United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C.
20013

NHCP-1X

NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES
450-VI
NOTICE 125

MAR 16 2001

Purpose. This notice transmits new or revised conservation practice standards for insertion into the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes are included for clarification.

Effective Date. This notice is effective when received.

Explanation.

Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control (450): This new practice standard replaces the interim conservation practice standard Irrigation Erosion Control, Polyacrylamide Code 716. This new standard incorporates various technology advances, including the expansion of polyacrylamide use to sprinkler irrigation, dust abatement, and stabilization of construction and disturbed area erosion due to wind and precipitation.

Composting Facility (317): This is a major revision of this conservation practice standard. Changes to this standard include: Emphasizes that a composting facility is part of an agricultural waste management system, consolidates siting criteria into one section, and eliminates descriptions of various composting methods (windrow, static pole and in-vessel) and other general process type information. The composting method descriptions have been more appropriately placed in NEH Part 637, Chapter 2, Composting, which was recently issued.

Deep Tillage (324): This conservation practice standard replaces Chiseling and Subsoiling, Code 324. It is a complete revision incorporating additional purposes and establishing criteria for this conservation practice standard.

Fish Passage (396): This new standard provides the needed information to address fish passage development. No formal agency standard was available previously for addressing fish passage. The demand from the field staff for this information was increasing as the public recognition for the economic and social importance of this resource magnified.

Land Reconstruction, Abandoned Mined Land (543): This standard has been updated to the current format. Additional criteria have been added.

-MORE-

DIST: NHCP

Land Reconstruction, Currently Mined Land (544): Changes to this practice standard include addition of specific criteria to address each of the purposes listed, editorial changes, and inclusion of a section on operation and maintenance.

Pest Management (595): The revised Pest Management Practice Standard changes are: Condition Where Practice Applies, will read "Wherever pest will be managed". In the Criteria section, the last paragraph of General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes is changed to read: "Clients shall be instructed to pay special attention to all environmental hazards and site-specific application criteria listed on pesticide labels and contained in Extension and Crop Consultant recommendations."

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395): This is a major revision of the Fish Stream Improvement Conservation Practice Standard. All sections of the Fish Stream Improvement Standard (developed in 1977) were revised to reflect new science and technologies that have evolved in the fields of ecosystem and aquatic sciences.

Underground Outlet (620): This standard has been updated to the current format. Only minor editorial changes have been made to the text of the standard.

Vegetative Barrier (601): This is a new conservation practice standard.

Instructions.

Replace the "Contents" pages in the NHCP with the attached revised version dated March 2001.

Insert the new or revised standards in the NHCP in alphabetical order as designated on the revised "Contents" pages.

Remove the practice standards for Chiseling & Subsoiling dated 10/77; Composting Facility dated 12/90; Fish Stream Improvement dated 10/77; Land Reconstruction, Abandoned Mined Land dated 6/84; Land Reconstruction, Currently Mined Land dated 6/84; Pest Management dated 8/00; and Underground Outlet dated 12/90.

The National Conservation Practice Standard Code 312 Waste Management System is being withdrawn. This standard should be removed from the NHCP and each Field Office Technical Guide. NRCS continues to support integrated system planning and installation. Planning policy contained in Part 409 of the General Manual (GM) and the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) are currently being revised to include emphasis on proper planning and implementation of Agricultural Waste Management Systems (AWMS) and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP).

-MORE-

With this notice, we are withdrawing the State Interim number 709 Closure of Waste Storage Ponds, State Interim number 734 Vegetative Barrier, and State Interim number 716 Irrigation Erosion Control (Polyacrylamide). This information is now contained in the new National Conservation Practice Standards: Code 360 Closure of Waste Impoundments, Code 601 Vegetative Barrier, and Code 450 Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control, respectively.

Hard copies of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all State Offices (or equivalent), Regional Offices, Centers, and Institutes as indicated on the attached distribution list. Additional copies may be obtained by ordering NHCP-1X from the GSA National Forms and Publications Center, 7CPN, Warehouse 4, Dock 1, 501 West Felix Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76115 using GSA Form 49.

Copies of this notice and each of the conservation practice standards included with it can be accessed electronically. Access can be through either the NRCS Home Page on the World Wide Web at http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/nhcp_2.html or from the FTP server in Fort Worth, Texas. Guidance for electronic access of standards is contained in NHCP Notice 116.

Federal Register Notices.

The National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee (NCPSS) published notice of intent to revise or adopt these standards in the Federal Register. Comments were accepted for 60 days. A number of individuals, groups, and agencies requested copies of these proposed and revised standards.

NHCP Notices 117 and 118 provide guidance to the states for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that requires advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State technical guides.

DAVID THACKERAY
Acting Director
Conservation Engineering Division

DIANE E. GELBURD
Director
Ecological Sciences Division

Attachments