



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

Michigan State Office  
3001 Coolidge Road  
Suite 250  
East Lansing, MI  
48823-6321

Telephone:  
(517) 324-5270  
Fax:  
(855) 701-4363

[www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov)

November 24, 2015

**TECHNICAL GUIDE  
NOTICE #275 (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 4. Statewide Conservation Practice Cost Information**, the **Statewide Typical Costs 2016** were added.

In **Folder 5. Conservation Program Contract Economics**, the **FY2016 CAP Payment Rates** have been added, and the FY2015 CAP payment rates has been archived.

Technical questions should be directed to Becky Otto, EQIP Coordinator, at (517) 324-5257 or [becky.otto@mi.usda.gov](mailto:becky.otto@mi.usda.gov).

**Section IV. Practice Standards and Specifications**

**Conservation Practices**

A **job sheet for the Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products (Code 333)** conservation practice standard has been added. The new job sheet was created for use with producer's soil test data, for recommendation of gypsum rates to apply for soil health and/or reduction of phosphorus loss from the soil.

Technical questions should be directed to Jerry Grigar, State Agronomist, at (517) 324-324-5250 or [jerry.grigar@mi.usda.gov](mailto:jerry.grigar@mi.usda.gov).

The following changes were made to **agronomic conservation practice standards**:

**Conservation Cover (327):** Managing pests was not appropriate as the purpose of this standard and was deleted. Added "beneficial organism habitat" to the pollinator purpose of the practice. Added one new reference: National Agronomy Technical Note 9, Preventing or Mitigating Potential Negative Impacts of Pesticides on Pollinators Using IPM and Other Conservation Practices.

- MORE -

DIST: All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide

**Cover Crop (340):** Deleted two purposes, (1) promote biological nitrogen fixation and reduce energy use, and (2) increase biodiversity, as the two purposes are captured in the general criteria and the criteria for the other purposes. Added additional criteria to address the need to comply with the NRCS cover Crop Termination Guidelines. Provided additional criteria for haying and grazing cover crops.

**Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C):** Removed the purpose to reduce windborne sediment deposition as this is covered under the purpose to reduce soil erosion and windblown sediment deposition. Deleted the purpose to provide food and cover for pollinators and wildlife. In the general criteria for the practice, changed the language from using university extension guides to NRCS approved technical references for seeding and establishment.

**Conservation Crop Rotation (328):** Changed definition slightly from “Growing crops in a planned sequence on the same field” to “A planned sequence of crops grown on the same ground over a period of time (i.e., the rotation).”

**Herbaceous Wind Barrier (603):** The purpose and criteria to enhance snow deposition was removed because the vegetation during the winter period is not conducive to uniform snow deposition. Minor edits were made throughout the standard to improve clarity. Increased the criteria for barrier height for wind erosion period to 1.5 feet from 0.5 feet.

**Contour Buffer Strips (332):** Added an additional practice purpose to reduce transport of nutrients downslope and combined the criteria for this purpose with the additional criteria to reduce transport of sediment and other waterborne contaminants downslope.

**Critical Area Planting (342):** The agency deleted the purpose to rehabilitate and revegetate degraded sites that cannot be stabilized using normal establishment techniques as this purpose is implied in other purposes. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

**Vegetative Barrier (601):** The purpose and the criteria to use the vegetative barrier to control concentrated flow erosion was removed due to poor performance. Added minor edits throughout the standard to improve clarity.

Technical questions regarding these agronomic conservation practices should be directed to Jerry Grigar, State Agronomist, at (517) 324-5250 or [jerry.grigar@mi.usda.gov](mailto:jerry.grigar@mi.usda.gov).

Questions regarding Field Office Technical Guide should be addressed to Ruth Shaffer, Water Quality Specialist, at (517) 324-5239.

  
**BETSY DIERBERGER, Ph.D.**  
State Resource Conservationist