



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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September 30, 2009

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 607

This notice transmits updates to Section IV – Conservation Practices in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

SECTION IV UPDATES INCLUDE:

Cover Crop (340) Standard

The Cover Crop Standard was updated and revised to support EQIP Cover Crop initiative as well as CSP Cover Crop Enhancements. Primary changes were to the considerations section and the revision and update of the associated tables. Associated with the update of the standard is the release of a new Cover Crop Worksheet (NE-CPA-7).

Residue Management (344) Standard

Substantial changes have been made to this standard. One new purpose was added to address soil condition. Under the “General Criteria” (1) the option to burn residue was removed, as burning residue is not compatible with the purposes of the practice and (2) tillage operations permitted during the residue management period is limited to under cutting tools. The tillage criteria were removed from the “Criteria to Reduce Sheet and Rill and Erosion from Wind” and “Criteria to Provide Food and Escape Cover for Wildlife” sections of the standard. Criteria were added to the “Additional Criteria to Improve Soil Condition”. Under the “Criteria to Manage Snow to Increase Plant-Available Moisture”: (1) the criteria for harvesting equipment stubble height was removed since this is covered in the trapping snow criteria and (2) the tillage and field operations criteria was revised to be done perpendicular to the direction of the prevailing winds. The “Considerations” section was revised to include PM-10, soil organisms, and cover crops.

Fence (382) Standard

Criteria were added to address fence construction that is conducive to allow for safe passage of big game species. These criteria do not necessarily apply to all fences but do apply to those whereby wildlife is an objective of the conservation plan as determined by the cooperators and/or the conservation program used. Considerations pertaining to wildlife were also added. Criteria was added for considerations for Organic Transition-Livestock Fence: avoid using treated lumber in the construction of the fence. Wood fence posts and braces shall be osage orange (Bois d’Arc), Black or Honey Locust, mulberry, pressure treated pine. Juniper, or red cedar or other wood when treating with a preservative is restricted and would have an impact on organic certification.

Field Border (386) Standard

Changes were made throughout the standard. The condition where the practice applies has been revised to better define the perimeter and field edges where field borders apply. Additional criteria have been added for all purposes to better meet the intended purposes of the practice.



Field Border (386DP) Design Procedures

The previous Specification for bobwhite quail was replaced with a Design Procedures format. Content was slightly modified by the addition of more details pertaining to installation and management of shrub thickets.

Stripcropping (585) Standard

The "General Criteria" section has been revised to require: (1) equal strip widths for erosion susceptible strips and erosion resistant strips; (2) that at least 50 percent of the rotation shall consist of erosion resistant crops or sediment trapping cover; and (3) that the same rotation shall be followed in each adjacent strip while the year of the rotation is staggered to maintain alternating strips in an erosion resistant crop or cover. Under the "Additional Criteria for Soil Erosion by Water ..." section, criteria for maximum row grade has been modified to be the same as the Contouring Standard (330), and criteria was added for cover conditions on the field headlands/end rows. The "Considerations" section of the standard was revised to remove the specific considerations for each of the practice purposes. The "Operations and Maintenance" section of the standard was revised to remove the specific operation and maintenance for each purpose and combined into one common list of activities for operation and maintenance.

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645DP) Design Procedures

This new Design Procedures for Upland Wildlife Habitat Management is intended to address herbaceous seedings designed and implemented to benefit upland game birds. The parameters outlined are very similar to what is used for CRP CP-38 (SAFE) plantings in Nebraska.

The Specification for food plots was removed. It has been replaced with a more detailed Planning Sheet (21) that contains essentially the same information that was previously located in the Specification.

If you have any questions concerning (340) Cover Crop; (344) Residue Management ; (382) Fence – standard and specifications, please contact Catherine-Jo W Mills, State Conservation Planning Specialist, at (402) 437-4039 or by e-mail at Catherine.mills@ne.usda.gov; or Corey Brubaker, State Conservation Agronomist, at (402) 437-4164 or by e-mail at corey.brubaker@ne.usda.gov.

If you have any questions concerning (585) Stripcropping contact Doug Garrison, Resource Specialist, at (402) 643-4586 Ext. 115 or or by e-mail at doug.garrison@ne.usda.gov; or Corey Brubaker, State Conservation Agronomist, at (402) 437-4164 or by e-mail at corey.brubaker@ne.usda.gov.

If you have any questions concerning (382) Fence – wildlife criteria; (386) Field Border – including 386DP; or (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – Upland Game Bird DP, please contact Ritch Nelson, State Wildlife Biologist, at (402) 437-4100 or by e-mail at ritch.nelson@ne.usda.gov.

Note: The State Office will archive a hard copy of all materials and copies of electronic files of materials removed on the Nebraska eFOTG site under Section IV, Archive, Conservation Practices. If Field Offices wish to maintain an archived hard copy, of the above referenced standards as a reference, they may do so.

Changes for all field offices are noted by "**ALL COUNTIES**" and should be made in all Field Office Technical Guides.

REMOVE AND RECYCLE	INSERT
ALL COUNTIES	ALL COUNTIES
Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Table of Contents T.G. Notice 605 August 2009	Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Table of Contents T.G. Notice 607 SEPTEMBER 2009
Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Cover Crop (340) Standard T.G. Notice 590 September 2007	Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Cover Crop (340) Standard T.G. Notice 607 SEPTEMBER 2009
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Section IV- Practice Standards and Specifications Upland Wildlife Habitat Management Wildlife Food Plot (S645a) T.G. Notice 540 JULY 2003	Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645DP) Design Procedure T.G. Notice 607 SEPTEMBER 2009

/s/ Stephen K. Chick

STEPHEN K. CHICK
State Conservationist