



**North Carolina Field Office Technical Guide, Notice 15-03
FOTG-450**

PURPOSE

This notice transmits the latest updates to the North Carolina Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Instructions to users and explanation of 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.

UPDATES IN SECTION I - General References

Cost Data

Practice payment schedule scenario descriptions used for federal Fiscal Year 2016 EQIP contracts have been added in the Practice Payment Schedules folder. Full descriptions of typical practice scenarios as well as the cost of equipment, material, labor and foregone income (if applicable) to implement the scenarios are included in this section of the FOTG. These typical practice scenarios have been developed to meet EQIP requirements, approved for use in the Appalachian Cost Region, and selected for use in North Carolina program offering. The conservation practices that have scenario costs included in this section are listed on Attachment A.

Reference Lists, Technical Notes

The following have been added in the Technical Notes folder designated:

Agronomy

- National Agronomy Tech Note 5, Amend. 1, Feb. 2014
Pest Management in the Conservation Planning Process
- National Agronomy Tech. Note 9, Feb. 2014
Preventing or Mitigating Potential Negative Impacts of Pesticides on Pollinators Using Integrated Pest Management and Other Conservation Practices

(List continues on next page.)

Pasture and Forages

- North Carolina Forage and Pasture Tech. Note 5
Indicators of Pasture Condition Characteristics
- North Carolina Tech. Note 6
Calendar of Timely Reminders for Managing Forages and Pasture for Livestock

UPDATES IN SECTION II – Natural Resources Information

The following have been added in this section:

Pasture and Forage Assessment Techniques

Pastured Livestock Feeding Site Assessment

- *NC Feeding Site Assessment Tool, ver. 7*

Pasture Condition Scorecard

- *Pasture Condition Scorecard (PCS) assessment tool, Dec. 2015*

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Procedures (WHEP)

The state's habitat assessment tool has been updated to include criteria for cut-over pine dominated forest sites; and it has been re-located from Section I.

- *North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Procedure (WHEP), Dec. 2015*

Cultural Resources Information

The Cultural Resources Undertakings List, dated Dec. 2015, has been revised to correct practice names, add new conservation practices, and remove obsolete conservation practices.

UPDATES IN SECTION III – Conservation Management Systems

The following revisions have been made to this section:

Planning Criteria for RMS

Restoration of missing file, *National and State Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria (Oct. 2013)* that was previously issued on NC FOTG Notice 13-02.

Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) Technical Criteria

Technical criteria for Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) contracted during Fiscal Year 2016 EQIP sign-up have been added to this section. A detailed list of the items added is attached, as Attachment B.

UPDATES IN SECTION IV – Practice Standards and Specifications

Conservation Practice Index

- A *Conservation Practice Index* revision dated December, 2015 replaces the previous edition. The *Conservation Practice Index* is filed at the front of Section IV.
- Cultural Resource Undertaking Group Numbers have been added to the right-hand column of the *Conservation Practice Index* to improve planner's access to this information.

Conservation Practice Standards

State supplements to conservation practices, specifications, implementation requirements, and jobsheets have been added to the FOTG, Section IV according to Table 1 (below). 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 Attachment C.

Table 1. Conservation Practice Standards, Specifications, Implementation Requirements (IR), and Jobsheets Added.

Code	Practice Name	Item	Revision Date
472	Access Control	Jobsheet only	12/15
314	Brush Management	Standard	12/15
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	Standard	12/15
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops	Standard IR	12/15 12/15
382	Fence	Standard Specifications	12/15 12/15
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	Standard	12/15
315	Herbaceous Weed Control	Standard	12/15
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	Standard	12/15
484	Mulching	Standard IR	12/15 12/15
582	Open Channel	Standard	12/15
442	Sprinkler System	Standard	12/15
607	Surface Drain, Field Ditch	Standard	12/15
608	Surface Drain, Main or Lateral	Standard	12/15
614	Watering Facility	Standard	12/15

Remove and archive the following existing conservation practice standards:

Table 2. Conservation Practice Standards, Specifications, Implementation Requirements (IR), and Jobsheets Removed.

Code	Practice Name	Item	Version Dated
472	Access Control	Jobsheet	10/11
314	Brush Management	Standard	09/10
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	Standard	10/11
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops	Standard Jobsheet	10/11 07/12
382	Fence	Standard Specifications	04/12 02/08
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	Standard	04/11
315	Herbaceous Weed Control	Standard	09/10
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	Standard	10/11
484	Mulching	Standard Jobsheet	01/13 07/14
582	Open Channel	Standard	01/89
442	Sprinkler System	Standard	07/14
607	Surface Drain, Field Ditch	Standard	05/10
608	Surface Drain, Main or Lateral	Standard	05/10
614	Watering Facility	Standard	04/12

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

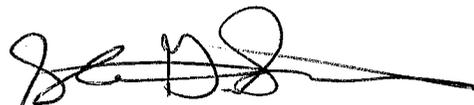
UPDATES IN SECTION V – Conservation Effects

The NC Conservation Practice Physical Effects table has been replaced with the following:

- North Carolina FY 2016 CPPE, Dec. 2015

The National CPPE values for 2016 were adopted for the state without revision.


