

NB 450-13-3: TCH – Fiscal Year 2012 Conservation Activity Plans

National Bulletin: 450-13-3

Date: November
26, 2012

Subject: TCH – Fiscal Year 2012 Conservation Activity Plans

Action Required By: December 19, 2012

Purpose. To provide updated technical guidance for State Conservationists (STCs) on fiscal year (FY) 2013 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) conservation activity plans (CAPs) and transmit current and revised CAPs for FY 2013.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2013

Background. The opportunity to use EQIP funding to support development of CAPs was first adopted in FY 2009. As part of the evaluation process to improve the technical requirements for CAPs, the agency continues to receive feedback for suggested improvements to the planning criteria for CAPs. The continuing improvement process helps not only NRCS, but also the client and the technical service provider (TSP). Because of the evaluation and feedback process, some changes were made to the FY 2013 CAP technical criteria.

Explanation. The plan requirements to support FY 2013 CAPs, deliverables, and other criteria to support each CAP are attached.

The key changes for FY 2013 include the following:

- Some CAPs include a "Plan Template" in addition to the existing CAP criteria document. The templates were updated to provide a more direct outline of the essential information that is to be included in the plan and provide better documentation for the NRCS field office. The following CAPs are supported with "Plan Templates" for FY 2013:
 - o 106 Forest Management Plan
 - o 114 Integrated Pest Management Plan
 - o 124 Landscape Agricultural Energy Management Plan
 - o 134 Transitions from Irrigation to Dry Land Plan
 - o 138 Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition (Cropland and Grazing templates)
 - o 154 Integrated Pest Management, Herbicide-Resistance Weed Plan
- The 138 Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition and 106 Forest Management Plan templates were developed as fillable forms with drop-down lists, where needed, as an additional feature to assist TSPs.
- As in 2012, the criteria for TSPs to complete portions of Form CPA-52, "NRCS Environmental Evaluation Worksheet" are eliminated. Qualified NRCS staff must complete the entire CPA-52 for CAPs. The TSP proficiencies in TechReg were revised in 2010 to reflect this change. This change in requirement for completion of the CPA-52 should encourage more TSPs to seek certification to complete CAPs. This places responsibility for the CPA-52 solely with NRCS.
- CAP 122, Headquarters Agricultural Energy Management Plan, has additional tables added to document the energy audit and display energy and air quality benefits. This table or a similar table with the same information is to be used in the delivered plan.
- Some CAPs have revised criteria to be more focused on the subject of the CAP.
- The option to use the Conservation Plug-in is eliminated as that software is no longer supported by NRCS.
- All CAP criteria plans are being provided in Microsoft Word format. This will allow States to place their names in the footer before posting in their FOTG Section III.

The only authorized change to any nationally issued CAP planning criteria is adding a State name in the footer of the CAP document. To maintain national consistency to support CAPs, it is critical the same criteria be used in all States. Please do not add State or locally required certification or licensing requirements or planning criteria to the CAP plan document. CAP criteria already includes a general requirement that all plans must comply with applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements.

Additional guidance has been issued by the Programs Deputy Area to establish which CAPs will be required to be offered in States during FY 2013. Please post the planning criteria for offered CAPs in section III of the FOTG titled "Conservation Activity Plans–Technical Criteria," not later than December 19, 2012.

Contact. If you have any questions, please contact the national agronomist at (202) 720-3783.

/s/

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Attachment A - CAP 106 Guide for Foresters for the Joint Management Plan Template.21Feb11.pdf
Attachment B - CAP 106 Guide for Landowners for the Joint Management Plan Template.21Feb11
Attachment C - CAP 106 Managing Your Woodlands Natl ATFS FS NRCS Mgt Plan Template_elec
Sign_21Feb11
Attachment D - CAP 102 CNMP August 2012
Attachment E - CAP 104 Nutrient Management Plan Criteria August 2012
Attachment F - CAP 106 Forest Management Plan Sept 2012
Attachment G - CAP 106 Managing Your Woodlands Natl ATFS FS NRCS Joint Mgt Plan Template_21Feb11
Attachment H - CAP 110 Grazing Management Plan August 2012
Attachment I - CAP 114 Conservation Plan Supporting Integrated Pest Management Plan August 2012
Attachment J - CAP 114 Template Conservation Plan Spt Integrated Pest Management August 2012
Attachment K - CAP 118 Irrigation Water Management Plan Criteria August 2012
Attachment L - CAP 122 Agricultural Energy Management Plan Headquarters October 2012
Attachment M - CAP 124 Landscape Agriculture Energy Management Plan August 2012
Attachment N - CAP 124 Template AgEnergy_Mgt_Plan_Landscape Aug 2012
Attachment O - CAP 126 Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan August 2012
Attachment P - CAP 134 Conservation Plan Supporting Transition from Irrigation to Dryland Farming
August 2012
Attachment Q - CAP 134 Template Transition from irrigated to Dryland Farming August 2012
Attachment R - CAP 138 Conservation Plan Spt Organic Transition Plan CAP ver 5 Aug 2012
Attachment S - CAP 138 Template Organic Cropland Sept 2012
Attachment T - CAP 138 Template Organic Grazing Sept 2013
Attachment U - CAP 142 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan August 2012
Attachment V - CAP 146 Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan August 2012
Attachment W - CAP 150 SPCC Criteria August 2012
Attachment X - CAP 154 IPM Herbicide Resistance Weed Conservation Plan August 2012
Attachment Y - CAP 154 Template Conservation Plan Spt IPM Herbicide Resistance Weed August 2012
Attachment Z - CAP List and Description FY 2013