

ENGINEERING FIELD MANUAL

for Conservation Practices

PREFACE

The objective of this manual is to provide guidance in the use of basic engineering principles, techniques, and procedures for the planning, design, installation, and maintenance of soil and water conservation practices. The material presented is limited to the types of conservation practices which are used most often. Engineering procedures and data for more complex practices are included in the various sections of the SCS National Engineering Handbook.

The manual is intended primarily for use at the field office level. Basic principles of planning, design, construction, and maintenance of engineering measures are essentially the same regardless of the job location. But, to assure the applicability of the manual nationally, it was necessary to treat certain portions of the text in a more general manner than would have been the case had it been prepared for a specific region or area. It is expected that State or regional additions may need to be made to certain sections of the text to conform to local or regional standard practices or to provide more detail.

Most chapters contain a limited number of tables, charts, curves, and forms used in solving planning and design problems. The training of personnel in the use of this manual may be facilitated if the states insert their approved design aids in the applicable chapters. Design aids which are added should give results consistent with similar ones in the manual.

Except in the chapter on Structures, design aids are labeled as Exhibits and placed at the end of the appropriate chapter. Once the user has become familiar with the techniques and procedures in the manual he may wish to remove the exhibits and bind them in a reference book for field use without destroying the continuity of the text.

The manual is not intended to supersede national or state engineering standards and specification of the Soil Conservation Service as they pertain to various conservation practices.

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The supply of the 1969 Edition is exhausted. All changes made since that time have been incorporated in this printing. Rapid advances in technology and materials make it difficult to keep this handbook up to date. Further revisions, corrections, or additions will be made in the handbooks used by SCS employees as new information becomes available

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER

1	ENGINEERING SURVEYS
2	ESTIMATING RUNOFF
3	HYDRAULICS
4	ELEMENTARY SOILS ENGINEERING
5	PREPARATION OF ENGINEERING PLANS
6	STRUCTURES
7	GRASSED WATERWAYS AND OUTLETS
8	TERRACES
9	DIVERSIONS
10	GULLY TREATMENT
11	PONDS AND RESERVOIRS
12	SPRINGS AND WELLS
13	DIKES AND LEVEES - WILDLIFE WETLAND DEVELOPMENT
14	DRAINAGE
15	IRRIGATION
16	STREAMBANK PROTECTION
17	CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS
18	SOIL BIOENGINEERING FOR UPLAND SLOPE PROTECTION AND EROSION REDUCTION
19	HYDROLOGY TOOLS FOR WETLAND DETERMINATION