



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 21, 2011

TECHNICAL GUIDE
NOTICE #242 (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

Reference Lists

A web link to the list of **Water Bodies with Approved TMDLs** has been added to the **Water Quality Assessment** folder. The list should be used by conservation planners as they complete form "NRCS-CPA-52 Environmental Evaluation Worksheet".

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

A web link for **Environmental Compliance at NRCS** has been added to the **Internet References by Subject Area** folder.

Technical questions should be directed to Sally Van Lieu, Resource Conservationist, at (517) 324-5279.

Technical References

Agronomy Technical Note #61, "Pest Management in the Conservation Planning Process" has been added. This technical note provides background and instructions on the updated Integrated Pest Management (595) conservation practice standard.

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

SECTION II. Natural Resources Information

Cultural Resources Information

In Folder **3. Forms for Documenting Cultural Resources Investigations**, the form “Environmental Evaluation for Conservation Planning MI-CPA-15” has been removed and archived and has been replaced with the new “NRCS-CPA-52 Environmental Evaluation Worksheet”.

Technical questions should be addressed to Sally Van Lieu, Resource Conservationist, at (517) 324-5279

SECTION III: Conservation Management Systems

Conservation Activity Plans Technical Criteria

The following **Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)** have been added and are new to Michigan:

Grazing Management Plan (110)

Integrated Pest Management Plan (114)

Irrigation Water Management Plan (118)

Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Headquarters (AgEMP) (122)

Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Landscape (AgEMP) (124)

Comprehensive Air Quality Plan (126)

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (142)

Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan (146)

Integrated Pest Management Herbicide Resistance Weed Conservation Plan (154)

The following **Conservation Activity Plans** have been updated to meet National requirements:

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (102)

Nutrient Management Plan (104)

Forest Management Plan (106)

Drainage Water Management Plan (130)

Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (138)

Conservation Plan Supporting Transition from Irrigation to Dryland Farming Plan (134)

The **CNMP Statement of Work** has also been updated for consistency with the National statement.

Technical questions on the Integrated Pest Management Plan, Integrated Pest Management Herbicide Resistance Weed Conservation Plan, Nutrient Management Plan, and the Conservation Plan supporting Organic Transition should be addressed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.

Questions on the Irrigation Water Management Plan, the two Agricultural Energy Management Plans, and the Drainage Water Management Plan should be addressed to Steve Davis, State Conservation Engineer, (517) 324-5232.

Technical questions on the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan and the Pollinator habitat Enhancement Plan should be addressed to Chris Reidy, State Biologist, at (517) 324-5267.

Questions on the Forest Management Plan go to Andy Henriksen, State Conservation Forester, at (517) 324-5234.

Technical questions on the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, the Grazing Management Plan and the Conservation Plan Supporting Transition from Irrigation to Dryland Farming Plan should be addressed to Betsy Dierberger, Grassland/Forage Specialist, at (517) 324-5265.

SECTION IV: Practice Standards and Specifications

Conservation Practices

Integrated Pest Management (595) (formally Pest Management)

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

- Per the Michigan Agronomy Technical Note #61, a rating system for soil-pesticide interaction hazard ratings was established. Conservation and management practices are assigned points, and the planner and landowner choose the combination of conservation and management practices to collect enough points to mitigate the identified risks.
- Requirements to calculate sheet and rill and wind erosion were removed.
- Storage, care and handling and other similar information was removed from the Practice Standard and placed in the Job Sheet.
- The Statement of Work was reviewed. No changes were made.
- The Job Sheet was completely redesigned to better provide “how to” conservation practice planning information based on output from the Win-PST tool, and contains a fillable specifications section to help ensure the practice standard is met. This new job sheet replaces the Pest Management Conservation Design Sheet (January 2006).

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

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)

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

- Two new purposes were added to match the national standard
- Spacing and density requirements were adjusted slightly.
- Species tables were removed, and replaced with a reference to the Conservation Tree/Shrub Suitability Guide (CTSG) tool.
- Plans and Specifications section and Operation and Maintenance sections were expanded upon to provide cleared guidance
- A new Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) Job Sheet has been developed.

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

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)

The National conservation practice standard was adopted by Michigan.

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

The following **Engineering** conservation practice standards and their supporting Statements of Work and O&M Plans were added. These are new practices for Michigan:

Farmstead Energy Improvement (374)

Fueling Facility Above-Ground Storage (713)

The conservation practice standard **Agrichemical Handling Facility (309)** has been updated.

- Added criteria to avoid gaps between walls and containment areas where there is potential for liquids to splash on building walls.
- Added criteria in Coatings and Liners section to be consistent with national practice standard regarding concrete admixtures and sealers/coatings.

Questions regarding these engineering conservation practice standards should be directed to Steve Davis, State Conservation Engineer, at (517) 324-5232.

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