



**North Carolina Field Office Technical Guide
FOTG-450
Notice 15-01**

Purpose. This notice transmits the latest updates to the North Carolina Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Instruction and changes to each Section of the FOTG are described below.

INSTRUCTIONS

Any printed copy of the FOTG maintained in an NRCS office is required to be kept up-to-date with the latest materials used to provide technical assistance.

Obtain documents for printing from the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) website by opening that website, clicking North Carolina on the map, clicking the local county, and then navigating through menus on the left-hand side of the page.

Each Toolkit users must “Reload Domain Data” on the computer(s) they run Toolkit on, so it is updated by the Conservation Practice Standards application. Reload domain data by clicking on the command located under “File” on the main toolbar in Customer Service Toolkit, on each computer running Toolkit, for each user.

SECTION I - General References

Practice Payment Schedule scenario descriptions used for the federal Fiscal Year 2015 financial assistance programs are added to the Cost Data section, in the Practice Payment Schedules subsection. A detailed list of the items added is attached, as Attachment A.

The Agronomy Technical Reference list dated October 2014 replaces the prior edition dated 2011. That list replacement occurs in:
Reference Lists > NC Technical References > Agronomy.

SECTION II – Natural Resources Information

A Hydric Soils List is added for each county, in the Soils Information subsection.

SECTION III – Conservation Management Systems

Technical criteria for Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) contracted during Fiscal Year 2015 EQIP sign-up are added to the Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) Technical Criteria section. A detailed list of the items added is attached, as Attachment B.

A CAP 128 Checklist *North Carolina Energy Audit Criteria Checklist*, dated May 2015 is added to the CAP Technical Criteria section.

An updated *RMS Planning Tool*, dated November 2014, is added to the Resource Management Systems subsection.

SECTION IV – Practice Standards and Specifications

A *Conservation Practice Index* revision dated August, 2015 replaces the previous edition. The *Conservation Practice Index* is filed at the front of Section IV.

State supplements to conservation practices, specifications, implementation requirements (a.k.a. jobsheets), and scope of work statements for TSP services are added to the FOTG, Section IV according to Table 1 (below).

File the Cover Crop Termination Guidelines behind the Cover Crop (340) practice standard.

The date of revision indicated in Table 1. corresponds with the date shown on the state standard’s bottom right corner.

A summary of significant changes to state conservation practice supplements is provided in the attached Attachment C.

Statements of Work are not required to be maintained in print copies of the FOTG, Section IV.

Table 1. Practice Standards, Specifications, Implementation Requirements (IR), and Scope of Work (SOW) Statements Added.

Practice Name	Code	Item	Revision Date
Access Control	472	SOW	
Access Road	560	Standard	2/15
		SOW	
Agrichemical Handling Facility	309	Standard	6/15
		SOW	
Alley Cropping	311	SOW	
Amendments of Agricultural Waste	591	SOW	
Anaerobic Digester	366	SOW	
Animal Mortality Facility	316	SOW	
Aquaculture Pond	397	SOW	
Aquatic Organism Passage	396	SOW	
Bedding	310	SOW	
Brush Management	314	SOW	
Building Envelope Improvement	672	SOW	

		IR	3/15
Channel Bed Stabilization	584	SOW	
Clearing and Snagging	326	SOW	
Composting Facility	317	Standard	11/14
		SOW	
Conservation Cover	327	Standard	2/15
		SOW	
Conservation Crop Rotation	328	Standard	2/15
		SOW	
Constructed Wetland	656	SOW	
Contour Buffer Strips	332	Standard	2/15
		SOW	
Contour Farming	330	SOW	
Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops	331	SOW	
Cover Crop	340	Termination Guidelines ¹	9/14
		Standard	2/15
		Specifications	10/14
		SOW	
Critical Area Planting	342	SOW	
Cross Wind Trap Strips	589C	Standard	2/15
		SOW	
Dam	402	SOW	
Dam, Diversion	348	SOW	
Deep Tillage	324	SOW	
Dike	356	SOW	
Diversion	362	SOW	
Drainage Water Management	554	SOW	
Dry Hydrant	432	SOW	
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	647	SOW	
Farmstead Energy Improvement	374	IR	3/15
		SOW	
Fence	382	SOW	
Field Border	386	SOW	
Filter Strip	393	SOW	
Firebreak	394	SOW	

