

# Instructions

## **Agronomic/Vegetative Practices JAA** **NE-CPA-90**

### Instructions for use of NE-CPA-90

Agronomic/Vegetative Job Approval Authorities were established for Nebraska in October 2001. The NE-CPA-90, Agronomic/Vegetative Job Approval Authority, form has been streamlined, in November 2011, to save time in keeping this form up to date. There are now only three levels of certification. The District Conservationist can serve as the Approver for practices where they have equivalent or higher Job Approval Authority than the planner. If the District Conservationist doesn't have the necessary JAA to approve certain practices, then the JAA needs to be reviewed and approved by the Area Resource Conservationist or the State Conservation Planning Specialist.

The agronomic job approval authorities are similar to engineering practice job approval authorities that have been in place for many years. They establish an employee's approval level for planning, design, and implementation for practices used in conservation planning and application.

- ✦ **Planning (Inventory & Evaluation)** – Individual has thorough knowledge of the conservation practice standards, its application and the purpose for which JAA is given. Planning policy guidance is provided in 180-GM, Part 409. The development of a Resource Management System (RMS) plan, or progressive plans, will be the basis for the application of all conservation treatments as outlined in the National Planning Procedures Handbook. Planning shall not proceed to application until a review is made by the individual(s) having appropriate JAA for agronomic and engineering practices. The skill level limit will be assigned to an employee on the basis of demonstrated planning and/or application skills for conservation practices included in the resource management system. **Inventory and evaluation** allow individual to utilize and determine when and where a practice is appropriate in conservation plans.
- ✦ **Design** - Involves approval of designs and associated specifications for site-specific practices which meet both NRCS practice standards and the objectives of the selected resource management system. The design/specifications shall include the preparation of site-specific operation and maintenance plans and/or inspection reports where appropriate. **Design means** that the individual is proficient in developing Job Sheets and Individualized Site Specifications and has adequate past experience demonstrating this proficiency.
- ✦ **Implementation** - Ability to assist with the installation and inspection of a practice and authority to accept the job as having been properly installed according to the design and specifications. Also includes the ability to recognize unforeseen site-specific conditions requiring design or specification adjustments during installation. **Implementation** includes all responsibilities of verifying that the practice is installed according to specifications and certification of the practice and individual has adequate past experience demonstrating this proficiency.

Technical approval authority (Engineering JAA, Agronomic/Vegetative JAA, conservation planning certification, wetland, prescribed burning, CNMP, Nutrient/Pest etc.) is part of the overall NRCS QAR process. Technical approval authority ensures both proficiency and quality during the planning, design and installation of conservation practices as part of a resource management system.

The primary purposes for JAA assignment to NRCS personnel and others providing technical assistance from NRCS field offices (i.e., NRD employees, TSP Biologists, TSP Foresters, TSP Agronomist, etc.) includes:

- 180-GM, Part 409.03(b) requires the state conservationist to ensure all employees providing conservation planning assistance complete required training and meet minimum practice approval requirements.
- Provide a basis to identify training including OJT to incorporate into an employees IDP.
- Ensure that personnel are used efficiently by delegating, to the qualified person who is nearest to the job, authority to approve the work.
- Communicate the extent of technical authorities, and responsibilities associated with planning and application of conservation practices.
- Provide conservation practices that, with proper operation and maintenance, will support the implementation of a resource management system and perform intended functions for the planned life of the practice.
- Ensure technical work complies with established practice standards, as well as applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and codes.

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- NRCS employees, and others receiving technical supervision from NRCS, are to be evaluated and assigned an appropriate level of technical approval authority based on their knowledge, skills and ability.

#### **Classification of Conservation Practices for Cultural Resources Review**

A symbol indicates if application of the practice must be reviewed (+), generally is not reviewed (-), or if limited aspects of it are to be reviewed (✓) for purposes of complying with requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. Practices are classified; specifications are not classified.

If a practice listed in the standards and specifications is not listed here, the Cultural Resources Specialist (CRS) should be contacted for guidance about whether or not installation of the practice should be reviewed regarding potential effects on cultural resources.

The CRS should be contacted during planning to assist in determining if a cultural resources review may be necessary for any listed practice whenever unusual site conditions not covered by standards and specifications occur, or special designs and (or) specifications are needed.

## **Support References**

Field Office Technical Guide (e-FOTG), Section IV, Conservation Practice Standard – Table of Contents, [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/Sect4\\_TOC\\_Practice\\_Standards\\_and\\_Specifications.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/NE/Sect4_TOC_Practice_Standards_and_Specifications.pdf)

If you have any questions, please contact your local Area Resource Specialist.

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