



*Helping People Help the Land*

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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December 18, 2012

## **TECHNICAL GUIDE**

### **NOTICE #251 (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 References**

##### **Economic Cost Data**

**In Folder 3, Average Component Costs and Cost Tools**, the following files have been removed:

- Construction Component Costs
- Custom Machine Work Rates 2009-2010

The following files have been added:

- Custom Machine Work Rates
- MI Component Cost Data National FY2013

**In Folder 5, Conservation Program Contract Economics**, the following files have been removed:

- FY2011 Payment Schedule Workbooks
- FY2012 Payment Schedules folder and contents

The following files have been added:

- FY2013 Payment Development Worksheets
- FY2013 EQIP Payment Schedules

Updates to Section 1, Economic Cost Data have been made to update the economic reference material for field use. In Average Component Costs and Cost Tools the custom machine and work rates for farm equipment have been updated to more current information.

**-MORE -**

**DIST:** All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

The custom rates are published by MSU extension and provide approximate farm equipment costs for use in development of cost estimates for conservation practice installation. The Michigan component cost data for 2012 has been added. This is the nationally developed component prices for use in cost estimates where local supplier costs are not known. Older cost data has been removed.

In the Conservation Program Contract Economics folder the older 2011 and 2012 program payment development and payment schedule documents have been removed and replaced with the new program payment development and payment schedules for FY 2013. New items added are a zip file with all the FY2013 program payment development worksheets and a copy of the EQIP payment schedule. The program payment development worksheets provide users with the background calculations, components, and other descriptions of the typical practice installation scenarios used to develop payment schedules.

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

### **Michigan Technical Notes**

An updated version of **Agronomy Technical Note #62 “A Procedure Using the Wind Erosion Prediction (WEPS) Model to Predict Soil and Phosphorus Loss with Cover Crops”** has been added.

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

**Biology Tech Note # 18 “Attracting Beneficial Insects with Native Flowering Plants.”** has been added. The document describes a number of herbaceous flowering plants that attract native beneficial insects and also includes approximate flowering times throughout the growing season. This is Michigan State University Extension Bulletin E2973, revised January, 2008, authored by Anna Fielder, Julianna Tuell, Rufus Isaacs, and Doug Landis and is used by permission of the authors.

Technical questions should be addressed to John Leif, Manager, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, at (517) 641-6300.

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

### **Rose Lake Plant Material Center**

The **Plant Materials Grower List** is out of date and has been archived. A new **Commercial Grower Application** has been added to this folder; growers interested in propagating plant releases from the Plant Material Center should contact the Center using this application form.

Technical questions should be directed to John Leif, Manager, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, at (517) 641-6300.

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

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

National Bulletin NB450-13-1 directed states to update all Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) Criteria for Fiscal Year 2013. In addition, Plan Templates have been developed for the following CAPs:

- Forest Management Plan (106)
- Integrated Pest Management Plan (114)
- Landscape Agricultural Energy Management Plan (124)
- Transitions from Irrigation to Dry Land Plan (134)
- Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition (Cropland and Grazing templates) (138)
- Integrated Pest Management, Herbicide-Resistance Weed Plan (154)

The Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition (138) and Forest Management Plan (106) templates were developed as fillable forms with drop-down lists, where needed, as an additional feature to assist TSPs.

Questions regarding Conservation Activity Plan Criteria should be directed to Sally Van Lieu, Resource Conservationist, at (517) 324-5279.

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