

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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SUBJECT: Technical Guide Notice 178

DATE: December 7, 2012

TO: All Holders of the PA Technical Guide

FILE CODE: 450-11

Purpose: To transmit current conservation activity plan (CAP) criteria, deliverables and other requirements for FY 2013 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) obligations. A new folder titled 2013 Activity Plans has been created in Section III of the FOTG to contain the following CAPs:

No	Name
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
104	Nutrient Management Plan
106	Forest Management Plan
110	Grazing Management Plan
114	Integrated Pest Management Plan
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan
122	Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Headquarters
124	Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Landscape
126	Comprehensive Air Quality Management CAP
130	Drainage Water Management Plan
134	Conservation Plan Supporting Transition from Irrigation to Dryland Farming Plan
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
142	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
146	Pollinator Habitat Plan
150	Oil Spill, Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC)
154	Integrated Pest Management Herbicide Resistance Weed Conservation Plan

All prior year CAP documents have been moved to a folder titled 'pre-2013 activity plans' for reference to support prior year contracts. 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:

- 106 Forest Management Plan
- 114 Integrated Pest Management Plan
- 124 Landscape Agricultural Energy Management Plan
- 134 Transitions from Irrigation to Dry Land Plan
- 138 Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition (Cropland and Grazing templates)
- 154 Integrated Pest Management, Herbicide-Resistance Weed Plan

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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. Additional supporting guidance has also been added to each folder.

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.

The 102 CNMP Written folder contains an easier to read CAP criteria document, plus the plan writing support documents and the quality control documents all with no changes from last year.

As in 2012, the criteria for TSPs to complete portions of Form CPA-52, "NRCS Environmental Evaluation Worksheet" are eliminated. While trained TSPs are encouraged to fill out the resource concerns portion of the worksheet during the process of providing planning assistance, qualified NRCS staff must complete the rest of the CPA-52 for CAPs. The TSP proficiencies in TechReg were revised in 2010 to reflect the removal of completing the entire worksheet in order to encourage more individuals to become TSPs certified to develop CAPs. The final responsibility for the CPA-52 worksheet resides with NRCS.

Some CAPs have revised criteria to be more focused on the subject of the CAP. To maintain national consistency to support CAPs, it is critical the same criteria be used in all States. CAP criteria already includes a general requirement that all plans must comply with applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements. Additional guidance has been issued by the Programs Deputy Area to establish which CAPs will be required to be offered in States during FY 2013.

Access Instructions:

The official version of the FOTG is what appears in Pennsylvania's eFOTG.

The entire Pennsylvania eFOTG can be accessed at the following web site:

http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map=PA. You can also access the Section III Table of Contents directly at the following web address: <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/toc.aspx?CatID=12477>.



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