



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Denver Federal Center  
Bldg. 56, RM. 2604  
P.O. Box 25426  
Denver, CO 80225-0426

---

**COLORADO FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE**  
**TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE 700**

September 28, 2016

**Purpose.** This notice transmits changes to the Colorado Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

**Explanation of FOTG Changes:**

**Section I, Technical Notes, Agronomy**

[Agronomy Tech Note 96](#). Revised. Guidelines for Using Conservation Tillage Under Furrow Irrigation, Second Edition, Technical Report (TR 15-10), CSU Agricultural Experiment Station, dated August 2015.

[Agronomy Tech Note 69, dated May 2002](#). Archived. Guidelines for Using Conservation Tillage Under Furrow Irrigation, Technical Report (TR 02-6), CSU Agricultural Experiment Station, dated May 2002 has been replaced by TR 15-10.

**Section I, Technical Notes, Economics**

[Basic Economic Analysis Using T-Charts, TN-200-ECN-1](#). New. Nationally developed technical note on "Basic Economic Analysis Using T-Charts". Developed to provide guidance to NRCS personal in analyzing the benefits and costs of the conservation plan.

[Calculating Foregone Income, TN-200-ECN-3](#). New. Nationally developed technical note on "Guiding Principles in Calculating Foregone Income for Conservation Planning". Developed to provide guidance to NRCS personnel in using and calculating foregone income appropriately and consistently throughout the agency in the conservation planning process. The most successful conservation plans address the landowner's/producer's resource concerns while maintaining farm or ranch viability. This technical note attempts to address one of the main economic considerations involved with implementing conservation practices and activities on agricultural lands: reduced revenue.

**Section II, Special Environmental Concerns, T&E, Programmatic Consultation**

[GrSG \(SGI\) Conference Report, 7/30/10 rev. 08/02/16](#). Revised. As of August 02, 2016, there were 15 additional practices added as covered actions under the SGI Conference Report, provided that the conservation measures are applied to those practices. Refer to Table 1 under NRCS's request to add practices, dated May 06, 2016. The newly added practices were also added to Appendix 6.

**Section IV, Standards and Specifications**

Policy reminder. Practice standards in effect at the time the client makes a decision regarding a course of action (NRCS planning process, step 7) may be used for practice implementation unless public health, safety or welfare is adversely affected; however, NRCS will encourage the use of the current standard unless there are compelling reasons to utilize the former (GM-450-401).

[Irrigation Water Management \(449\) Tool \(draft\)](#). New. Attached is a draft Excel Irrigation Water Management (IWM) tool that replicates the basic appearance and functionality of the existing CO-449\_JS1/IWM Toolbox v1.1c. Some users report errors with that existing spreadsheet, potentially due to upgrades in Excel and changes in network configuration since its development. This new tool uses the same crop, soil, and ET databases as that previous tool, so results should be similar. The previous tool may still be used where practical.

This notice and each of the materials referenced can be accessed electronically through the Colorado Field Office Technical Guide at [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg\\_locator.aspx?Map=CO](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?Map=CO). Materials indicated to be archived will be maintained at the NRCS State office in Denver, Colorado for a period of 10 years or longer as required by policy.

### **Section V, Conservation Effects, Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE)**

[CPPE CO 2017](#). New. The Colorado Conservation Practice Physical Effects for fiscal year 2017. Please review the [CPPE Guidance](#) (FOTG, Section V) document for more details.

- **New for 2017:** Colorado developed a tool to compare the effects of selected practices.
- **New for 2017:** Rational was added by National Headquarters on the effects scores. Colorado compiled these into a format that can be queried and reviewed by practice.
- CPPE's are officially posted to SmarTech (<https://cppe.sc.egov.usda.gov/cppe.aspx>) which requires eAuthentication. Colorado's FY 2017 CPPE will be posted shortly.
- CPPE for 2016 is still accessible in this section and CPPE 2015 was added for archival purposes.

**Contact.** For further information regarding this transmittal, contact Eugene Backhaus, State Resource Conservationist, by telephone 720-544-2868 or by email at [eugene.backhaus@co.usda.gov](mailto:eugene.backhaus@co.usda.gov)

/s/

CLINT EVANS  
State Conservationist

DIST: electronically to all Colorado NRCS employees and affiliates