United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

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

NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES
450 – NHCP
NOTICE 158

Purpose. This notice transmits new or revised National Conservation Practice Standards (CPS), along with an updated index, 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 upon receipt.

Explanation of Changes. New or revised National Conservation Practice Standards are as follows:

Amendments for the Treatment of Agricultural Waste (Code 591) – An additional purpose was added to reduce risk associated with the spread of contamination by pathogens. A subsection on system effects was added to limit the use of amendments to situations where the impacts of the altered waste stream on other parts of the manure management system have been identified and to ensure that land application of treated manure would comply with the requirements of Conservation Practice Standard 590, Nutrient Management. Other minor changes were made for style and clarity that did not change the technical substance of the standard.

Building Envelope Improvement (Code 672) – This is a new conservation practice standard for modification or retrofit of the building envelope of an existing agricultural structure.

Fence (Code 382) – Wildlife needs are now included under general criteria, being moved from the considerations section. This will ensure all fence design and placement is made with knowledge of potential impacts to local wildlife.

Lighting System Improvement (Code 670) – This is a new conservation practice standard for complete replacement or retrofitting of one or more components of an existing agricultural lighting system.

Recreation Land Grading and Shaping (Code 566) – There were minor changes to wording with changes to active voice and references added.

Row Arrangement (Code 557) – Added wording to definition to be consistent with purpose, minor changes to wording with changes to active voice, and added references.

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Sprinkler System (Code 442) – Changed name from "Irrigation System, Sprinkler" to "Sprinkler" to make the standard more applicable to other conservation measures that use sprinklers as part of solution (i.e., dust control). Other changes include shortening the section on center pivots and adding criteria for purposes other than irrigation.

Waste Separation Facility (Code 632) – The name changed from "Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility" to "Waste Separation Facility." Two purposes were removed and one was added to address manure handling. Additional separation methods (not inclusive) were added to the separation efficiency table. The practice will allow solid/liquid separation, such as poultry litter screening. Two new criteria sections were developed for sand separation and reuse.

Waste Treatment (Code 629) – The conditions where practice applies was shortened and made more generic. A subsection on utilities was added to make the standard more consistent with other practice standards that could involve construction activities. The requirement for a minimum practice life of 10 years was removed from the standard. Other minor changes were made for style and clarity that did not change the technical substance of the standard.

Waterspreading (Code 640) – Reworded purpose to be more in line with the new resource concerns. Other changes consist of cleaning up language in criteria and considerations section.

Filing Instructions. If a hardcopy of the NHCP is maintained, replace the "Contents" (pages i through vi, dated January 2012) with the revised pages found at http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/H_450_NHCP_Index_158.rtf.

Remove and archive, as appropriate, the following existing practice standards:

Amendments for the Treatment of Agricultural Waste (Code 591), dated April 2005
Fence (Code 382), dated September 2010
Irrigation System, Sprinkler (Code 442), dated May 2011
Recreation Land Grading and Shaping (Code 566), dated April 2002
Row Arrangement (Code 557), dated November 2002
Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (Code 632), dated April 2005
Waste Treatment (Code 629), dated April 2005
Waterspreading (Code 640), dated July 2002

This notice, and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice, can be accessed electronically through the NRCS Web site at http://go.usa.gov/TXye

Federal Register Notice.

NRCS published a notice to solicit public comments about how to improve specific agency conservation practice standards in the *Federal Register* on December 14, 2013, for a 30-day comment period. Comments from the public were accepted during the comment period.

Guidance to the States and the Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State-level technical guides can be found in Title 450, General Manual, Part 401, Subpart B, Section 401.19.

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