November 5, 2014

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NUMBER 197

Purpose. This notice transmits new or revised Conservation Practice Standards (CPSs) and supporting documents for release to Section IV of the Pennsylvania NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

Effective Date. This notice is effective upon receipt.

Explanation of Changes. Changes specific to each practice are described below. With each CPS are issued Conservation Practice Overview, new Implementation Requirements / Job Sheet, Check-Out, and Statement of Work documents. The new national term "Implementation Requirements (IR)" is referred to now in the Plans and Specifications section of the practice standard, beginning with standards under the Agronomy discipline.

Implementation Requirements provide a nationally consistent and organized way nationally to specify the requirements for installing, operating and maintaining the practice. At this time, Implementation Requirements do not exist for all practices and will likely be added as each practice standard is revised over the next 5 years. In Pennsylvania, the Implementation Requirements have been combined with existing or new Job Sheets used to document adequate check data and certify that practice installation has been completed. As a reminder, for practices with a Job Sheet, check out documents will be deleted and archived with this notice and therefore should not be used.

Contour Farming (Code 330) The agency revised the definition to emphasize proper alignments and revised the general criteria for maximum row grade to 4 percent based on RUSLE2 technology. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

Critical Area Planting (Code 342) — The agency deleted the purpose to rehabilitate and re-vegetate degraded sites that cannot be stabilized using normal establishment techniques as this purpose is implied in other purposes. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans. The Practice Guide and Construction Specification have NOT changed and should NOT be archived.

Deep Tillage (Code 324) – We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

Filter Strip (Code 393) – We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans. To effectively reduce suspended solids and associated contaminants

in runoff, filter strips will be designed following the procedures in Agronomy Tech Note No. 2 which has also been added to the practice folder for convenient access. An excel workbook adapted from a version created by Norm Widman, NRCS National Agronomist and modified by Vermont NRCS has also been added to the same folder.

Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (Code 329) The agency changed the practice name to "Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till." No-till is inclusive of direct seed and strip till. In addition, added additional criteria clarification to not allow any full width tillage for this practice, reduced the maximum soil tillage intensity rating value for no till from 30 to 20, added implementation requirements to the specifications and plans, and changed the purpose "Reduce wind erosion and particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter — PM 10.' to "Reduce tillage-induced particulate emissions" to address all sizes of tillage particulate emissions.

Residue and Tillage Management. Reduced Till (Code 345) — The agency incorporated "346 Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till" into this standard; changed the name from Residue and Tillage Management. Mulch Till: added criteria to establish a maximum soil tillage intensity value of 80; clarified the air quality purpose to reduce tillage-induced particulate emissions vs. only PM- 10 emissions; revised the criteria for energy savings to a 25-percent reduction from the current baseline; and added implementation requirements to the specifications and plans.

Residue and Tillage Management Ridge Till (Code 346) — The agency deleted this practice and incorporated this standard into "Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Code 345)."

Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344) — The agency deleted this practice.

Stripcropping (Code 585) — The agency revised the definition to stress alternating strips of erosion susceptible crops and revised the wind erosion I3UIPOSC to reduce wind erosion and associated transport of sediment and other wind borne contaminants. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

Remove and archive, as appropriate, the following existing practice standards and all supporting documents under the same code EXCEPT for the 2 unchanged documents for the Critical Area Planting practice (Code342).
Contour Farming (Code 330), dated November 2009
Critical Area Planting (Code 342), dated July 2012
Deep Tillage (Code 324), dated November 2009
Filter Strip (Code 393), dated November 2013
Residue and Tillage Management. No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (Code 329), dated October 2011
Residue and Tillage Management. Mulch Till (Code 345). dated October 2011

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Residue and Tillage Management. Ridge Till (Code 346). dated October 2011
Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344), dated October 2011
Stripcropping (Code 585), dated November 2009

Access Instructions. The entire Pennsylvania Field Office Technical Guide can be accessed at the following website: http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/

You may also access Section IV Table of Contents directly at the following we address: http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/toc.aspx?CatID=12487

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