United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

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TCH - TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 1 January 27, 1992

All Holders of the Field Office Technical Guide, SCS, Pennsylvania 450-11

Purpose: To distribute the Soil and Water Technical Guide for Pennsylvania

The SCS Field Office Technical Guide has been revised and renamed. The new name is the Soil and Water Technical Guide for Pennsylvania. The intent is to have one technical guide for use by SCS and our partners in conservation. The basic framework of the guide is from the SCS technical guide policy in the General Manual 450-TCH Amendment 4 (part 401). The Pennsylvania Technical Guide Committee was expanded to representatives from conservation districts, Extension Service, Penn State, PACD, and the Bureau of Soil And Water. This committee provided additional guidance in the development of the new Technical Guide.

It needs to be emphasized that the Technical Guide is a tool to assist conservationists in making planning decisions. Several sections are new and other sections will just look different because the entire Technical Guide has been desktop published.

There is a need to transfer some of the information from the old technical guide to the new technical guide. After you have had a chance to review the new technical guide, any questions should be sent to your supervisor.

Consider the following in making the transition to the Soil and Water Technical Guide for Pennsylvania.

In Section I, the reference lists are numerical and by subject. It is recommended to file the references numerically. If you need additional references holders or document protectors, request them. Cost data and erosion prediction were previously located in other sections and are now located in Section I. The maps section was produced by the Cartographic Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Suggestions for additional maps include an administrative map for the Cooperative Extension Service and a wetlands hydrology map is being prepared. If you have suggestions for additional maps, make them to your supervisor.

Section II is the same soils information but may look different because it is computer generated. The sample interpretive tables should be replaced using the soils database in CAMPS. If you do not have your soil database in CAMPS, you should retain existing interpretations.

Section III contains the conservation management systems.

Section IV will include the standards and specifications for Pennsylvania. We are in the process of revising and desktop publishing all standards and specifications. This initial distribution includes ten specifications in the new format. You should retain the old copies until you receive the revised version. Section IV needs to be divided into two sections such as A-M and N-Z.

1. Specification 398, Fish Raceway, has been dropped and should be removed.

2. Specification 462, Drainage Land Grading, should be removed and Specification 462, Precision Land Forming, should be retained.

3. Specification 633 was omitted from the Index. It should be retained and added to the Index.

4. Specification 685, Pest Management, is replaced by 595 Pest Management (Interim) and should be added to the Index.

5. Specification 585A, Strip Cropping (Buffer) is to be retained. A copy is enclosed if you did not receive this specification when previously distributed.

6. Add 425A Waste Storge Pond to your index.

The index for Section IV will be revised when we have accounted for all the Specifications.

Section V contains the conservation effects to assist in making planning decisions. Cost and economic data that used to be in this section is now in Section I.

After the technical guide has been distributed to all SCS field offices, a letter will be sent to each conservation district chairman offering a copy of the technical guide but encouraging the use of the SCS field office copy, particularly where we are colocated with the conservation district. The district conservationist will receive a copy of this letter and will be asked to localize and make copies of materials such as standards and specifications.

If you have any questions, they should be directed through your supervisor to Robert Heidecker, State Resource Conservationist at the Harrisburg State Office.

RICHARD N. DUNCAN
State Conservationist

2 Enclosures