



Nebraska State Office
Federal Building, Room 152
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508-3866

<http://www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov>

July 26, 2011

NEBRASKA TECHNICAL GUIDE (NETG) NOTICE NE-630

SECTION IV

STANDARDS:

Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328) – Two new Purposes of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying Criteria were added to (1) Supply plant produced nitrogen to reduce energy use and (2) Manage crop consumptive use of water to conserve water and reduce energy. Where the practice applies was clarified for time basis for annual produced crops. Additional Criteria were added to Improve Soil Quality. The crops grown shall produce a positive OM (Organic Matter) subfactor value over the life of the rotation, as determined by the Soil Conditioning Index procedure, with appropriate adjustments for additions to or subtractions from biomass on the field.

Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (Code 647) – This standard definition and purpose was updated to include providing habitat for all or part of a species’ life cycle, added additional planting criteria, added a new requirement to use WinPST if using chemicals, added new criteria on the timing of management actions, and supplemented the references.

Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512) – The name was changed from Pasture and Hay Planting to Forage and Biomass Planting in recognition of similarities among plant species use for this purpose. Production of feedstock for biofuel production was added as a purpose. The practice remains applicable to all lands where appropriate, but does not include establishment of annually planted food, fiber, or oilseed crops. Additional Considerations have been incorporated. Plans and Specifications now identify specific elements that are to be addressed in the plan.

Forage Harvest Management (Code 511) – Revisions are minor in nature with updated references included.

Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666) – A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” with accompanying additional Criteria was added.

Residue and Tillage Management No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (Code 329) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria was added. Additional Criteria to Reduce Sheet/Rill Erosion; Reduce Wind Erosion; and Reduce Soil Particulate Emissions were combined into one set of criteria. The Operation and Maintenance had additions to evaluate the function of the practice onsite to ensure the purpose(s) is/are achieved.

Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (Code 345) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria was added. The revision combined Additional Criteria for wind and water erosion into one set of criteria. Criteria were added to the Operation and Maintenance section of the practice to evaluate on-site performance of the practice. This will help to determine if the purpose(s) are being achieved.

Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (Code 346) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria was added. Criteria were added to the Operation and Maintenance section of the standard to evaluate the effectiveness of the practice to achieve the planned Purpose(s).

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Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344) – A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” and accompanying additional Criteria was added to provide crop residues for bioenergy feedstocks. Then additional criteria to harvest crop residues for bioenergy feedstocks for renewable energy production tied to erosion. Where Practice Applies section was revised to include all cropland where biomass is removed for bioenergy feedstocks. This allows the use of 4 this practice to remove crop residues from other residue management practices without adding specific criteria to each of those practices for biomass removal. Additional Operation and Maintenance criteria were added to evaluate the onsite application of the practice to ensure the planned purposes are achieved.

Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391) – The term “pollinator” was added to additional criteria to create or improve riparian habitat, and additional considerations discuss species diversity and species tolerance to herbicide leakage.

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390) – This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The public comments lacked technical merit. The date of the standard was changed.

Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) – A new Purpose of “Develop Renewable Energy Systems” and accompanying additional Criteria was added.

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) – This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The public comments lacked technical merit. Pollinator criteria were added. The date of the standard was changed.

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644) – This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The public comments lacked technical merit. The date of the standard was changed.

Windbreak/Shelterbelt – Establishment (Code 380) – A new Purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria was added.

Section IV Index

DESIGN PROCEDURES (REVISED):

DP-380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
DP-390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover
DP-391 Riparian Forest Buffer
DP-612 Tree/Shrub Establishment Planting
DP-647 Early Successional Habitat Development Management
DP-666 Forest Stand Improvement
TPP-380 Tree/shrub Planting Procedures Guide

SPECIFICATIONS (REVISED):

S-512 Forage and Biomass Planting

/s/ Doug Wagner, Acting

CRAIG DICKERSON
State Conservationist

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