

TECHNICAL NOTES

U S Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

TN – AGRONOMY – CA-57

March 2000

SOIL QUALITY TECHNICAL NOTES - AGRONOMY NO. 7 AND NO. 8

Enclosed are copies of the seventh and eighth Agronomy series Soil Quality Technical Notes produced by the NRCS Soil Quality Institute titled:

Agronomy No. 7: Effects of Soil Erosion on Soil Productivity and Soil Quality

Agronomy No. 8: Liming to Improve Soil Quality in Acid Soils

National Agronomist David L. Schertz in Washington, DC, and Conservation Agronomist Glenn A. Weesies, NRCS Cooperating Scientist stationed at the USDA National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, are the principal authors of Technical Note No.7. Ann Lewandowski, Soil Quality Institute Geographer stationed at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul and Soil Quality Institute Agronomist Michael D. Hubbs in Auburn, Alabama were co-authors. Soil Quality Institute Agronomist Michael D. Hubbs is the principal author for Technical Note No.8.

It is the goal of the Soil Quality Institute to provide useful information that supports sustainable agriculture and will help field offices in assisting clients/decision makers to consider the whole resource (soil quality) in conservation planning. These Technical Notes are meant to be used with the corresponding conservation practice standards to assist planners when developing alternatives with the client/decision maker.

Technical Note No. 7 discusses the impacts on crop yields from the loss of topsoil due to rainfall erosion and the soil properties that are being downgraded.

Technical Note No. 8 discusses how to maintain a favorable soil pH level using various liming materials and how to calculate the correct amount of material needed.

Field offices are encouraged to provide copies of these Technical Notes (as well as any other Technical Notes) to clients/decision makers, as needed, to accelerate progressive conservation planning.

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