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

Code	Title
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
104	Nutrient Management Plan
106	Forest Management Plan
108	Feed Management Plan
110	Grazing Management Plan
112	Prescribed Burning Plan
114	Integrated Pest Management Plan
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan
128	Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP)
130	Drainage Water Management Plan
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
142	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management 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
325	High Tunnel System
327	Conservation Cover
338	Prescribed Burning
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting
319	Agricultural Secondary Containment Facility
345	Residue & Tillage Mgt., Reduced Tillage
351	Water Well Decommissioning
355	Well Water Testing
360	Waste Facility Closure
362	Diversion
367	Roofs and Covers
374	Farmstead Energy Improvement
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
396	Aquatic Organism Passage
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
412	Grassed Waterway
430	Irrigation Pipeline
436	Irrigation Reservoir
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation
442	Sprinkler System

449	Irrigation Water Management
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet
472	Access Control
484	Mulching
490	Tree & Shrub Site Preparation
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
572	Spoil Spreading
574	Spring Development
575	Trails and Walkways
578	Stream Crossing
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Est.
381	Silvopasture
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 & Sediment Control Basin
642	Water Well
643	Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
647	Early Successional Habitat Development and Management
422	Hedgerow Planting
654	Road / Trail / Landing Closure and Treatment
655	Forest Trails and Landings
657	Wetland Restoration
666	Forest Stand Improvement
670	Lighting System Improvement
672	Building Envelope Improvement

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

Code	Title	Revision Date
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Criteria	September 2015
104	Nutrient Management Plan Criteria	August 2015
106	Forest Management Plan Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP 106 Checklist • Joint CAP 106, Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship Plan Template • Guide for Foresters on Using Joint Management Template • Guide for Landowners on Understanding Joint Management Template 	November 2014
108	Feed Management Plan Criteria	August 2012
110	Grazing Management Plan Criteria	August 2012
112	Prescribed Burning Plan Criteria	June 2013
114	Integrated Pest Management Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Pest Management Plan Template 	April 2013 August 2012
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP 118 Plan Checklist 	August 2012 September 2015
128	Agricultural Energy Management Plan Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP 128 Plan Checklist 	August 2014 September 2015
130	Drainage Water Management Plan Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP 130 Plan Checklist 	October 2014 September 2015
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP 138 Supplements (plan template) 	September 2014
142	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan Criteria	August 2012
146	Pollinator Habitat Plan Criteria	August 2012
154	IPM Herbicide Resistant Weed Conservation Plan Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAP 154 Plan Template 	August 2012

Attachment C**Summary of Significant Changes for Conservation Practice Standards**

Access Control (Code 472) - The practice jobsheet was updated to align better with the standard and provide planners with greater ease to provide detailed specifications.

Brush Management (Code 314) – A purpose and criteria to address control of pervasive plant species have been added, as instructed by Oct. 19, 2015 memo from the Director of Ecological Sciences Division.

Channel Bed Stabilization (Code 584) - Provides clarification regarding the conditions where the practice applies, general criteria, considerations, and technical references.

Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops (Code 331) - The practice name has been changed from “Contour Orchard and Other Fruit Areas”. Reduction in transport of sediment and other associated contaminant has been added as a purpose. Several statements in the criteria that are not applicable to this conservation practice have been removed. Requirement to specific vegetative ground cover added to requirements of “Plans and Specifications”.

Fence (Code 382) – Slight change to the standard addressing wildlife concerns. Major changes were made to the Materials and Specifications. Brace and post spacing and construction were changed, fencing materials were added and removed, details about electrification were modified, and references to specific brand names of materials were removed. Fence purpose terminology was modified to reference animal behavior.

Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561) – The “Unit” for this practice has been changed from acres to square feet. The definition and purpose were changed slightly. Criteria for surface treatments were revised. A statement concerning the use of the NC Feeding Site Assessment Tool, a statement that refers the user to Midwest Plan Service for space requirements for confined animal operations, and new Recommended Minimum Sizing tables were added to “Considerations”.

Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315) – A purpose and criteria to address control of pervasive plant species have been added, as instructed by Oct. 19, 2015 memo from the Director of Ecological Sciences Division.

Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Code 441) - The purpose of reduced energy use has been removed because energy conservation is not a primary purpose of planning a microirrigation system. There are some minor editing changes.

Mulching (Code 484) – The purposes to “moderate soil temperature” and “suppress weeds” have been removed because those do not address a resource concern within the NRCS planning framework. “Conditions Where Practice Applies” have been revised to remove this practice’s use for weed control for production agriculture.

Open Channel (Code 582) - The practice definition has been revised, criteria have been modified, requirements for plans and specifications have been updated, and requirements for operation and maintenance have been updated.

Sprinkler System (Code 442) – Added, “in absence of manufacturer’s recommendations for pressure regulator operation, ensure line pressure upstream of regulators is at least 5 psi above rated regulator pressure”. Some minor editing changes have also been made.

Surface Drain, Field Ditch (Code 607) – The definition has been revised for clarity. A Purpose and Criteria have been added to allow use of this practice to collect irrigation tailwater for reuse.

Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (Code 608) – Reference to the ambiguous phrase ‘water management system’ has been removed from the purpose to improve clarity. Criteria have been added allowing the use of this practice as a component to collect irrigation tailwater, for use in a Tailwater Recovery System, (Code 447) along with a reference to the two-stage channel design process in NRCS National Engineering Handbook, Part 654.1005 in areas where increased channel stability is required.

Watering Facility (Code 614) – The practice definition and purpose have been revised. Criteria for watering ramps has been added. Emphasis has been added on water storage tanks. The lifespan has been changed from 20 years to 10 years.