



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

April 30, 2010

**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES
450 – VI
NOTICE 150
Amendment 8**

Purpose. This notice transmits new or revised National Conservation Practice Standards, along with an updated Index, for insertion into the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes are included to highlight key changes made to each document.

Effective Date. This notice is effective when received.

Explanation. New or revised National Conservation Practice Standards:

Air Filtration and Scrubbing (Code 371) – This is a new standard which is a device or system for reducing emissions of air contaminants from a structure.

Animal Trails and Walkways (Code 575) – Proposed revisions are limited but include greater emphasis of potential impacts to water courses and other environmental and cultural resources.

Combustion System Improvement (Code 372) – This is a new standard to improve the air quality and energy efficiency of agricultural combustion systems.

Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328) - The revised standard adds a purpose for cropping system diversity and pollinator habitat. Additional criteria have been added to improve soil quality and nutrient balance.

Diversion (Code 362) – Revisions include: a change from permissible velocity to an effective stress approach in design for stability and capacity of the diversion; expansion of the Plans and Specifications section; and updated references.

Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces (Code 373) – This is a new standard for controlling direct particulate matter emissions produced by vehicle and machinery traffic or wind action from unpaved roads and other surfaces by applying a palliative on the surface.

DIST: S, R, L, and National Center Directors



Forage Harvest Management (Code 511) – Revisions are minor in nature with updated references included.

Herbaceous Weed Control (Code-315) – This is a new standard to provide for herbaceous weed control on lands not actively in crop production. Requirements are included for biological, chemical, and mechanical control.

Range Planting (Code 550) – Revisions incorporates Ecological Site Description use for planning purposes and updates the reference section. Minor changes in wording occur throughout the standard.

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390) – Proposed revisions expand the practice purpose to include more habitat functions, including providing habitat for pollinator conservation. Use of ecological site descriptions for planning and monitoring this practice has been added. Additional references have been included.

* * *

The following conservation practice standards received public comments about how to improve agency conservation practice standards that were reviewed but not used. Only the dates were changed to reflect that they are current. Other standards received comments that will be incorporated and released in future NHCP notices.

Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (Code 329)

Contour Buffer Strips (Code 332)

Residue Management Seasonal (Code 344)

Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (Code 345)

Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (Code 346)

Grassed Waterway (Code 412)

Structure for Water Control (Code 587)

Terrace (Code 600)

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)

Shallow Water Development and Management (Code 646)

Instructions. If a hard copy of the NHCP is maintained, replace the Content pages i through vi, dated November 2008, with the revised Contents pages found at:
http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/H_450_NHCP_Index_150.rtf.

Insert the new or revised standards, listed above in bold, in the NHCP in alphabetical order as designated on the revised Contents pages. Remove and archive, as appropriate, the existing practice standard for:

Animal Trails and Walkways (Code 575) dated November 2002, Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328) dated February 2000, Contour Buffer Strips (Code 332) dated June 2007, Diversion (Code 362) dated September 2001, Forage Harvest Management (Code 511) dated December 2003, Grassed Waterway (Code 412) dated September 2008, Range Planting (Code 550) dated October 2003, Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (Code 345) dated August 2005, Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (Code 346) dated August 2005, Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (Code 329) dated May 2006, Residue Management Seasonal (Code 344) dated September 2008, Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390) dated August 2005, Shallow Water Development and Management (Code 646) dated August 2005, Structure for Water Control (Code 587) dated December 2003, Terrace (Code 600) dated September 2008, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) dated August 2005, and Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644) dated August 2005.

This notice, and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice, can be accessed electronically through either the NRCS homepage on the Internet at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Standards/nhcp.html>; or from the FTP server at: <ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/>.

Federal Register Notices.

NRCS published a notice of intent to revise or adopt these standards in the *Federal Register* on January 28, 2010. Comments from the public were accepted during the 30-day comment period.

NRCS also published two notices to solicit public comments about how to improve agency conservation practice standards in the *Federal Register* on June 12, 2009, for a 60-day comment period and August 14, 2009, for a 30-day comment period. Comments from the public were accepted during the 60-day and 30-day comment periods.

Guidance to the States and the Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas can be found in Title 450, Technology, General Manual, Section 401.19 for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State-level technical guides.

/s/

NOLLER P. HERBERT
Director
Conservation Engineering Division

/s/

MICHAEL D. HUBBS
Director
Ecological Sciences Division