Fish Raceway or Tank	398	SOW	
Grade Stabilization Structure	410	Standard	3/15
Grassed Waterway	412	Standard	2/15
		IR	5/15
Groundwater Testing	355	Standard	3/15
High Tunnel System	325	Standard	7/15
		IR	7/15
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	447	Standard	3/15
Irrigation Water Management	449	Standard	3/15
Lighting System Improvement	670	IR	3/15
Livestock Shelter Structure	576	Standard	6/14
Nutrient Management	590	Standard	12/14
		IR	5/15
On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility	319	Standard	1/15
Precision Land Forming	462	Standard	3/15
Roof Runoff Structure	558	Standard	3/15
Spring Development	574	Standard	7/14
Sprinkler System	442	Standard	7/14
Terrace	600	Standard	3/15
Trails and Walkways	575	Standard	8/15
		SOW	
Waste Transfer	634	Standard	4/15
Water Well	642	Standard	5/15
Water Well Decommissioning	351	Standard	5/15

Table 2. lists conservation practices removed from the FOTG, Section IV by this notice.

Archives of deactivated standards are maintained with in the eFOTG, although they may not be viewable to all users. Contact the ASTC-Technology to obtain a copy of a de-activated practice standard.

Printed copies of deactivated conservation practices may be kept in a file separate from the FOTG to serve as a local archive.

Table 2. Conservation Practice Standards Removed.

Practice Name	Code
Agricultural Secondary Containment Facility	710
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	442
Renewable Energy System	716
Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops	798
Recreation Trails and Walkways	568
Well Water Testing	355

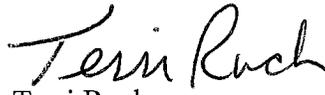
SECTION V – Conservation Effects

In the NC Conservation Practice Physical Effects folder, the existing NC CPPE document was replaced with the following:

North Carolina FY 2015 CPPE (*November 2014*)



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Attachment A**FOTG, Section I, Cost Data: Payment Schedule Data Added**

Code	Title
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)
104	Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)
106	Forest Management Plan (FMP)
108	Feed Management Plan
110	Grazing Management Plan (GMP)
112	Prescribed Burning Plan Development
114	Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
118	Irrigation Water Management (IWM)
128	Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEmp)
130	Drainage Water Management (DWM)
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
142	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan
146	Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan
154	Integrated Pest Management Herbicide Resistance Weed Conservation Plan
309	Agrichemical Handling Facility
311	Alley Cropping
313	Waste Storage Facility
314	Brush Management
315	Herbaceous Weed Control
316	Animal Mortality Facility
317	Composting Facility
319	On Farm Secondary Containment Facility
327	Conservation Cover
328	Conservation Crop Rotation
329	Residue and Tillage Management No Till
330	Contour Farming
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops
332	Contour Buffer Strips
338	Prescribed Burning
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
351	Water Well Decommissioning
355	Well Water Testing
360	Waste Facility Closure
362	Diversion
367	Roofs and Covers
374	Farmstead Energy Improvement
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
381	Silvopasture
382	Fence
384	Woody Residue Treatment
386	Field Border
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
393	Filter Strip
394	Firebreak
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
396	Aquatic Organism Passage
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
412	Grassed Waterway

