



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 2890  
Washington, D.C. 20013

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NHCP-1AI

**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES**  
**450 – VI**  
**NOTICE 142**

**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 to highlight key changes made to each document.

**Effective Date.** This notice is effective when received.

**Explanation.** New or revised National Conservation Practice Standards (NCPS):

**Conservation Cover (Code 327):** Changes were made throughout the standard. Added three new purposes for air quality, soil quality, and manage plant pests with additional criteria for each new purpose.

**Contour Farming (Code 330):** Changes were made throughout the standard. One new purpose was added to address water infiltration. Criteria have been modified for maximum row grade and ridge height. The specifications and plans section and operation and maintenance section have been revised.

**Contour Buffer Strips (Code 332):** Changes were made throughout the standard. The criteria for buffer strip arrangement, width, and vegetation has been revised to reflect new erosion prediction technology. The plans and specification section and the operation and maintenance section have been revised to more clearly define documentation for the layout and maintenance.

**Critical Area Planting (Code 342):** Changes were made throughout the standard. One new purpose to address coastal areas, such as sand dunes and riparian areas and additional criteria has been added to address this purpose. Under criteria for all purposes additional criteria have been added to not seed noxious plants. Additional detail has been added to the plans and specifications section.

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**Field Border (Code 386):** Changes were made throughout the standard. The conditions where the practice applies has been revised to better define the perimeter and field edges where field borders apply. Additional criteria have been added for all purposes to better meet the intended purposes of the practice.

**Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (Code 447):** Changes were made throughout the standard. The conditions where the practice applies have been changed to include pumping plants, and irrigation pits were renamed as irrigation collecting basins. Additional considerations have been added for water quantity due to rainfall runoff, and effects on visual resources.

**Sinkhole and Sinkhole Area Treatment (Code 527):** This is a new standard created to provide criteria for the treatment and reclamation of lands impacted by sinkholes in Karst topography.

**Prescribed Grazing (Code 528):** This practice was revised to add two new purposes and supporting criteria. General criteria was clarified, references were added to provide more information and there were minor editorial changes in the remainder of the standard.

**Instructions.** Replace the Contents pages i through vi dated May 2006 in the NHCP with the attached revised Contents pages.

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: Conservation Cover (Code 327) dated 2/00, Contour Farming (Code 330) dated 2/00, Contour Buffer Strips (Code 332) dated 3/99, Critical Area Planting (Code 342) dated 7/02, Field Border (Code 386) dated 10/03, Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (Code 447) dated 8/00, and Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) dated 10/03. Also, in NHCP Notice 141, Above Ground, Multi-Outlet Pipeline (431) replaced Rigid Gated Pipeline (430HH); however, the notice did not direct the removal 430HH from the NHCP. Remove and archive, as appropriate the practice standard Rigid Gated Pipeline (430HH).

Moreover, NHCP, Chapter 3, Index, has been updated to reflect a change in discipline responsibility for the conservation practice Prescribed Burning (Code 338) from the National Forester to the Grazingland Specialist. Also, previously the Index incorrectly displayed Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490), this has been corrected.

Copies of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all State offices (or equivalent) and National Centers. Additional copies may be obtained by ordering NHCP-1AI from the NRCS Publications Web page at <http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or by calling 1-888-LANDCAR.

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.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Standards/nhcp.html> or from the FTP server at <ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/>.

**Federal Register Notices.**

The National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee (NCPSS) published notice of intent to revise or adopt these standards in the *Federal Register* in May 2006. Comments from the public were accepted for 30 days.

Guidance to the States and the Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas can be found in Title 450, Technology, General Manual, Section 401.19 for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State-level technical guides.

NOLLER P. HERBERT  
Acting Director  
Conservation Engineering Division

DIANE E. GELBURD  
Director  
Ecological Sciences Division

Attachments