United States Department of Agriculture

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

NHCP–1AF

# NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES
# 450 – VI
# NOTICE 132

**Purpose.** This notice transmits new or revised conservation practice standards for insertion into the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes are included for clarification.

**Effective Date.** This notice is effective upon receipt.

**Explanation.**

New or revised Standards:

**Anaerobic Digester, Ambient Temperature (365) –** This is a new standard that provides guidance for ambient temperature digesters (digesters with temperatures that fluctuate with the local climate) with an influent waste of less than two percent. It replaces the standard guidance for Covered Anaerobic Lagoons that was included in Appendix F of the AgStar Handbook.

**Anaerobic Digester, Controlled Temperature (366) –** This new standard provides guidance for digesters that have heat added to maintain a mesophilic, or "middle" temperature, generally 95°F to 103°F. It provides criteria for three types of digesters: plug flow; complete mix; and fixed film. This standard also provides the opportunity to use alternative types of digesters based on the documented design and performance that is certified by a registered professional engineer licensed in the state of the proposed installation. This new standard combines information formerly found in standard guidance for Complete Mix and Plug Flow Digesters that was included in Appendix F of the AgStar Handbook.

**Atmospheric Resources Quality Management (370) –** This is a new standard which is a combination of treatments to manage resources that maintains or improves atmospheric quality. It can be used when an air quality issue is being addressed for which no standard presently exists. It will address any combination of the following atmospheric resource issues: particulate matter emissions, smoke, odor, greenhouse gases, ozone, and chemical drift. Accomplishments are measured in the appropriate unit depending on the technology used and associated emissions reduction.

– MORE –

DIST: NHCP

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

**Feed Management (592)** – This is a new standard. The conservation practice standard for feed management was developed to provide technical guidance for developing and implementing feed management strategies on animal feeding operations (AFOs) or confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

**Fish Raceway or Tank (398)** – This revised practice standard was updated to meet new formatting standards. Technical modifications were incorporated as needed and included the following: Minimum flow and minimum depth specifications were removed from "Water Requirements". The pH parameter was added to the footnote in TABLE 1. Metric references were removed from the practice standard. "Width" was added to the "Criteria for Linear Channel Raceways". Additional criteria under "Screens" (Criteria for Linear Channel Raceways) have been added.

**Land Clearing (460)** – This standard has been updated to current format and technology. Criteria have been added for each purpose. Several additional considerations have been added.

**Manure Transfer (634)** – This revised practice standard was updated to meet new formatting standards. Technical modifications were incorporated as needed to include all farm transfers of manure.

**Monitoring Well (353)** – This new standard applies to the investigation, layout, design, materials, installation, and development of monitoring wells for sampling ground water from the vadose zone and/or the aquifer beneath or adjacent to a waste storage facility in order to detect and monitor seepage of agricultural wastes from waste storage facilities.

**Pasture and Hay Planting (512)** – The Pasture and Hay Planting standard was reviewed and updated to current technology. The revised standard now includes carbon sequestration as a purpose.

**Sediment Basin (350)** – This standard has been updated to current format and technology. Only minor changes have been made to the text of the standard.

**Spoil Spreading (572)** – This standard has been updated to the current format. Only minor editorial changes have been made to the text of the standard.

**Subsurface Drain (606)** – This conservation practice standard was revised to add clarification and references for key aspects of the criteria. Considerations in the application of the standard were significantly expanded.

**Waste Facility Cover (367)** – This is a new standard that provides guidance not only for use of a cover as part of a digester, but also for covering other waste storage or treatment facilities for other purposes such as biological treatment of gaseous emission, rainfall exclusion, etc.

**Water Harvesting Catchment (636)** – The purpose components were clarified and expanded. Changes and additions were also made to the considerations as well as to the operation and maintenance section.

– MORE –

**The following standard is being withdrawn:**

**Pumped Well Drain (532)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn because of a lack of use.

**Instructions.**

Replace the Contents pages i through vi in the NHCP with the attached revised Contents pages dated September 2003.

Insert the new or revised standards in the NHCP in alphabetical order as designated on the revised Contents pages.

Remove and archive, as appropriate, the practice standards for: Fish Raceway or Tank dated 6/84; Land Clearing dated 10/77; Manure Transfer dated 7/97; Pasture and Hayland Planting dated 4/95; Pumped Well Drain dated 10/77; Sediment Basin dated 10/78; Spoil Spreading dated 10/80; Subsurface Drain dated 5/88; and Water Harvesting Catchment dated 10/78.

Copies of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all State offices (or equivalent), Regional Offices, Centers, and Institutes. Additional copies may be obtained by ordering NHCP-1AF from the GSA National Forms and Publications Center, 7CPN, Warehouse 4, Dock 1, 501 West Felix Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76115, using GSA Form 49.

This notice and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice can be accessed electronically. Access can be through either the NRCS homepage on the World Wide Web at http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice_stds.html or from the FTP server in Fort Worth, Texas.

***Federal Register* Notices.**

The National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee (NCPSS) published notice of intent to revise or adopt these standards in the *Federal Register*. Comments were accepted for 30 days. Guidance to the States for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State technical guides can be found in 450 – GM, Section 401.19.

RONALD L. MARLOW ACTING FOR
Director
Conservation Engineering Division

DIANE E. GELBURD
Director
Ecological Sciences Division

Attachments