



November 20, 2014

CALIFORNIA NRCS TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 124

SUBJECT: Issue New and Revised Documents to the Field Office Technical Guide, Sections I, III, and IV.

Purposes:

1. Issue revision to Annual Grassland RDM Evaluation Guide, two new Range Technical Notes and FY15 Payment Schedule Cost Data information to Section I.
2. Issue Resource Concerns Field Checklists by Land Use and updated Planning Criteria, Section III
3. Issue updates to documents in Section IV.

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Explanation:

Section I: Posted new/revised Technical Notes:

- TN-Range-CA-58: Revised the Annual Grasslands Residual Dry Matter (RDM) Evaluation Guide. Modified several pages to for more efficient flow and converted to an electronic PDF Fillable form. Posted the Tool to Sec I > Resource Assessment Tools
- TN-Range-CA-59: Use of Ryegrass (*Lolium spp.*) Seeding to Reduce Medusahead (*Taeniatherum Caput-Medusa*) and/or Barbed Goatgrass (*Aegilops spp.*)
- TN-Range-CA-60: Common Range Plants in California's Interior Valley, Foothills, and Coastal Zone

Payment Schedule Scenario Summaries, in a PDF format, have been posted to "Cost Data > Payment Schedules > FY15 Payment Schedules" folder.

Section III: New Resource Concerns Field Checklists for Cropland, Pasture, Range, Forest, and Other land uses are posted. The Planning Criteria was revised to remove assessments based on individual elements of the SVAP2.

Section IV: The following California Approved and Interim Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications have been revised, added, or removed in Section IV of eFOTG:

NOTE: Ecological Sciences will be using the term "Implementation Requirements" instead of "Practice Requirements" in an attempt to transition over time to align with terminology changes in NHCP - National Handbook of Conservation Practices.

Code	Practice Name	Std	Over view	Spec	IR	O&M	SOW
591	Amendments for Treatment of Agricultural Waste	•					•
672	Building Envelope Improvement <i>672B - Insulation</i>			•	•	•	•
372	Combustion Systems Management			•	•		
330	Contour Farming	•			•		•
342	Critical Area Planting <i>Remove existing Specs and Practice Requirements and replace with one Spec and Implementation Requirements Sheet</i>	•		•	•		•
588	Cross Wind Ridges	•			•		•
324	Deep Tillage	•			•		•
374	Farmstead Energy Improvement				•	•	•
386	Field Border	•		•	•		•
393	Filter Strip	•			•		•
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	•		•	•	•	•
466	Land Smoothing	•			•	•	
670	Lighting System Improvement	•			•	•	•
484	Mulching	•		•	•		•
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	•		•	•		•
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	•		•	•		•
344 346	<i>Residue Management, Seasonal and Residue Management, Ridge Till have been discontinued.</i>						
557	Row Arrangement	•					•
574	Spring Development	•					•
442	Sprinkler System	•		•	•	•	•
585	Stripcropping	•			•		•
649	Structures for Wildlife <i>Replaces Interim Practice 734-Fish and Wildlife Structures. Supporting documents renamed to new code and name.</i>	•		•	•	•	•

Code	Practice Name	Std	Over view	Spec	IR	O&M	SOW
575	Trails and Walkways	•			•	•	•
620	Underground Outlet	•					•
632	Waste Separation Facility	•				•	•
629	Waste Treatment	•					•
640	Waterspreading	•					•
642	Water Well			•			

Narrative Summary of Changes to Standards

Amendments for Treatment of Agricultural Waste (Code 591) – An additional purpose was added to reduce risk associated with the spread of contamination by pathogens. A subsection on system effects was added to limit the use of amendments to situations where the impacts of the altered waste stream on other parts of the manure management system have been identified and to ensure that land application of treated manure would comply with the requirements of Conservation Practice Standard 590, Nutrient Management. Other minor changes were made for style and clarity that did not change the technical substance of the standard.

Building Envelope Improvement (Code 672) – Updated the Implementation Requirements, O&M, and SOW. Added a new Specification for Insulation.

Combustion Systems Management (Code 372) – Updated the Specifications and the Implementations Requirements documents. Increased the hours of use in the definition of a new engine from 100 hrs to 250 hrs.

Contour Farming (Code 330) – The agency revised the definition to emphasize proper alignments and revised the general criteria for maximum row grade to 4 percent based on RUSLE2 technology. Plans and Specifications section was edited to add need for an Implementation Requirement document.

Critical Area Planting (Code 342) – The agency deleted the purpose to rehabilitate and re-vegetate degraded sites that cannot be stabilized using normal establishment techniques as this purpose is implied in other purposes. Plans and Specifications section was edited to add need for an Implementation Requirement document.

Cross Wind Ridges (Code 588) – The agency revised the definition to ridges formed by tillage, planting or other operations and aligned perpendicular to prevailing wind direction during critical wind erosion periods and revised the purpose to reduce soil particulate emissions to the air to reduce soil particulate emissions effecting air quality.

Deep Tillage (Code 324) – The agency deleted the purpose to reduce concentration of soil contaminants that inhibit plant growth because there is no technology to describe the level of neither contamination nor a dilution factor. Plans and Specifications section was edited to add need for an Implementation Requirement document.

Farmstead Energy Improvement (Code 374) – Updated the Implementation Requirements, O&M, and SOW.

