



Natural Resources Conservation Service

3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, Alabama 36830

February 17, 2015

ALABAMA TECHNICAL GUIDE – SECTION IV – NOTICE AL78

This notice transmits revisions to the eFOTG.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS:

Forage and Biomass Planting, Code 512 – **REVISED** – This standard has been updated to include recent ACES planting recommendations, including a link to current recommended seed germination and purity requirements. Updates include information on forage chicory, forage brassicas, planting dates and seeding rates. For seed that have a coating, including pre-inoculated seed, guidance is provided to increase seeding rates in accordance to the extra weights for the coating. Endophyte-free fescue is no longer included in the recommendations; only fungus-friendly types of tall fescue may be planted for forage or biomass production. Hybrid Bermudagrass must be sprigged unless a field is so small that seeding a hybrid Bermudagrass is the only suitable choice. Also, the North, Central, and South geographical area map for species adaptation and seeding dates has been attached.

Statement of Work – **REVISED** – To conform to the new National Standard.

Livestock Shade Structure, Code 717 – **DELETED** – This interim conservation practice standard is replaced with a new standard, **Livestock Shelter Structure, Code 576**.

Livestock Shelter Structure, Code 576– **NEW** – This is a new conservation practice standard that includes livestock shade structures and livestock wind structures. This practice can provide protection for livestock from excessive heat, wind, cold, or snow, and can be either portable or permanent. However, this practice is applicable only in situations where it is used in conjunction with exclusion of animals from a sensitive area or as part of a prescribed grazing system. Practices previously planned under Interim practice Code 717, Livestock Shade Structure, would now be planned under this new standard if they meet the conditions and criteria for this new practice.

Statement of Work – **NEW** – To conform to the new National Standard.

Prescribed Grazing, Code 528 – **REVISED** – Minor editorial changes made to conform to the National Standard. Intensive grazing management strategies such as strip grazing, limit grazing and forward grazing have been included under the Considerations section.

Statement of Work – **NEW** – To conform to the new National Standard.

Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344) – **DELETED** - The agency deleted this practice nationally.

Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Code 345) - REVISED - The agency incorporated "346 Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till" into this standard; changed the name from Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till; added criteria to establish a maximum soil tillage intensity value of 80; clarified the air quality purpose to reduce tillage-induced particulate emissions vs. only PM-10 emissions; revised the criteria for energy savings to a 25-percent reduction from the current baseline; and added implementation requirements to the specifications and plans. The previous criteria in the Alabama Standard was "A minimum of 30 percent of the soil surface shall be covered by plant residue immediately following the planting of the crop". The new General Criteria, as adopted from the National Standard, is a maximum soil tillage intensity value of 80.

Statement of Work – **REVISED** – To conform to the new National Standard.

Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (Code 346) – **DELETED** - The agency deleted this practice and incorporated this standard into "Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Code 345).

GUIDE/JOB SHEETS:

Residue and Tillage Management: Reduced Till, Alabama Job Sheet No. AL345 – **REVISED** – All references to "mulch till" were removed and replaced with the updated "reduced till" verbiage.

Forage and Biomass Planting, Alabama Guide Sheet No. AL512 – **REVISED** – This job sheet has been updated to include recent ACES planting recommendations as described above under the CPS.

Forage and Biomass Planting, Alabama Job Sheet No. AL512B – **NEW** – The job sheet provides a brief overview of the practice and provides satisfactory ways to document existing conditions, needs and purposes. It also provides an easy way to document planting decisions for the most commonly planted forage types in Alabama and the related site preparation and planting methods. It has been updated to include the current ACES planting recommendations as described above in the standard. Also, additional guidance is included regarding site preparation requirements for the planting of forages into existing ground covers. Considerations include the planning of the Conservation Practice Standards Residue and Tillage Management – Reduced Till, Code 345 and Residue and Tillage Management – No Till, Code 329 when planting for hay purposes. Information on forage brassicas and chicory is included. For seed that have a coating, including pre-inoculated seed, guidance is provided to increase seeding rates in accordance to the extra weights for the coating.

Forage and Biomass Planting: Stand Renovation, Alabama Guide Sheet No. AL512C – **NEW** – This pasture and hayland renovation guide sheet provides instruction for converting undesirable or poor quality stands of vegetation to high quality desirable stands. Instruction includes several management strategies to restore the desired vegetation with management practices as well as strategies to destroy existing vegetation prior to establishing new types of vegetation.

Prescribed Grazing: Design, Layout and Management of a Rotational Grazing System, Alabama Guide Sheet No. AL528 – **REVISED** – The previous title "Design and Layout of a Rotational Stocking System" has been modified. It still focuses on rotational grazing activities such as setting up paddocks, sizes, number of paddocks needed, stocking and grazing management. The Guide Sheet includes information on utilization rates from various levels of grazing management and summary information on forage grazing heights, productivity and recovery periods. Records management is stressed and a blank record keeping template is attached for use by the land manager. It is a very condensed source of grazing management that is similar to information shared in grazing schools or clinics.

Prescribed Grazing: Inclusion of Woodlands in Small Ruminant Grazing Systems, Alabama Job Sheet No. AL528B – **NEW** – This job sheet provides guidance on site selection, considerations and limitations in planning and implementation of grazing management systems using small ruminants and woodlots. It provides significant detail in stocking rates, and densities; the relationship between the use of woodlots in a small ruminant grazing system and the pasture-based grazing system. It details the limits on grazing periods and rest periods. A calendar specifies months when grazing of woodlots may

start and when it should end. It includes the WOODLAND GRAZING SITE EVALUATION TOOL, to be used to document the quality of the woodlot for grazing. It also serves to educate both the land user and agency staff on suitable sites.

[Wild Pig Trapping, Alabama Job Sheet No. AL645G](#) – **REVISED** – Changed panel design requirements to allow tall “goat” panels, which have 4 inch by 4 inch openings, in addition to the horse panels that were already allowed. The goat panels come in 2 heights, which are 4 feet and 5 feet, but Alabama specifications require the tall, 5 foot ones. Added emphasis regarding the importance of not harassing pigs during pre-baiting and trapping process and added the caution that pigs carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans and domestic animals.

[Livestock Shelter Structure, Alabama Job Sheet No. AL576](#) – **NEW** – To conform to the new National Standard.

Drawings:

Livestock Shelter Structure Drawings: Previously labeled as forms, renamed as drawings, new drawing added to conform to the new State Standard and added the Alabama One-Call statement.

[AL ENG-576-01](#) – **REVISED** – Portable Livestock Shelter Structure

[AL ENG-576-02](#) – **REVISED** – Permanent Livestock Shelter Structure

[AL ENG-576-03](#) – **NEW** – Permanent Livestock Shelter Structure for Small Ruminants

Tools/Ecological Science:

[Alabama Forage Animal Balance Worksheet](#) – **REVISED** – Improvements include:

1. The instructions have been updated to provide more information and clarification.
2. More defaults so less user inputs are needed.
3. Added an option for hay harvesting efficiency at 70%.
4. Improved graphics:
 - a. A graph has been added to the worksheet so users can immediately see results as data is inputted or as changes are made. The graph is the same as on the graph tab.
 - b. Additional information is presented on the graph tab to improve the summary information associated with the graph report. Information includes a summary of production, animal needs and shortage. The annual balance calculation assumes that the surplus production is harvested as hay and is available forage.

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