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TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE IL-217

Purpose: To distribute updated conservation practice standards and specifications for Conservation Cover (327), Field Border Strip (386), Contour Farming (330), Contour Buffer Strips (332), Critical Area Planting (342), Cover Crop (340) and the Conservation Cover seed mix calculator.

The FOTG can be accessed through the Illinois home page by clicking on "FOTG" or at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>.

Location

Section IV.

B. Conservation Practices

Summary of Changes

February 2009

Conservation Cover (327)	New purposes for air quality, soil quality, and managing plant pests were added. Additional forb species were added. Forb species known to be beneficial to pollinators were identified. Maryland Senna and Wild Senna were moved from the Table 3b. Native Woody Shrubs to Table 3a. Native Forbs.
Conservation Cover Seed Calculator	The calculator was updated to reflect the additional for species provided in various tables of the Conservation Cover (327) standard.
Contour Farming (330)	A new purpose to address water infiltration was added. Criteria for row grade and ridge height were changed to reflect RUSLE 2 technology.
Contour Buffer Strips (332)	Changes were made to reflect RUSLE 2 technology.
Cover Crop (340)	New purposes for reducing particulate emissions and addressing soil compaction have been added. Additional cover crop species have been added. Seed mixtures for common cover crop seed mixtures were added.
Critical Area Planting (342)	A new purpose to address coastal areas such as sand dunes and riparian areas was added. No significant changes were made to the Illinois standard.
Field Border Strip (386)	New purposes for increasing carbon storage and air quality have been added.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Gradle".

WILLIAM J. GRADLE
State Conservationist

DIST: Partner