



Helping People Help the Land

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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**TECHNICAL GUIDE
NOTICE #253 (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

Michigan Technical Notes

Biology Tech Note # 20 “Pollinator Biology and Habitat” was added. This technical note presents information on the importance of pollinators, considerations for wildlife habitat, and provides several lists of plants that are appropriate for pollinator habitat. The plant lists are specific for Michigan and include grasses, wildflowers, legumes, shrubs and trees. A table of pollinator friendly cover crops is also included. The technical note was built from a document created by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

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

Agronomy Tech Note #60, “The Michigan Phosphorus Risk Index Tool” was updated to reflect changes in the Michigan Phosphorus Index, Version 2.0 dated January 2013. A rating score of 11 or less is considered ‘Low’ risk, and manure can be applied at the nitrogen rate for the current crop. Rating scores between 12 and 17 are considered ‘Medium’ risk, and manure can be applied at the phosphorus rate. Ratings above 18 are still considered ‘High’ risk and other management practices must be adopted to reduce the rating to Medium before manure can be applied.

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

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DIST: All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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A revised version of **Agronomy Technical Note #35, “Manure Application Risk Index”** was placed in the Agronomy folder with revisions for clarification as follows:

- An example of I & E was added to the Appendix and credited to the author;
- Field feature definitions explaining the use of “N\A” or “0” in the Vegetative Buffer field feature (item 9) were edited; and
- A correction was made to the re-evaluation example’s total (formerly 27.5) to 30.5.

Technical questions should be addressed to Jerry Grigar, State Agronomist, at (517) 314-5250.

SECTION III Conservation Management Systems

Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) Technical Criteria

The **Forest Management Plan (106) Criteria and Checklist** has been updated to align with the national NRCS criteria. Key changes include:

- Management plan must be based on a forest inventory conducted using generally accepted forest inventory methods
- Description of forest/resource inventory methods used is required
- Form MI2 is no longer referenced as a means to record resource concerns
- Pollinator habitat is added as a potential Desired Future Consideration
- Clarification on Practice Specification requirements was added
- Criteria regarding “Additional Management Considerations” was added
- A location map is required

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

SECTION IV Practice Standards and Specifications

Conservation Practices

The document “**The ABCs of Pasture Grazing**” has been added to the folder for conservation practice standard **Prescribed Grazing (528)**. It is a technical reference to the practice.

Technical questions should be addressed to Betsy Dierberger, Grassland/Forage Specialist, at (517) 324-5265.

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