



May 8, 2013

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. MA-262

TO: All holders of Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV

Purpose: This notice transmits updated conservation practice standards and associated guidance documents.

Explanation:

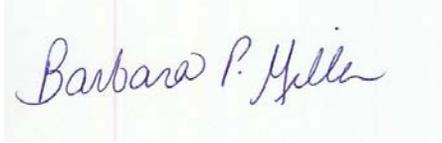
- **Brush Management (Code 314).** An updated jobsheet has been created for this conservation practice.
- **Composting Facility (Code 317).** This is an updated conservation practice standard, adopting the new national and state criteria.
- **Conservation Cover (Code 327).** This is an updated conservation practice standard, adopting the new national criteria. An updated specification guide and a number of new jobsheets have been created for this conservation practice.
- **Forest Trails and Landings (Code 655).** This is an updated conservation practice standard, adopting new national and state criteria. An updated specification guide and jobsheet have also been created for this conservation practice.
- **Pasture Condition Scoresheet.** This is a spreadsheet tool to assist with the evaluation of pastures and hay fields for the need of reseeding “Forage and Biomass Planting” (Code 512). This tool should also be used in conjunction with Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) to establish the benchmark condition and to monitor improvements in pastures over time.
- **Phosphorus Index, Version 2.** This is an updated version of the spreadsheet tool to be used in conjunction with “Nutrient Management” (Code 590) to provide site risk assessment for the likelihood of phosphorus losses to the environment.
- **Pollinator Seed Rate Calculator.** This is a spreadsheet tool to assist with the planning of pollinator seedings using “Conservation Cover” (Code 327) or “Field Border” (Code 386).
- **Prescribed Burning (Code 338).** This is an updated conservation practice, adopting the new national criteria.
- **Silvopasture Establishment (Code 381).** A network diagram, to be used for environmental compliance evaluation, has been created for this conservation practice.
- **Tree and Shrub Pruning (Code 660).** An updated jobsheet has been created for this conservation practice.
- **Waste Utilization (Code 633).** This conservation practice has been rescinded.

Filing Instructions: Insert this notice in front of Section I of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Replace the existing index located in front of Section IV with the revised index (05/08/2013) provided with this notice. File the conservation practice standards and guidance documents in Section IV of the FOTG under the appropriate conservation practice folder. All of the documents have been posted to the

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Electronic FOTG (eFOTG); the Pasture Condition Score Sheet, the Phosphorus Index, and Pollinator Seed Rate Calculator have all been filed in the “Tools” folder of Section IV of the eFOTG.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara P. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light green rectangular background.

BARBARA MILLER

Assistant State Conservationist for Farm Bill Programs
State Resource Conservationist

DIST: District Conservationists
Field Engineers
State Conservation Engineer
S.O. Official MA FOTG
Greg Watson, Commissioner, MA DAR