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December 13, 2012

NEBRASKA TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE (NETGN) NOTICE NE- 641

SECTION III – Updates to Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) include:

RESOURCE CONCERN LIST –

The restructured list of resource concerns and the planning criteria is effective October 1, 2012. This bulletin provides guidance on updating section III of the FOTG with the restructured resource concern list and planning criteria. Support documents, such as resource concern checklist and Conservation Practice Physical Effects components, are available on the [CDSI Readiness SharePoint Site](#) under the “Resource Concern” tab.

The resource concerns will be integrated in Conservation Desktop deployment for fiscal year (FY) 2013 and incorporated in the National Planning Procedures Handbook to be released from the Deputy Chief of Programs.

Per National Bulletin 450-12-5, States will continue to use the legacy list of resource concerns for program application ranking in the ProTracts Application Evaluation and Ranking tool (AERT) during this transition year to the new concerns. Guidance on linking or cross-walking between the new restructured resource concerns with the legacy list of resource concerns is being provided to States to assist in the transition. Documents to support the transition are available on the [CDSI Readiness SharePoint Site](#) under the “Resource Concern” tab.

States are directed to replace the existing copy of the “National and State Resource Concern and Quality Criteria” with the “National and State Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria” in section III of the FOTG under the folder “Resource Quality Criteria for RMS.”

FISCAL YEAR 2013 CONSERVATION ACTIVITY PLANS –

The key changes for FY 2013 include the following:

- Some CAPs include a “Plan Template” in addition to the existing CAP criteria document. The templates were updated to provide a more direct outline of the essential information that is to be included in the plan and provide better documentation for the NRCS field office. The following CAPs are supported with “Plan Templates” for FY 2013:
 - o 106 Forest Management Plan
 - o 114 Integrated Pest Management Plan
 - o 124 Landscape Agricultural Energy Management Plan
 - o 134 Transitions from Irrigation to Dry Land Plan
 - o 138 Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition (Cropland and Grazing templates)
- The 138 Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition and 106 Forest Management Plan templates were developed as fillable forms with drop-down lists, where needed, as an additional feature to assist TSPs.
- As in 2012, the criteria for TSPs to complete portions of Form CPA-52, “NRCS Environmental Evaluation Worksheet” are eliminated. Qualified NRCS staff must complete the entire CPA-52 for CAPs. The TSP proficiencies in TechReg were revised in 2010 to reflect this change. This change in requirement for completion of the CPA-52 should encourage more

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TSPs to seek certification to complete CAPs. This places responsibility for the CPA-52 solely with NRCS.

- CAP 122, Headquarters Agricultural Energy Management Plan, has additional tables added to document the energy audit and display energy and air quality benefits. This table or a similar table with the same information is to be used in the delivered plan.
- Some CAPs have revised criteria to be more focused on the subject of the CAP.
- The option to use the Conservation Plug-in is eliminated as that software is no longer supported by NRCS.

If you have any questions, please contact Shaun Vickers, SRC, at (402) 437.4102 or by email at shaun.vickers@ne.usda.gov. If you have questions or concerns with the CAP's please contact Renee Hancock, WQS, at (402) 437.4064 or by email at renee.hancock@ne.usda.gov.

/s/ Craig Derickson

CRAIG DERICKSON
State Conservationist

If you keep paper copies of the Table of Contents, use the following instructions below.

| REMOVE AND RECYCLE | INSERT |
|---|---|
| ALL COUNTIES | ALL COUNTIES |
| Section III – Conservation Management Systems Table of Contents T.G. Notice 617 SEPTEMBER 2010 | Section III – CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS Table of Contents T.G. Notice 641 DECEMBER 2012 |
| ALL COUNTIES | ALL COUNTIES |
| Section III – Resource Quality Criteria Table 1 Quality Criteria (Green Tabs) – Soil, Water, Air, Plants and Animals T.G. Notice 559 APRIL 2005 | NONE |
| ALL COUNTIES | ALL COUNTIES |
| NONE | Section III – RESOURCE QUALITY CRITERIA Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria for Conservation Planning T.G. Notice 641 DECEMBER 2012 |
| ALL COUNTIES | ALL COUNTIES |
| Section III – Conservation Activity Plan Technical Criteria FY2012 Criteria for CAPS DECEMER 2011 | Section III – CONSERVATION ACTIVITY PLAN TECHNICAL CRITERIA FY2012 Criteria for CAPS (please go to eFOTG for links to each CAP) T.G. Notice 641 DECEMER 2012 |