



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 2890  
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**NHCP-1AH**  
February 3, 2004

**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES**  
**450 – VI**  
**NOTICE 134**

**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.**

Revised Standards:

**Brush Management (314)** – The brush management conservation practice standards was reviewed and updated to reflect current agency policy, science and technology. Environmental risk analysis is included to meet the NRCS pest management policy.

**Forage Harvest Management (511)** – The Forage Harvest Management practice standard was reviewed and updates made were appropriate to improve consistency of direction and reflect current technology.

**Irrigation System – Sprinkler (442)** – This standard has been revised to clarify terminology pertaining to the Coefficient of Uniformity and other issues of concern expressed by industry. The standard has been expanded to address the primary purposed of: Leaching for control or reclamation of saline or sodic soils; and the reduction in particulate matter emissions to improve air quality.

**Irrigation Water Conveyance – Ditch and Canal Lining – Flexible Membrane (428B)** – This standard has been updated to current format. Additional membrane materials, such as geosynthetic clay liners, have been incorporated for use. Minimum membrane thickness requirements have been revised to conform with recent research and current industry recommendations.

**Stream Crossing (578)** – This is a new standard that includes engineering and environmental criteria for designing stable stream crossings.

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**Structure for Water Control (587)** – This conservation practice standard has been updated to current format. Cross references have been updated and Considerations added. The Definition has been expanded to include water measurement.

**Well Decommissioning (351)** – This is a new practice standard for the sealing and permanent closure of a water well no longer in use.

With this notice, the State Interim Standard 735 Covered Anaerobic Lagoon is being withdrawn. This information is now contained in 365 Anaerobic Digester, Ambient Temperature.

**Instructions.**

Replace the Contents pages i through vi in the NHCP with the attached revised Contents pages dated November 2003.

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

Remove and archive, as appropriate, the practice standards for: Brush Management dated 4/95; Forage Harvest Management dated 1/97; Irrigation System – Sprinkler dated 10/87; Irrigation Water Conveyance – Ditch and Canal Lining – Flexible Membrane dated 10/80; Structure for Water Control dated 10/77; and Well Decommissioning dated 5/96.

Copies of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all State offices (or equivalent), Regional Offices, Centers, and Institutes. Additional copies may be obtained by ordering NHCP-1AH 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.

This notice and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice can be accessed electronically. Access can be through either the NRCS homepage on the World Wide Web at [http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice\\_stds.html](http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice_stds.html) or from the FTP server in Fort Worth, Texas.

**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 30 days. Guidance to the States for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State technical guides can be found in 450 – GM, Section 401.19.

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Attachments