AG. WATER QUALITY ACT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FUNDING ASSISTANCE

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

CONTOUR FARMING

CROPS BMP #4

Description:
Farming in such a way that all operations, such as plowing, land preparation, planting, cultivating, and harvesting are across the slope, rather than up and down the slope.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:
Perform all cropping operations across the most critical slope.

Recommendations:
Consider the size and operation of farm implements when planning the contour layout.
Consider the installation of a diversion or terrace system to intercept excess surface runoff and deliver the excess runoff to a stable outlet.
Consider terracing in extreme cropping situations.

Technical References
University Publications
• University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Extension publications

USDA/NRCS Publications
• Practice Code 330 Contour Farming
• USDA/NRCS Field Office Technical Guide

Funding Assistance Options
State Cost Share
• See your local Conservation District to apply.

Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)
• Select from available program options here.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
• Select from available program options here.

Important Considerations
Water Quality Benefit (💧💧💧): 💧💧💧
(KEY:💧=good,💧💧💧=best; see STEPL Model)

Wildlife Benefits
• Contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Habitat Improvement Program on how to improve wildlife habitat with select BMPs (1-800-858-1849).