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**SUBJECT: VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE – SECTION IV –
Virginia Conservation Practice Standard**

Purpose: This notice transmits Virginia Conservation Practice Standards.

Effective Date: Upon receipt.

Explanation of Changes. Revised Virginia Conservation Practice Standards as follows:

Aquatic Organism Passage (396): The title was changed from “Fish Passage”. Two new Criteria were added.

Critical Area Planting (342): A new purpose was added to stabilize stream and channel banks and shorelines. Additional Criteria was provided to establish cover on the stream banks and shorelines. In addition, seeding and planting considerations were added to address pollinators and wildlife.

Feed Management (592): The units changed to Animal Units (AUs). The Purpose changed to include pathogen, odor, particulate matter, and greenhouse gas mitigation. Additions to Conditions Where Practice Applies, Criteria, Considerations, Operation and Maintenance, and References were made to support the change in Purpose.

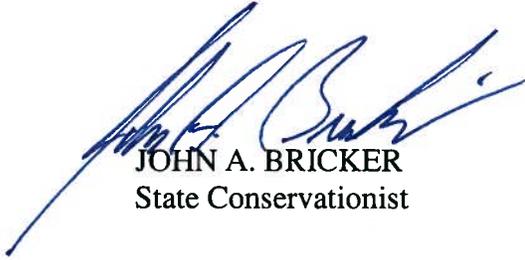
Forest Trails and Landings (655): The standard is being reissued to highlight Feet as the primary unit, with Acres as an alternate unit.

Nutrient Management (590): Obtaining and implementing a nutrient management plan (NMP) prepared by a DCR-certified writer remains the most important requirement of the VA 590. The general criteria were revised to emphasize that nutrient management plan (NMP) contents must match NRCS conservation plan contents with respect to crop rotation, tillage methods, animal numbers, manure generation quantities. The VA 590 general criteria now also contain the following related to erosion: all fields meeting the 590 Standard must achieve “T” (soil loss tolerance) and no active gullies are allowed. As required by revised national NRCS policy, the revised general criteria also require use of the “P Index” site-specific risk assessment approach for developing phosphorus (P) application recommendations to fields with Very High soil test levels.



Stripcropping (585): The standard is now consistent with the latest national version.

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380): A new purpose of “Reduce Energy Use” and accompanying additional Criteria was added.



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