



October 31, 2013

**FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE (FOTG)
450 - IV
NORTH CAROLINA NOTICE 14-01**

Purpose. This notice transmits information regarding updates to the North Carolina electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). In addition, notes are included to highlight key changes made to conservation practice standards.

Effective Date. This notice is effective when received.

Filing Instructions. Only FOTG Sections I and IV are required to be maintained in hardcopy format at field offices (NC supplement G.M. 120, Part 403). Any FOTG sections that are printed and maintained for office use must be kept up-to-date with the latest releases, versions, and supplements. Obtain any needed FOTG documents for printing from NRCS eFOTG website: http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map .

Important: Toolkit users must “Reload Domain Data” at this time insure the Toolkit user has updated practices and narratives from Conservation Practice Standards. Complete the Reload Domain Data by clicking on the command located under “File” on the main toolbar in Customer Service Toolkit, on each computer running Toolkit.

Notice of Changes:

Section II - Natural Resources Information

In the Cultural Resources Folder:

Undertakings List (*October 2013*) – Updated name of 632 standard.

In the Soil Leaching Index (LI) Information folder:

Soil Rating for Nitrate and Nutrient Loss Mitigation Information (*October 2013*) – Replaces the “Soil Rating for Nitrate and Soluble Nutrients” document. Revised to provide additional information on determining the Nitrogen Leaching Index as well as planning references for use where appropriate risk assessments indicate high risk of excessive N & P losses.

SECTION IV – Practice Standards

Revised Conservation Practice Index: Remove existing Conservation Practice Index and Replace with the following revised index.

NC Conservation Practice Index (*October 2013*)

Revised Conservation Practice Standards: Remove existing North Carolina practice standards and replace with the following revised practice standards.

Amendments for the Treatment of Ag Waste (591) (*October 2013*) – Revised due to update to national standard. No significant state changes.

Nutrient Management (590) (*October 2013*) – Major revision:

- Intent to meet national 590 standard and policy objectives for risk assessment tools and minimizing nutrient losses.
- Requires inclusion of Nitrogen Leaching Index (LI) for all planned fields.
- Provides a revised process for determining PLAT applicability and tool use.
- Merges relevant items into 590 from old 633 Waste Utilization practice standard (now 633 Waste Recycling).
- Clarifies animal waste plan modification procedures through integration of 1217 Interagency Group guidance.
- Requires use of new 590 Job Sheet to include Phosphorus related planning documentation when soil test P is expected to increase on planned fields.
- A 590 Guidance Document will be posted to the NC SharePoint soon to provide additional information on emphasis points and further instructions for implementation.

Recreation Land Grading and Shaping (566) (*October 2013*) – Revised due to update to national standard. No significant state changes.

Row Arrangement (557) (*October 2013*) – Revised due to update to national standard. No significant state changes.

Waste Separation Facility (632) (*October 2013*) – Name changed from “Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility”. Revised due to update to national standard. No significant state changes.

Waste Treatment (629) (*October 2013*) – Revised due to update to national standard. No significant state changes.

Revised Job Sheets: The following existing job sheets have been revised to align with the current associated conservation practice standard.

Nutrient Management (590) (*October 2013*) - Revised to primarily serve as a tool to provide producers with additional P-related planning information when soil test P is expected to increase:

- i. Producer information on PLAT categories “HIGH” and “VERY HIGH”.
- ii. Producer information for a P ‘drawdown strategy’ to reduce soil surface P.

- iii. Documentation of conservation practices and management techniques to reduce P loss potential.

CANCELLED Conservation Practice Standards: Remove the following North Carolina practice standards:

Waste Utilization (633) – The national standard recently underwent a major revision that rendered the standard obsolete for use in North Carolina at this time.



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