This drawing is intended to illustrate a typical rock retaining wall. See NRCS tip sheet, "Slope Stabilization Techniques and Applications" for additional information. Consult engineer for specific details for your wall.

1. Verify building permitting requirements prior to construction, and consult a civil engineer to ensure applicable design requirements are met.

2. Rocks used in wall construction shall be angular or sub angular and generally cubical or rectangular in shape.

3. Begin with slope preparation removing large rocks from the slope face and trenching key way along the toe of the slope. Place the largest boulders to form the base course with their longitudinal axis into the slope face. Bury base course a minimum of 1/2 the diameter of the rock.

4. Securely place each layer of rock. Prior to backfill, make sure rocks have three or more bearing points of contact and close gaps on rear face of wall by fitting smaller rocks tightly into the voids.

5. As the rocks are placed, backfill and compact around and behind wall. Use 3/4" to 1 1/2" drain rock. Provide drainage systems as required at top of slope and at the base to convey runoff to stabilized discharge area. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.