Field Border (Code 386) – The agency revised the condition where the practice applies to cover only existing cropland and pastureland and deleted the purpose to manage pest populations. I Plans and Specifications section was edited to add need for an Implementation Requirement document.

Filter Strip (Code 393) – The agency added a few additional considerations for species selection for native plant communities and organic operation considerations. Plans and Specifications section was edited to add need for an Implementation Requirement document.

Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Code 441) – Additional guidance has been added to the Conditions Where Practice Applies section to help users decide whether to use this standard or 442 Sprinkler System. Supporting documents renewed without edits as part of a 5-yr review.

Land Smoothing (Code 466) – The agency revised the Definition, added a cultural resource inventory and assessment to Considerations, added a plan for Operation and maintenance, and added references.

Lighting System Improvement (Code 670) – Updated the Implementation Requirements, O&M, and SOW.

Mulching (Code 484) – The agency deleted the purposes to moderate soil temperature and suppress weeds as these do not address a resource concern and revised the "Condition where practice applies" to remove this practice from being used for weed control for production agriculture. Plans and Specifications section was edited to add need for an Implementation Requirement document.

Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (Code 329) – The agency changed the practice name to "Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till." No-till is inclusive of direct seed and strip till. In addition, added additional criteria clarification to not allow any full width tillage for this practice, reduced the maximum soil tillage intensity rating (STIR) value for no till from 30 to 20, added implementation requirements to the specifications and plans, and changed the purpose "Reduce wind erosion and particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter - PM 10" to "Reduce tillage-induced particulate emissions" to address all sizes of till age particulate emissions.

Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Code 345) – 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 (STIR) 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 Plans and Specifications section was edited to add need for an Implementation Requirement document.

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

Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344) - The agency deleted this practice.

Row Arrangement (Code 557) – Added wording to definition to be consistent with purpose, minor changes to wording with changes to active voice, and added references.

Spring Development (Code 574) – Changes to the previous (January 2011) version of the standard includes:

- 1) National-level removal of the requirement for a certified wetland determination;
- 2) Documenting the need for a spring development in a Grazing or Wildlife Mmgt Plan;
- 3) Excluding livestock from the source area and nearby areas where springflow supports hydrophytic vegetation; and
- 4) Improved clarity of requirement for spring flow and overflow management to reduce adverse impacts to the existing wetland hydrology and habitat.

Sprinkler System (Code 442) – Changed name from "Irrigation System, Sprinkler" to "Sprinkler System" to make the standard more applicable to other conservation measures that use sprinklers as part of solution (i.e. dust control). Other changes include shortening the section on center pivots and adding criteria for purposes other than irrigation. Additional guidance has been added to the Conditions Where Practice Applies section to help users decide whether to use this standard or 441-Irrigation System, Microirrigation.

Stripcropping (Code 585) – The agency revised the definition to stress alternating strips of erosion susceptible crops and revised the wind erosion purpose to reduce wind erosion and associated transport of sediment and other wind borne contaminants.

Structures for Wildlife (Code 649) – Replaces Interim Practice 734-Fish and Wildlife Structures. All Specs and Requirement sheets will be renamed, re-coded, and re-posted to eFOTG to reflect the new Approved Practice Standard. CPS-734 is discontinued.

Trails and Walkways (Code 575) – The agency incorporated Trails and Walkways (Code 568) into Animal Trails and Walkways (Code 575) under the name Trails and Walkways (Code 575). These standards were combined into one because many of the criteria were very similar. The practice name, definition, purpose, and conditions where practice applies were modified accordingly. The agency clarified references to supporting practices. Note: Prior to 2011, Code 568 was also previously named Recreation Trails and Walkways.

Underground Outlet (Code 620) – The agency expanded the Criteria and revised the Considerations sections.

Waste Separation Facility (Code 632) – The name changed from "Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility" to "Waste Separation Facility." Two purposes were removed and one was added to address manure handling. Additional separation methods (not inclusive) were added to the separation efficiency table. The practice will allow solid/liquid separation, such as poultry litter screening. Two new criteria sections were developed for sand separation and reuse.

Waste Treatment (Code 629) – The "Conditions Where Practice Applies" was shortened and made more generic. A subsection on utilities was added to make the standard more consistent with other practice standards that could involve construction activities. The requirement for a minimum practice life of 10 years was removed from the standard. Other minor changes were made for style and clarity that did not change the technical substance of the standard.

Waterspreading (Code 640) – Reworded purpose to be more in line with the new resource concerns. Other changes consist of cleaning up language in criteria and considerations section.

Water Well (Code 642) – Updated the specification to remove language regarding payments.

Location of Documents

The California eFOTG, located on the web at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx is being updated to reflect these changes to Sections I, III, & IV. Previous document versions will be moved to the archived folders.

Optional Filing Instructions (for hard copies of FOTG maintained in Field Offices)

Replace “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-8, dated August 18, 2014, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications, Numerical Order” contents, pages 1-8, dated November 20, 2014.

Remove the old practice standards, specifications, practice requirements, operation and maintenance, and statements of work and insert the new practice standards and documents issued above in Section IV.

/s/

TOM HEDT
State Resource Conservationist

ATTACHMENTS: (copies sent by request) (Copies will be posted to the California eFOTG.)

DIST: AE