



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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## **ALABAMA TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE 4.**

This notice transmits revisions to the eFOTG.

### **SECTION III. Conservation Management Systems**

#### **F. Conservation Activity Plans Technical Criteria**

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (or 2008 Farm Bill) authorized the use of financial assistance funds from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to develop Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs).

The EQIP CAP program was first adopted in FY 2009 on a pilot basis and was continued in FY 2010. As part of the pilot, a CAP evaluation process is in the process of being completed. The CAPs are being evaluated from a producer, Technical Service Provider (TSP), and the NRCS viewpoints. Based on preliminary feedback from producers, NRCS, and TSPs, some changes have been made to existing CAPs and some new CAPs have been developed to address the current needs. A more extensive CAP revision may occur in FY 2012 based on the full CAP evaluation which will be completed in FY 2011.

The key changes for FY 2011 include the following:

- (1) The criteria for TSPs to complete portions of the CPA-52 have been eliminated. NRCS is responsible for completing the CPA-52.
- (2) The Agricultural Energy Management CAP was divided into two separate CAPs, one for Headquarters and one for Landscape (field areas). Previously, the code 122 applied to both situations. Since the TSP proficiencies were very different for each of these types of plans, it was necessary to separate Headquarters from the Landscape Energy Plans, as shown below:
  1. (122) Headquarters Agricultural Energy Management Plan
  2. (124) Landscape Agricultural Energy Management Plan
- (3) The CNMP CAP has revised criteria to reflect the National Template expected for CNMPs.
- (4) Where appropriate, an option was added in the "NRCS Deliverables": If a Conservation Plug-in version is provided to NRCS, a hardcopy of the plan, conservation plan map, and soils map is not required.
- (5) The addition of a new CAP in Alabama - Irrigation Water Management Plan – Code 118.



The following Conservation Activity Plan Criteria have been either added or updated:

Agricultural Energy Management Plan, Headquarters Criteria – Code 122 (Revised)

Agricultural Energy Management Plan, Landscape Criteria – Code 124 (New)

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Criteria – Code 102 (Revised)

Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition – Code 138 (Revised)

Forest Management - Code 106 (Revised)

Irrigation Water Management Plan – Code 118 (New)



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