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TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE IL-286

Purpose: To provide notice of revisions to the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) for selected standards and supporting documents. The FOTG can be accessed through the Illinois home page by clicking on "FOTG" or at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>.

Location	Summary of Changes
Section III – Resource Concern Checklists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor revisions made to the Resource Concern checklists including (Please discard all old checklists and begin using the new ones): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Addition of fillable fields to the heading and notes sections. ○ Duplicated the water quality screening questions to clarify that the screening questions apply to surface water and groundwater.
Section III – Conservation Activity Plans Technical Criteria	
Nutrient Management Plan (104)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan criteria revised to remove the requirement of associated land treatment practices to be planned.
Feed Management Plan (108)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added plan criteria for a newly available CAP to address the manipulation and control of the quantity and quality of available nutrients, feedstuffs, and/or additives fed to livestock and poultry.
Prescribed Burning Plan (112)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added plan criteria for a newly available CAP to address one or more resource concerns on land through the use of fire.
Integrated Pest Management Plan (114)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor revisions to the plan criteria.
Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Headquarters (122)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan criteria revised with additional tables for documenting the energy audit and to display energy and air quality benefits.
Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Landscape (124)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan criteria revised to require a more comprehensive energy audit of field operations.
Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan (126)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed plan criteria and plan checklist.
Drainage Water Management Plan (130)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor revisions to the plan criteria.
Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor revisions to the plan criteria.

Section IV – Conservation Practices	
Nutrient Management (590) Standard and Specifications dated 12-11-2013	<p>Editorial changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified the threshold for requiring the use of the Illinois Nitrogen Management Guidelines. • Added the North American Proficiency Testing Program -Performance Assessment Program (NAPT-PAP) as an additional source for approved soil testing laboratories. • Clarified language relating to the requirements for multi-year manure applications.
Section IV – Other documents and tools	
<p>Illinois Nitrogen Management Guidelines 12-11-2013</p> <p>590 Calculator (v4.2) 12-3-2013</p> <p>Manure Rate Calculator (v6.2) 12-3-2013</p> <p>Nutrient Management Inventory Worksheet (v2.0) 12-3-2013</p> <p>Prescribed Grazing Graze4_IL_ver3.2.2_12-11-2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edited the “Illinois Nitrogen Management Guidelines” to align with the 50 percent threshold added to CPS 590. • Release of updated and revised nutrient management planning tools. The 590 calculator (v4.2) should be used as a job sheet for situations where only commercial fertilizers are applied. The Manure Rate Calculator (v6.2) should be used as a job sheet for situations where manure and possibly commercial fertilizer are applied. The Nutrient Management Inventory Worksheet (v2.0) may be used to determine if nutrients are being applied at appropriate rates either before plan development or as a part of certification. • Updated Graze4 spreadsheet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moved entry of grazing days to Step 1. ○ Added print all pages button in Step 1 upper left hand corner. ○ Added guidance for use of Graze4 in Step 1 in cells A32 to E51. ○ Added guidance in Step 1, line 57 provides guidance on minimal amount of forage that must be provided. The information is used to determine appropriate stocking rates. ○ Added several comments to provide guidance on individual cell entries (hover over the small red triangle to see the comments) ○ Added one additional box for entry of species, in Step 3 Growth Curves for Selected Species, to aid in helping producers extend the grazing season.

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Technical Guide Notice 286 is filed under Section I, "FOTG transmittals" at the FOTG site.



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IVAN N. DOZIER
State Conservationist

Attachments

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