



*Helping People Help the Land*

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October 5, 2011

**TECHNICAL GUIDE  
NOTICE #240 (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**

**Technical References**

**Agronomy Technical Note #59, “Integrated Cropping Systems for Corn-Sugar Beet-Dry Bean Rotation: The Experience of the Innovative Farmers of Michigan”**, has been added.

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

**Agronomy Technical Note #60, “Michigan Phosphorus Index”** has been added. This technical note provides background and instructions on using the Michigan Phosphorus Index.

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

**Forestry Technical Note #29-Conducting a Forest Inventory**

This is a new document designed to assist conservation planners with accurate and efficient collection of forest stand inventory information using a point sampling technique. It contains step-by-step instructions and a field data collection form.

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

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DIST: All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

## **SECTION II: Soil and Site Information**

### **Forestry Information**

The **Forest Inventory Tool** has been updated to provide some additional measures of surplus basal area and trees per acre by diameter class. This can be useful information to help planners decide on which trees to focus Forest Stand Improvement efforts.

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

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

### **Conservation Practices**

#### **Firebreak (394)**

The “Considerations” section of the conservation practice standard was updated to include information about pollinator needs. The Statement of Work was updated.

#### **Access Control (472)**

Some minor wording changes were made to the conservation practice standard, to provide clarification to the “Condition Where Practice Applies” and the “Plans and Specifications” sections. The Statement of Work was updated.

#### **Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)**

The Conservation Practice Standard was updated to reflect recent changes to the national standard and to provide better clarity. Following are some key changes:

- “Developing renewable energy systems” was added as a new purpose, with additional criteria added specific to this purpose.
- Species recommendation tables were removed.
- Storage, care and handling and other similar information was removed from the Practice Standard and placed in the Job Sheet.
- Information specific to other practices, e.g., Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) was removed and an appropriate reference included in the text.
- Plans and Specifications section was reformatted to better reflect planning documentation needs.
- The Statement of Work was reviewed. No changes were made.
- The Job Sheet was completely redesigned to better provide “how to” practice installation information, and contains a fillable specifications section to help ensure the practice standard is met. This new job sheet replaces the Tree/Shrub Site Preparation and Establishment Conservation Design Sheet (October 2009), and “Tree Shrub Planting for Reforestation, Windbreaks and Wildlife Conservation Design Sheet (November 2008).

**Forest Stand Improvement (666)**

Significant changes were made to the conservation practice standard and job sheet to better match the national practice standard. These changes include:

- An additional purpose was added: Development of renewable energy system.
- Clarifying language about inventory requirements was added.
- Specific pre- and post-treatment stand density requirements for specific harvest-management regimes and cover types were added.
- Snag and den tree creation/retention requirements were reduced from the previous version and are specific to desired wildlife species.
- Brush piles and grapevine retention requirements were moved from the Wildlife Criteria to the Considerations section.
- The Plans and Specification Section was reformatted for clarity.
- Minor changes were made to the Statement of Work.
- A new fillable job sheet was developed for use with the Forest Stand Improvement practice. This job sheet includes much of the same information as the Conservation Practice Standard, and the fillable Specifications section includes all the necessary information to meet the requirements of the Standard. This job sheet replaces all other Forest Stand Improvement Conservation Design Sheets that were previously in the eFOTG.

Technical questions on these forestry conservation practice standards should be directed to Andy Henriksen, State Forester, at (517) 324-5234.

**Waste Recycling (633) (Formerly Waste Utilization)**

The conservation practice standard was renamed and updated to reflect changes in the national practice standard.

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

**Forage Harvest Management (511)**

The practice has been updated to include the resource concern of Energy in the purpose. A new job sheet replaces the January 2005 Conservation Design Sheet and includes a fillable specifications section.

**Forage and Biomass Planting (512)**

Formerly known as Pasture and Hayland Planting, this practice has been updated with the new name and includes a purpose for the resource concern of Energy. Planting specifications have moved to the 512 Forage and Biomass Planting Job Sheet. An updated Statement of Work has also been developed.

**Fence (382)**

The Fence conservation practice standard was reviewed and is still up to date.

**Prescribed Grazing (528)**

The practice has been updated to reflect changes made in the National standard.

Technical questions on these forage and grazing practices should be addressed to Betsy Dierberger, Grassland/Forage Specialist, at (517) 324-5265.

The following **Agronomy** conservation practice standards have been updated to add Energy Conservation as a Purpose; include national changes; set energy criteria; and update references to technical notes and other job sheets:

**Conservation Crop Rotation (328)**

**Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip-Till/Direct Seed (329)**

**Cover Crop (340)**

**Residue Management, Seasonal (344)**

**Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345)**

**Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (346)**

**Mulching (484)**

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

The following **Biology** conservation practice standards were reviewed; no changes were made.

**Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)**

**Shallow Water Development and Management (646)**

Technical questions on these biology conservation practice standards should be addressed to Chris Reidy, State Biologist, at (517) 324-5267.

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

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