



December 21, 2015

**TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE IL-312**

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

<b>Location</b>	<b>Summary of Changes</b>
<b>Section I. Reference Lists 17. Wetland Mapping Conventions</b>	
Illinois Offsite Methods for Wetland Determinations Aug 2011	Archived
Illinois Wetland Mapping Conventions Amendment 2	Archived
Illinois Wetland Mapping Conventions Amendment 3 Oct 2015	Archived
Illinois Wetlands Mapping Conventions October 1, 2015	Archived
IL_SOSM_Oct_2015	Guidance for Illinois Food Security Act (FSA) Wetland Determinations Including State Offsite Methods (SOSM) – This new guidance document replaces all older guidance related to making offsite wetland determinations in Illinois. The new guidance is to be utilized now for making all offsite wetland determinations in Illinois.
IL_SOSM_Worksheet_Oct_2015	This worksheet is for use in documenting an individual offsite wetland determination.
<b>Section I. 1. Crop Budgets – General</b>	
Illinois Production Returns Average 2005-2014	Updated cost and return information
Illinois Corn Statistics through 2015	Updated yields, acreage, and prices
Illinois Soybean Statistics through 2015	Updated yields, acreage, and prices
Illinois Wheat Statistics through 2015	Updated yields, acreage, and prices
<b>Section III. Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria for Conservation Planning</b>	
	New Assessment Tool for identifying Air Quality Resource Concerns – NI_190_309, 2nd Ed., July 2015 requires all states to begin using the National Air Quality Site Assessment Tool (NAQSAT) as of January 1, 2016 for all new NRCS assistance requests from confinement-based livestock and poultry operations with greater than or equal to 300 animal units. The tool is to be used to determine potential air quality resource concerns of the operation.

As with most tools, the tool should be used to identify potential concerns, provide alternatives to the producer, and document the changes that will occur in air quality when alternatives are implemented. The use of the tool for animal operations less than 300 animal units is encouraged but not required. The resource concern planning criteria and all of the resource concern checklists have been updated to add the use of the NAQSAT for documenting air quality resource concerns.

### **Section III. Resource Concern Checklists**

Updated to add the use of NAQSAT for AQ resource concerns:

- Cropland Resource Concern Checklist
- Forest Resource Concern Checklist
- Pasture Resource Concern Checklist
- Associated Ag Land / Other Rural Land / Designated Protected Area Resource Concern Checklist
- Farmstead Resource Concern Checklist
- Water Resource Concern Checklist

### **Section III. Resource Quality Criteria for RMS**

Resource quality criteria was replaced by planning criteria on 10/1/2013 with TG Notice 284. Both the quality criteria that existed prior to 10/1/2013 and the planning criteria released on 10/1/2013 have been archived.

Technical Guide Notice **312** is filed under Section I, "FOTG transmittals" at the FOTG site.



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Acting State Conservationist

DIST:  
Illinois NRCS Employees  
Partner  
CNMP Technical Service Providers

Attachment:  
NI\_190\_309\_, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., July 2015  
SOSM's  
SOSM Worksheet