



*Helping People Help the Land*

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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October 23, 2009

## **TECHNICAL GUIDE**

### **NOTICE #222 (electronic)**

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

**Effective Date:** This notice is effective upon receipt.

### **Notice of Changes:**

#### **SECTION I: General Resource References**

The 2001 **Congressional Districts** map has been deleted from the **Maps** folder. A new **Citizens Guide** to Federal and State elected officials has been added to the **Reference List** folder.

Technical questions can be addressed to Brian Buehler, Public Affairs Specialist, at (517) 324-324-5244.

#### **Michigan Technical Notes**

**Grazing Technical Note #6, Horse Pasture Management** has been added to the Grazing folder. Working with equine enthusiasts on horse pasture management has many challenges. This technical note provides background information on horse grazing behavior and how that influences pasture management strategies. Information is provided on ways to maintain pasture condition by managing soil nutrients and manure and managing plant defoliation. Pasture management for horses may include typical rotational Prescribed Grazing systems or there may be a need for other options such as grazing time management. Management options, including the use of exercise lots, dry lots and/or sacrifice paddocks, which meet the requirements for Prescribed Grazing are described.

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

**Agronomy Technical Note #40, Vegetative Filter Strip Design with the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE2), and the accompanying excel spreadsheet**, has been added to the Agronomy folder. This technical note and spreadsheet support the new Filter Strip (393) standard.

#### **Agronomy Technical Note #41, Narrow Stripcropping**

#### **Agronomy Technical Note #42, Effect of Controlled Release Nitrogen on Corn in Narrow Stripcropping**

These technical notes have been added to the Agronomy folder. They contain technical information previously found in the Stripcropping (393) conservation practice standard.

Technical questions should be addressed to Jerry Grigar, State Agronomist, at (517) 324-5250.

### **SECTION IV: Standards and Specifications**

The following **Agronomy** conservation practice standards, design sheets and Statements of Work have been updated:

#### Filter Strip (393) Standard and Statement of Work

The following changes were made based on significant changes to the May 2008 393 National Standard:

- The Definition has been changed;
- Purposes- Removed three purposes from current standard and moved into considerations;
- Conditions where practice applies- Simplified and broadened scope, "to protect environmentally sensitive areas";
- Maximum design gradient on leading edge has new criteria;
- Practice design width for sediment must meet 10 year design criteria following Agronomy Tech Note #40 "Filter Strip Design Using Rusle 2";
- Added Filter Strip Design Excel Spreadsheet for determining 10 year lifespan (accompanies Agronomy Tech Note #40);
- Removed design width tables from 393 standard;
- Minimum design width can still be increased beyond minimum according to local need;
- Added reference to 645 Wildflower planting;
- Added reference to Tech Note 40;
- Added reference to filter strip design spreadsheet.

#### Stripcropping (585) Standard and Conservation Sheet

Stripcropping (585) is an update that included the following practice standards:

1. Contour Stripcropping (585)
2. Stripcropping, Field (586)
3. Cross Wind Stripcropping (589b)

These practice standards involve the same basic technology and were therefore combined into a single standard. The Stripcropping (585) standard retains the original practice code for Contour Stripcropping. The previous national conservation practice standard codes were withdrawn and replaced with the current version of 585.

Additional changes to the Stripcropping practice standard include the following:

- Removed three purposes;
- Changed Condition where practices applies;
- Added New General Criteria;
- Changed additional criteria to Soil Erosion From Water And Transport Of Sediment And Other Water-borne Contaminants;
- Removed criteria to reduce Nutrient and Pesticide loss from wind erosion;
- Removed criteria to control traffic and reduce soil compaction from narrow stripcropping;
- Removed criteria to reduce soil loss of P in sediment;
- Removed considerations specific to wind erosion;
- Removed considerations specific to narrow stripcropping;
- Released two Technical Notes on Narrow Stripcropping to replace what was removed from the standard;
- Released a conservation sheet on Wind Stripcropping.

Technical questions should be directed to Jerry Grigar, State Agronomist, at (517) 324-5250.

The following **Forestry** conservation practice standards, design sheets and Statements of Work have been updated:

#### Access Control (472) Standard

- Practice Name has been changed from "Use Exclusion".
- Definition and Purposes section updated to match the national standard.
- General Criteria now require identification of activity or measure to be monitored and regulated.
- Reference to Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) for vegetated barriers removed.
- Considerations section updated to include information about placing fences or barriers along forested areas.
- Minor changes to wording and formatting.

#### Access Control (472) Conservation Design Sheet

- New document.

#### Access Control (472) Statement of Work

- Minor changes to wording and formatting.

#### Firebreak (394) Standard

- Definition and Conditions Where Practice Applies section updated to match national standard.
- General Criteria requires firebreaks to be 15' wide or three times the height of fuel, whichever is greater.
- Criteria for Sod Firebreak includes references to Conservation Cover (327) and Critical Area Planting (342).
- Criteria for Sod Firebreaks includes information on native species use and invasive species.
- Considerations include use of firebreaks to divide large burn areas; timing of maintenance to minimize wildlife impact; effects to threatened and endangered species, natural areas, riparian areas and wetlands; and hazards associated with power lines.
- Information on chemical and foam retardants and wetlines moved from Criteria section to Considerations.
- Minor changes to wording and formatting.
- No changes to the Statement of Work.

#### Firebreak (394) Conservation Design Sheet

- Updated to reflect changes to Standard, including minor changes to wording and formatting.

#### Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) Standard

- Definition, Purposes and Condition Where Practice Applies sections updated to match the national standard.
- Criteria Applicable to Natural Regeneration section now redirects planners to the Forest Stand Improvement (666).
- Information covered under Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) removed (e.g. spacing/density information, species selection information).
- Considerations section updated to include information on monitoring of weeds in first 3 years and information about mulch and weed fabric barriers.
- References updated.
- Minor changes to wording and formatting.

#### Tree/Shrub Site Preparation and Establishment (490/612) Conservation Design Sheet

- New document that supersedes Weed Control for Tree and Shrub Establishment (612) conservation sheet and Tree/Shrub Planting for Reforestation, Windbreaks and Wildlife (612A) conservation sheet.
- Site Preparation required in 36" diameter circles or 36" wide bands.
- Information about mulch and fabric weed barriers included.
- Minimum planting density for wildlife reduced to 302 trees per acre from 545.
- Specification Sheet portion expanded to include 490 and 612 practices.

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) Statement of Work

- Minor changes to wording and formatting.

Technical questions should be addressed to Andy Henriksen, State Forester, at (517) 324-5234. Questions regarding FOTG content management should be directed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.

*Sally VanSledright, acting for*

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