



Helping People Help the Land

Natural Resources Conservation Service
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250
East Lansing, MI 48823-6321
(T) 517-324-5270 / (F) 517-324-5171 / www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov

November 10, 2010

**TECHNICAL GUIDE
NOTICE #234 (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

Michigan Technical Notes

Agronomy Technical Note #55, Wind Erosion: Problem, Processes and Control

This technical note is for use with the Wind Erosion Prediction System Model and conservation planning.

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

Agronomy Technical Note #56, Conservation Planning Considerations for Pest Management in Organic Farming

This technical note is for use in conservation planning for organic farming systems and for farms in transition to organic certification.

Technical questions should be directed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.

- MORE -

DIST: All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

Economic Cost Data

The **Financial Feasibility Information Sheet** has been translated to Spanish and added to the **Conservation Program Contract Economics** folder. This information sheet explains the steps a potential participant for a conservation program contract needs to take to determine financial feasibility and assist the farmer understand their out of pocket costs to implement practices with a conservation program contract.

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

SECTION II: Natural Resources Information

Rose Lake Plant Materials Center

The following informational brochures were updated and/or newly created by the Rose Lake Plant Material Center and are placed in folders as follows:

Introduction to PMC Technical Material: “Rose Lake Plant Material Center”

PMC Releases

General PMC Releases: “Plant Releases Available to Commercial Growers”

Grasses: “Icy Blue Germplasm Canada Wildrye”
“Koch Germplasm Prairie Sandreed” (NEW)
“Southlow Michigan Germplasm Big Bluestem”
“Southlow Michigan Germplasm Indiangrass”
“Southlow Michigan Germplasm Little Bluestem”
“Southlow Michigan Germplasm Switchgrass”

Legumes: “Alcona Germplasm Dillenius’ Tick-Trefoil”
“Grant Germplasm Panicleleaf Tick-Trefoil”
“Marion Germplasm Dillenius’ Tick-Trefoil” (NEW)
“ ‘Lancer’ Perennial Pea”

Shrubs: “ ‘Indigo’ Silky Dogwood”
“Leelanau Germplasm Highbush Cranberry” (NEW)
“Riverbend Germplasm Silky Willow”
“Vintage Germplasm Common Elderberry” (NEW)

Trees: “ ‘Affinity’ Northern White Cedar”
“ ‘Imperial’ Carolina Poplar”
“ ‘Magenta’ Hybrid Crabapple”
“Roselow Sargent Crabapple”

Questions regarding this informational material should be directed to John Leif, Plant Material Center Manager, at (517) 641-6300.

SECTION III: Conservation Management Systems

Conservation Activity Plans Technical Criteria

The **Forest Management Plan Criteria and Checklist** and **Statement of Work** have been updated. The Primary changes are as follows:

- Additional guidance regarding cultural resources reviews added (Deliverables section, page 1);
- Clarification about grouping Management Unit Description Criteria for multiple land units added (Resource Descriptions, 5.);
- Additional form, Resource Considerations Field Inventory Guide Sheet of the CPA-52, listed as an alternative method to document resource concerns (Resource Descriptions, 6.A.);
- Resource assessment tools used to determine resource concerns and results of resource assessment added to criteria (Resource Descriptions, 6.B.);
- Environmental Evaluation for Conservation Planning, Form MI-CPA-15 is no longer required to be completed by TSPs. This form is no longer in use in Michigan; it has been replaced by national form CPA-52 which is the sole responsibility of NRCS to complete (except for the optional Resource Considerations Field Inventory Guide Sheet as discussed above) (removed from Prescriptions section); and
- Additional clarification about compliance with the wetlands and highly erodible land provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 added (Footnote 4).

Technical questions should be addressed to Andy Henriksen, State Forester, at (517) 324-5234.

SECTION IV: Practice Standards and Specifications

Conservation Practices

The conservation practice standard **Conservation Crop Rotation (328)** and accompanying **CPPE** and **Statement of Work** have been updated to reflect changes in the national conservation practice standard.

Primary changes are as follows:

- New purposes added include: Improved soil quality; increase cropping system diversity; manage crop consumptive use of water; provide food and cover for wildlife including pollinator forage, cover and nesting.
- This practice applies to land if annually planted crops make up at least 1/3 of the crop sequence. For example, 2 years of corn silage followed by 6 years of alfalfa hay. A cover crop is now counted as a crop in the rotation.

- A crop rotation must now have a positive Soil Conditioning Index (SCI). The SCI calculation is available via the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation water erosion prediction model RUSLE2. The SCI calculation is also included in the Wind Erosion Prediction System WEPS model.
- For the Soil Quality Purpose there is a definition that fallow years can not exceed 25% or (1 in 4) years. And there is a minimum mixture of cool season and warm season crops for 2, 3, 4 year and longer crop rotations.
- Additional considerations were added for each of the purposes as guidance for better implementation of the practice for a particular purpose.

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

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

/S/

JAMES G. SCOTT
State Resource Conservationist