



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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March 9, 2016

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. MA-270

TO: All holders of Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

Purpose: To transmit notice of updated FOTG documents.

Effective Date: This notice is effective upon receipt.

Explanation of Changes: Updates to all Sections of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide have been made.

SECTION I – COST DATA

- **FY 2016 Eligible Conservation Practices, Cost Lists, and Payment Schedule Scenario Descriptions** – The conservation practice cost lists with all payment schedule scenario descriptions have been posted to the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).

SECTION II—SOILS DATA

- **Forestland Productivity, Hydric Soils, and Prime Farmlands** – These tables have been updated for all Massachusetts' soil surveys.

SECTION IV – CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTS

- **Brush Management (Code 314)**—Conservation practice standard and jobsheet have been updated to allow multiple years of treatment of invasive plants.
- **Cover Crop (Code 340)**—An updated jobsheet for aerial cover crop seeding has been added.
- **Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code 589C)**—This conservation practice has been rescinded.
- **Emergency Animal Mortality Management (Code 368)**—This is a new conservation practice; the national version of this practice has been adopted.
- **Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315)**—Conservation practice standard and jobsheet have been updated to allow multiple years of treatment of invasive plants.
- **Herbaceous Wind Barrier (Code 603)**—This conservation practice has been rescinded.
- **High Tunnel System (Code 325)**—This is a new conservation practice, replacing the interim conservation practice “Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (Code 798).” Conservation practice standard, specification guide, jobsheet, and statement of work have been added.
- **Land Clearing (Code 460)**—The national conservation practice standard has been re-adopted.
- **Surface Roughening (Code 609)**—This conservation practice has been rescinded.
- **Well Decommissioning (Code 351)**—This is a new conservation practice; the national version of this practice has been adopted.
- **SECTION V – CONSERVATION PRACTICE PHYSICAL EFFECTS (CPPE)**—The FY2016 table of evaluations (each conservation practice’s environmental benefit is rated on a scale from -5 to +5 for all Massachusetts resource concerns).

Filing Instructions. Insert this notice in front of Section I of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).
File the updated documents in the appropriate Section of the FOTG.

These documents will be posted to the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Akin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "A".

Thomas J. Akin
State Resource Conservationist

Attachments

DIST: All Employees
S.O. Official MA FOTG
John Lebeaux, Commissioner, MDAR
Gerard Kennedy, Director, Conservation and Technical Assistance, MDAR