

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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December 17, 2002

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE #304

SUBJECT: OHIO FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE

Purpose. To transmit information on new material on the Ohio e-FOTG.

Expiration Date. This notice expires when the contents have been reviewed and the Soil Condition Index EXCEL spreadsheet is filed on the computers of all personnel doing conservation planning. This must be accomplished prior to December 31, 2002.

Additional Information.

**THIS TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE WILL NOT BE MAILED. THIS ELECTRONIC VERSION WILL BE YOUR ONLY COPY.**

**E FOTG Section I Additions:**

The soil condition index spreadsheet and soil condition index user guide have been added to Section I, D. Assessments. The soil condition index is referenced in the quality criteria for several conservation practice standards and in our quality criteria in Section III. The soil condition index is a calculation that evaluates a cropping system to determine if soil organic matter is on an upward trend or downward trend. The index evaluates soil type, crops, field operation, and erosion rate. All personnel involved with conservation planning must become proficient in the use of this tool. By using the user guide, one should be able to acquire the skill to use the spreadsheet. Additional training can be provided at area meetings if needed. Per National Bulletin 450-3-1 dated November 13, 2002, this must be loaded on field office computers no later than December 31, 2002. District conservationists are responsible for downloading this spreadsheet from the Ohio e-FOTG onto the field office computers. It is a critical tool for planning. This spreadsheet does not require any administrative privileges to install - it is a standard .xls file.

**e-FOTG Section V Additions:**

A procedural reference for case studies has been added to Section V, C. Methods and Procedures. This document provides methods and procedures for developing and using case studies to evaluate the effects and impacts of applied conservation systems. It is an updated document from the old paper copy of the FOTG.

In Section V, D. Case Studies, ten (10) case studies involving cropland and pasture systems from around Ohio have been added. These case studies are electronic versions of the old paper copy of the FOTG.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Brown".

KEVIN BROWN  
State Conservationist

Enclosures

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