will render your application incomplete and thus ineligible.

NOTE: NMDA's Healthy Soil Program requires grant applicants to upload a soils map (using https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/) as part of their online application. Because such a map indicates different soil types within the project site and is essential to the conservation planning process, NMDA recommends that all applicants create and study this map *prior to* their conservation-planning appointment with NRCS.

Farmer/Land Manager: _____

Farm Location: (Physical Address, Section/Range/Township, Latitude/Longitude)

_____

County: _____

Field names with associated acres / square footage:

Field name/number									
Acres / sq. ft.									

FOR THE INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT: Using only the space below, describe your soil health-related goals.

FY 2028

NMDA
New Mexico Department of Agriculture

FOR THE CONSERVATION PLANNER: Using only the space below, describe your observations regarding the Individual Applicant's current cropping system and management activities such as crop rotation, tillage operations, and weed/pest management. If irrigation water is applied, describe the type of irrigation system used.

FOR THE CONSERVATION PLANNER: Using only the space below, describe your observations regarding the Individual Applicant's existing resource concerns related to soil health. Examples: decreased water infiltration, compaction, organic matter depletion, etc.

FY 2028

FOR THE CONSERVATION PLANNER: Complete the table below by listing the resource concerns you observe related to soil health, the agricultural/conservation practices you recommend to address each resource concern, and the soil health principle(s) that corresponds with that agricultural/conservation practice.

Reference these **soil health principles** (as defined in the Healthy Soil Act) when completing the table below.

1) Keeping soil covered
2) Minimizing soil disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs
3) Maximizing biodiversity
4) Maintaining a living root
5) Integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms

Agricultural/conservation practices must be planned in accordance with NRCS-NM Standards and Specifications. Please note if the practices will be completed in phases (Year 1, Year 2, etc.) as part of a soil health management system.

Planning criteria must include at a minimum:

- Planned implementation date
- Planned amount (acres/sq. ft., lbs. applied, etc.)
- Planned species and seeding rates (cover crop, pollinator habitat, native grasses, field borders, etc.)

Soil Health-Related Resource Concern	**Agricultural Practice** Please list all practices required for project implementation	**Planning Criteria** Field name/number, planned date, amount implemented, species, etc.	**Soil Health Principle** Use numbers 1-5 from the list above

FY 2028

FOR THE CONSERVATION PLANNER: Additional notes related to soil health such as but not limited to:

- In-field assessment results
- Expected outcomes

Farmer/Land Manager signature **Date**

NRCS-certified Conservation Planner signature Name Title USDA Service Center or SWCD Date

*** This template was created in cooperation with USDA NRCS-NM. NRCS-NM provides financial support to NMDA's Healthy Soil Program through a contribution agreement.**

FY 2028