

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

SUBJECT: ENG – Variance Request, Practice Standard 561,
Heavy Use Area Protection, North Dakota

TO: Dennis Reep, P.E.
State Conservation Engineer
Bismarck, North Dakota

File Code: 210

Your email request of April 25, 2012, for a variance from the National Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Code 561, Heavy Use Area Protection, to install fabricated wind breaks using North Dakota Conservation Job Sheets 25, 26 and 27 is approved. This approval is based on North Dakota's successful experience in installing this practice under the conservation practice, Fence (CPS Code 382).

The Heavy Use Area Protection national CPS was released in January, 2010. On October 13, 2011, North Dakota along with Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming were issued a variance to expand the PURPOSE section in their CPS 561 to specifically accommodate fabricated livestock shelters. When CPS was issued, we were unaware of this need. We want to ensure that our standards provide the optimal balance between meeting site-specific conservation needs and minimizing risks of design failure and associated costs of construction and installation.

Currently, Glenn Carpenter, National Leader Animal Husbandry, is forming a team to develop a new CPS for the purpose of animal health which will include technologies such as livestock wind structures and livestock shade structures. Please volunteer as a team member to assist in the CPS development.

Variations have the same requirements for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting as an interim standard (see GM_450_Part_401.16_D). This variance shall remain in effect until the national standard is revised or monitoring in the state indicates the need for the variance is no longer needed.

We appreciate your efforts to ensure that appropriate procedures and policies are followed for implementing conservation practices in North Dakota. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the National Agricultural Engineer at (202) 720-5023.



NOLLER P. HERBERT, P.E.
Director
Conservation Engineering Division

cc:
Mary Podoll, State Conservationist, NRCS Bismarck, ND
Wayne M. Bogovich, P.E., National Agricultural Engineer, CED, NRCS, Washington, D.C.
Glenn Carpenter, National Leader Animal Husbandry, NRCS, Washington, DC

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