



Helping People Help the Land

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**TECHNICAL GUIDE
NOTICE #221 (electronic)**

Purpose: To transmit information regarding the electronic NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).

Effective Date: This notice is effective upon receipt.

Notice of Changes:

SECTION I: General Resource References

B. Economic Cost Data

2. Economic Information/ Guides.

The **Agricultural Economics Report** is outdated and has been removed.

Technical questions should be addressed to June Moss, Agricultural Economist, at (517) 324-5280.

G. Michigan Technical Notes

Grazing Technical Note #5, Planning for Organic Pastures has been added to the Grazing folder. This technical note provides information on several planning considerations for organic pastures. Planners must consider how organic systems are different than conventional systems. Explanations of how to improve pasture condition through improved soil fertility, addition of plant species and weed control appropriate to organic systems are given. Organic management plans may require specific details on protection of surface water quality and this technical note provides examples. Pasture management for animal health by control of parasites is covered in detail as this is a major challenge for organic producers. A list of references is provided, many of which are available online.

Technical questions should be addressed to Betsy Dierberger, Grassland/Forage Specialist, at (517) 324-5265.

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DIST: All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

Biology Technical Note #17, Invasive Species: Environmental Evaluation of Plants for Conservation, has been added to the Biology folder. It covers plant characteristics that affect the ability of a non-native plant species to adversely affect habitats, ecosystems, and agricultural areas (Impact on Habitat); the degree of management needed to control the species if it becomes a problem or eradication if the species is no longer desirable (Ease of Management); the importance of the species to meet a conservation need (Conservation Need); and the biological properties that indicate the natural ability of the species to propagate and maintain itself under natural conditions (Natural Propagation Potential).

Technical questions should be addressed to Chris Reidy, State Biologist, at (517) 324-5267, or John Leif, PMC Manager, at (517) 641-6300.

Economics Technical Note #1, Agricultural Use land Values is out of date and has been removed.

Technical questions should be addressed to June Moss, Agricultural Economist, at (517) 324-5280.

SECTION II: Natural Resources Information

A. Soils Information

The document **Soils Section II Table of Contents** was added to the folder **Introduction to Michigan Soils**. It lists information available in each county file and records the Review Date of the documents as of September 2009.

Technical questions should be addressed to Will Bowman, State Soil Scientist, at (517) 324-5241.

SECTION V: Conservation Effects

C. Effects for Decision Makers

The **Effects for Decision Making – Overview** document has been updated to clarify how to use the Conservation Effects for Decisionmaking (CED) worksheet.

1. Producer Experiences has been reorganized to make it easier to find materials by land use.

The **Residue Management Case Study** folder and document have been renamed the **Cropland Case Study**. The **Northern Lower Michigan Forest Management Case Study** folder and document have been renamed the **Forestry Case Study**. The **Prescribed Grazing** folder and its contents have been moved to **Producer Experiences**. A new case study entitled **Grazeway Case Study** has been added to this folder. The **Grazeway Case Study** is about how a grazing system can support capital growth for a dairy farm.

2. Other Effect Information

The **Economic Methods** document has been updated with minor changes to clarify wording.

3. Prescribed Grazing

The contents of this folder have been moved to **1. Producer Experiences** and then the folder was deleted.

D. Procedural References

The **Procedural References – Overview** document has been updated to include more on the development and use of CED and Producer Experiences in marketing conservation.

A new folder entitled **Conservation Effects for Decision Making** has been created under D. Procedural References. Two worksheets, the **CED Form** and **Producer Experience Form**, have been added.

A new folder entitled **Costs and Returns Evaluation and Analysis** has been created under D. Procedural References. The purpose of this folder is to provide analysis that assists with marketing an investment in conservation. A document on **Breakeven Analysis** has been added to this folder to show how payback is calculated and is used to compare and evaluate conservation practices and/or systems.

Technical question should be directed to June Moss, Agricultural Economist, at (517) 324-5280.

Questions regarding eFOTG content management should be directed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.



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