



November 14, 2015

PA Technical Guide NO. 200

Purpose: To announce the release of the revised PA NRCS-CPA-52 template for Conservation Activity Plans. This template should only be used for the plans being developed for EQIP CAP contracts.

Effective Date: This notice is effective upon receipt.

Explanation: The PA NRCS-CPA-52 template has been revised in response to National Bulletin (NB) 300-15-5. This template applies when planning a CAP (Conservation Activity Plan).

According to NB 300-15-5:

“As noted in Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 512, Subpart B, Section 512.10, and Subpart E, Section 512.42, all practices financially supported through the EQIP Program, including CAPs, must be established after development of a conservation plan approved by the agency. All conservation plans must associate the proposed CAP with an identified natural resource concern and result in environmental benefit. The general purpose of the CAP would be to identify additional conservation practices that the participant may implement to address the identified resource concern. “

“Qualified NRCS staff must develop a plan identifying the need for the CAP and complete the required CPA-52 for any CAP prior to the approval of the Contract. NRCS has responsibility for the completion of the CPA-52.”

Instructions: For the purposes of EQIP CAP development contracts only, NRCS employees will complete the highlighted sections of the NRCS-CPA-52 form:

- 1) Sections A & B - complete
- 2) Section C - Identify the scope of the CAP contract in this section by listing applicable Farm and Tract numbers.
 - a. This may be all owned and/or operated land for a specific land use being addressed by the CAP – i.e. all forestland for a Forest Management Plan 106.
 - b. This may be all owned and/or operated land in a given area – i.e. southeast PA.
 - c. Consult with Area Office programs staff as needed.





- 3) Section D – “To have a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) developed for the applicable portions of the operation by a Technical Service Provider (TSP).”
- 4) Section E – “Develop a detailed plan for the management of the primary resource (fill in the blank – **XXX**) concern(s) being addressed by the CAP.” Identify the main resource(s) being addressed in the CAP, for example:
 - a. Soil erosion and water quality for CAP 102
 - b. Air Quality for CAP 126
 - c. Degraded plant condition and/or Inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife for CAP 146
- 5) Section F/I –
 - a. Describe the benchmark condition for the resource concern(s) identified in Section E.
 - b. State “no change” in corresponding Alternative 1 column.
- 6) Section G/J –
 - a. Complete benchmark information for ALL Special Environmental Concerns. See PA CPA-52 Example 1 in Section III of the FOTG.
 - b. State “no change” in Corresponding Alternative 1 column.
- 7) Complete Sections K – P according to PA CPA-52 guidance and National Instructions.
- 8) Section Q – Selection option 2 – Categorically Excluded
- 9) Section R – “USDA Categorical Exclusion #6”
- 10) Section R.2 – “(6) Activities which are advisory and consultative to other agencies and public and private entities.”
- 11) Section S – completed by Responsible Federal Official.

Access Instructions: The following document has been replaced in the FOTG, Section III: Planning & Environmental Compliance Information
1 – PA Sample CAP Template (NRCS-CPA-52)

The entire Pennsylvania eFOTG can be accessed at the following web site:

http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx

You can also access Section III Table of Contents directly at the following web address:

<http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/toc.aspx?CatID=12477>

The official version of the FOTG is what appears in Pennsylvania’s eFOTG.

DENISE COLEMAN
State Conservationist

