



January 23, 2014

**FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE (FOTG)  
450 - IV  
NORTH CAROLINA NOTICE 14-02**

**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](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map).

**Important:** Toolkit users must “Reload Domain Data” at this time to 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 I - General References**

In the Reference Lists folder under NC Tech References > Biology folder, replace the existing list with:

**Biology Technical References** (*January 2014*)

**SECTION II – Natural Resources Information**

In the Cultural Resources folder, the following has been revised:

**Undertakings List** (*January 2014*) – Updated names of 329 and 346 standards; removed 345 and 344 standards.

In the Threatened and Endangered Species folder, the following items have been revised:

**Threatened & Endangered Species** reference sheet (*January 2014*)

**NRCS Planning Procedures for Complying with the Endangered Species Act (ESA)**  
(*January 2014*)

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

In the Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) Technical Criteria folder, FY 2014 CAPs and related information have been posted.

**102 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)** (*August 2012*)

**104 Nutrient Management Plan** (*September 2013*)

**106 Forest Management Plan** (*August 2012*)

**108 Feed Management Plan**

**110 Grazing Management Plan** (*August 2012*)

**112 Prescribed Burning Plan** (*June 2013*)

**114 Integrated Pest Management** (*April 2013*)

**118 Irrigation Water Management Plan** (*August 2012*)

**122 Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Headquarters** (*August 2013*)

**124 Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Landscape** (*September 2013*)

**130 Drainage Water Management Plan** (*May 2013*)

**138 Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition** (*April 2013*)

**142 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan** (*August 2012*)

**146 Pollinator Habitat Plan** (*August 2012*)

**154 IPM Herbicide Resistant Weed Conservation Plan** (*August 2012*)

### **SECTION IV – Practice Standards**

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

**NC Conservation Practice Index** (*January 2014*)

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

**Contour Farming (330)** (*January 2014*) – Revised to match updated national standard. The agency revised the definition to emphasize proper alignments and revised the general criteria for maximum row grade to 4 percent based on RUSLE2 technology. The implementation requirement document was added to the specifications and plans.

**Cover Crop (340)** (*January 2014*) – Revised to reflect the updated name of the attachment (NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines) per National Bulletin 450-14-2.

**Deep Tillage (324)** (*January 2014*) - Revised to match updated national standard. The agency deleted the purpose to reduce concentration of soil contaminants that inhibit plant growth because there is no technology to describe the level of neither contamination nor a dilution factor. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

**Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329)** (*January 2014*) - Revised to match updated national standard. The agency changed the practice name to "Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till." No-till is inclusive of direct seed and strip till. In addition, added additional criteria clarification to not allow any full width tillage for this practice, reduced the maximum soil tillage intensity rating value for no till from 30 to 20, added implementation requirements to the specifications and plans, and changed the purpose "Reduce wind erosion and particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter - PM 1 0" to "Reduce tillage-induced particulate emissions" to address all sizes of tillage particulate emissions.

**Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345)** (*January 2014*) - Revised to match updated national standard. The agency incorporated "346 Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till" into this standard; changed the name from Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till; added criteria to establish a maximum soil tillage intensity value of 80; clarified the air quality purpose to reduce tillage-induced particulate emissions vs. only PM-1 0 emissions; revised the criteria for energy savings to a 25-percent reduction from the current baseline; and added implementation requirements to the specifications and plans.

**Stripcropping (585)** (*January 2014*) - Revised to match updated national standard. The agency revised the definition to stress alternating strips of erosion susceptible crops and revised the wind erosion purpose to reduce wind erosion and associated transport of sediment and other wind borne contaminants. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

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

**Contour Farming (330) Implementation Requirements** (*August 2012*) – Replaces NC Contour Farming (330) job sheet dated March 2009.

**Cover Crop (340) Implementation Requirements** (*February 2013*) – Replaces NC Cover Crop (340) job sheet dated August 2013.

**Deep Tillage (324) Implementation Requirements** (*August 2012*) – Replaces NC Deep Tillage (324) job sheet dated October 2011.

**Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329) Implementation Requirements** (*January 2013*) – Replaces NC Residue Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (329) job sheet dated April 2012.

**Stripcropping (585) Implementation Requirements** (*February 2013*) – Replaces NC Stripcropping (585) job sheet dated April 2012.

New Job Sheets/Implementation Requirements: The following new job sheets/implementation requirements are now available.

**Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345) Implementation Requirements** (*February 2013*)

Additional Practice Guidance: The following guidance documents have been revised.

**NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines** (*December 2013*) – Replaces “NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines – Non-Irrigated Cropland” (June 2013). Add behind Cover Crop (340) practice standard.

Cancelled Conservation Practice Standards: Remove the following North Carolina practice standards.

**Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (346)** – The agency deleted this practice and incorporated this standard into “Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Code 345)”.

**Residue Management, Seasonal (344)** – The agency deleted this practice.



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