



*Helping People Help the Land*

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September 6, 2012

**TECHNICAL GUIDE  
NOTICE #247**

**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 References**

**Economic Cost Data**

The **2012 Statewide Typical Conservation Practice Cost** for Michigan has been added to the **Statewide Conservation Practice Cost Information** folder. This information provides general typical cost to install, operate and maintain, and the total average annual practice cost for use in conservation planning to compare practice costs during formulation and evaluation of alternatives. Typical Conservation Practice Costs are for use in providing general cost information to land users during the early steps/phases of the planning process.

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

**Erosion Prediction**

**4. Wind Erosion**

When ARS/NRCS released WEPS version 1.2.9 they did not include and update to the Example templates found in the MI WEPS Users Guide or National Examples. Hence in Example 2, with continuous cotton conventional tillage, the old WEPS version 1.0 predicted a soil loss to be of 21-t/ac/yr. However, WEPS Version 1.2.9 with the same cotton project calculated soil loss to be 42-t/ac/yr. When ARS updated the model the examples did not get updated. Therefore, there were big differences in predicted outcome from the example WEPS Exercises.

**-MORE -**

DIST: All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

The MI WEPS USERS GUIDE, August 2012, is available in the MI EFOTG/Section I/ Wind Erosion. Also included in this section is an August 2012 RUN SUMMARY of all the WEPS RUNS initiated by working thru the example problems in the MI USERS GUIDE. However, to insure you get the same answer with WEPS 1.2.9 examples all PCs with the WEPS 1.2.9 program should perform the following update in WEPS:

On the WEPS MAIN SCREEN:

1. Open MCREW (Hit the MAN Button!) the management editor
2. Click Tools/Update WEPS Management Files/ Select directory (recursive)
3. In the MAN folder select the Example Mgt. Files directory (this will bring in all the new DB information into all the example management files
4. Click yes to the warning that tells you all files will be updated. You will be notified when all 10 files are updated.
5. Now when you run the first WEPS Run with Example 2 it should calculate 42.3 t/ac as the correct answer.

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

### **SECTION III Conservation Management Systems**

#### **Conservation Activity Plans Technical Criteria**

A Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) Criteria Checklist has been added to the folder for the **Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (Code 138)**.

Technical questions on the CAP Checklist should be addressed to Sally Van Lieu, Resource Conservationist at (517) 324-5239.

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

#### **Conservation Practices**

The informational header on the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plans for engineering practices has been updated. This update makes it easier to electronically fill in information on the O&M plans; this area is now in a tabular format. No other changes or updates were made to the O&M plans. A web link to all O&M plans is now included in each conservation practice standard folder.

Address technical questions to Steve Davis, State Conservation Engineer, at (517) 324-5232.

## **SECTION V Conservation Effects**

The **CPA-52 with Michigan Guide Sheets** was updated to fix broken web links.

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

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

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JAMES G. SCOTT  
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