422	Hedgerow Planting
430	Irrigation Pipeline
441	Irrigation System Micro Irrigation
442	Sprinkler System
449	Irrigation Water Management
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet
472	Access Control
484	Mulching
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
511	Forage Harvest Management
512	Forage and Biomass Planting
516	Livestock Pipeline
521A	Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane
521B	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant
521C	Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Sealant
521D	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment
528	Prescribed Grazing
533	Pumping Plant
554	Drainage Water Management
558	Roof Runoff Structure
560	Access Road
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
574	Spring Development
575	Trails and Walkways
576	Livestock Shelter Structure
578	Stream Crossing
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
584	Channel Bed Stabilization
585	Stripcropping
587	Structure for Water Control
590	Nutrient Management
595	Integrated Pest Management
600	Terrace
606	Subsurface Drain
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
614	Watering Facility
620	Underground Outlet
634	Waste Transfer
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin
642	Water Well
643	Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment
655	Forest Trails and Landings
666	Forest Stand Improvement
670	Lighting System Improvement
672	Building Envelope Improvement
798	Seasonal High Tunnel for Crops

Attachment B**FOTG, Section III: Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) Technical Criteria Added**

Code	Title	Revision Date
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)	August 2012
104	Nutrient Management Plan	September 2013
106	Forest Management Plan	August 2012
108	Feed Management Plan	August 2013
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
128	Agricultural Energy Management Plan	August 2014
130	Drainage Water Management Plan	May 2013
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition	September 2014
142	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan	August 2012
146	Pollinator Habitat Plan	August 2012
154	IPM Herbicide Resistant Weed Conservation Plan	August 2012

Attachment C

Summary of Significant Changes for Conservation Practice Standards

Nutrient Management (590):

- Provides planning and verification specifications for all types of precision-ag based systems.
- Better connects planning and implementation criteria with precision nutrient application technologies that have moved beyond the traditional ‘paper plan’ that’s historically been for older methods of fertilizer application and manure application.
- Enables consideration of estimated recycled manure N quantity in overall RYE-based N recommendations for intensely managed grazing systems, through system analysis by grazing specialists of factors like grazing efficiency and manure distribution.
- Provides standard criteria for implementation of planned/recommended nutrient application rates.
- Ensures soil-test based nutrient recommendations provided by non-NCDA labs are similar to NCDA Agronomic Division guidelines to meet 590 criteria.
- Clarifies explanation of PLAT use requirements as a process based on conditions of applicability of the tool, and then whether all identified low risk conditions exist on the planned field(s).
- Includes sufficiently documented actual yield information per NCSU/NCDA guidelines as a RYE development method for planned fields. Recommended nitrogen application rates are always based on the planned field RYE.
- Includes the requirement that copper and zinc soil test levels must be monitored, and land application in accordance with NCSU/NCDA crop toxicity guidelines.

Access Road (560):

The definition has been revised. The chart for the location of cross-slope drainage features was modified to include a variety of soils rather than a single soil. Clarification was added in regard to references to supporting practices. Critical Area Planting (342) is now included in this standard and is not a separate practice.

Composting Facility (317):

The entire standard was revised in order to closer align with the national standard. Extraneous requirements from previous editions of the standard were removed. Additional information for permitting, separation distances, and off-farm disposition were added. Additional criteria for manufactured facilities was also added.

Grassed Waterway (412):

The definition and purposes were revised. The criteria was modified to allow the use of state planting guides. Clarification was added in regard to references to supporting practices. Critical Area Planting (342) is now included in this standard and is not a separate practice.

Spring Development (574):

The standard was revised as a result of a comprehensive review by NRCS biologist and hydrologist from differing arid and humid U.S. regions. The new purpose statement no longer includes the wording “other agricultural uses”. Readability and flow of material is enhanced by using multiple sections with headings as opposed to the old format of a lengthy running text.

Sprinkler System (442):

The name was changed from “Irrigation System, Sprinkler” to “Sprinkler System” to make the standard more applicable to other conservation measures that use sprinklers as part of the solution (i.e., dust control). Other changes include shortening the section on center pivots and adding criteria for purposes other than irrigation. Criteria was added to require an Irrigation Water Management Plan when used for irrigation. Criteria was added to require a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan when used for waste water distribution.