

State Specific Training Module for Texas



Purpose of this Module

This module will provide some general information that TSPs need to conduct conservation planning in Texas. This information is general in nature so the TSP may need to follow up with additional reading or training to make sure they have the knowledge, skill, licenses and certifications to conduct conservation planning in Texas.

Review of State Laws

Nutrient Management

- Texas requires that the competence of all nutrient management planners be certified by Texas A&M *AgriLife* Extension as a Nutrient Management Planning specialist. More information can be found at: <https://nutrientmanagement.tamu.edu/>
- No other state certification is accepted.
- Certification is valid as long CEU's are maintained each year. Certified Nutrient Management Specialists are required to obtain 5 CEUs in nutrient management or related areas per year. Related areas include soil fertility and water quality related to nutrient management.

Review of State Laws

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans

- To be certified to write and approve CNMP's a certified specialist must:
 - Be currently certified by Texas A&M AgriLife and Extension as a Nutrient Management Planning Specialist.
 - Be certified in Texas as an NRCS Speciality Conservation Planner Level II

Review of State Laws

Engineering Practices

- Agricultural Waste Management Systems – require a licensed Texas P.E. certification for planning, design, installation and certification of engineering practices
- Other engineering practices may be planned by non-engineers provided the planner has knowledge and competence to appropriately plan the practice.
- The design, installation and certification of ALL engineering practices shall be certified by a licensed Texas P. E., except for certain irrigation practices which may be certified by a licensed irrigator in accordance with state law.

Review of State Laws

Conservation Activities ([CA's]-Conservation Planning Activities, Design & Implementation Activities and Conservation Evaluation & Monitoring Activities) that include engineering must meet the CA Eligibility Criteria for TSP's. CA's that may require engineering include:

- DIA 101 – CNMP Design & Implementation Activity – Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage component must be planned by a licensed Texas P.E.
- DIA 163 – Irrigation Water Management Design
- DIA 120 – Agricultural Energy Design – must be planned by a licensed Texas P.E.
- DIA 164 – Improved Management of Drainage Water Design

List of Engineering Practices

Engineering Practice	CPS Code
Access Road	560
Agrichemical Handling Facility	309
Air Filtration and Scrubbing	371
Amendments for Treatment of Agricultural Waste	591
Anaerobic Digester	366
Animal Mortality Facility	316
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Application	450
Aquaculture Pond	397
Channel Bed Stabilization	584
Clearing and Snagging	326
Combustion System Improvement	372
Composting Facility	317
Constructed Wetland	656

Dam	402
Dam Diversion	348
Denitrifying Bioreactor	605
Dike	356
Diversion	362
Drainage Water Management	554
Dry Hydrant	432
Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces	373
Emergency Animal Mortality Management	368
Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation	374
Energy Efficient Building Envelope	672
Energy Efficient Lighting System	670
Grade Stabilization Structure	410
Grassed Waterway	412

List of Engineering Practices

Groundwater Testing	355
Heavy Use Area Protection	561
Hillside Ditch	423
Irrigation and Drainage Tailwater Recovery	447
Irrigation Canal or Lateral	320
Irrigation Ditch Lining	428
Irrigation Field Ditch	388
Irrigation Land Leveling	464
Irrigation Pipeline	430
Irrigation Reservoir	436
Irrigation System, Microirrigation	441
Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	443
Irrigation Water Management	449
Land Clearing	460

Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mined Land	543
Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment	453
Lined Waterway or Outlet	468
Livestock Pipeline	516
Livestock Shelter Structure	576
Mine Shaft and Adit Closing	457
Monitoring Well	353
Obstruction Removal	500
On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility	319
Open Channel	582
Pond	378
Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment	520
Pond Sealing or Lining, Concrete	522
Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner	521

List of Engineering Practices

Precision Land Forming and Smoothing	462
Pumping Plant	533
Recreation Land Improvement and Protection	566
Rock Wall Terrace	555
Roof Runoff Structure	558
Roofs and Covers	367
Row Arrangement	557
Saline and Sodic Soil Management	610
Sediment Basin	350
Short Term Storage of Animal Waste and By-Products	318
Spoil Disposal	572
Spring Development	574
Sprinker System	442
Stormwater Runoff Control	570

Stream Crossing	578
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580
Structure for Water Control	587
Subsurface Drain	606
Surface Drain, Field Ditch	607
Surface Drain, Main or Lateral	608
Terrace	600
Trails and Walkways	575
Underground Outlet	620
Vegetated Treatment Area	635
Vertical Drain	630
Waste Facility Closure	360
Waste Recycling	633
Waste Separation Facility	632

List of Engineering Practices

Waste Storage Facility	313
Waste Transfer	634
Waste Treatment	629
Waste Treatment Lagoon	359
Wastewater Treatment, Milk House	627
Water and Sediment Control Basin	638
Water Harvesting Catchment	636
Water Well	642
Watering Facility	614
Waterspreading	640
Well Decommissioning	351
Wetland Creation	658
Wetland Enhancement	659
Wetland Restoration	657

Review of State FOTG Requirements

Vegetative Practices

- Plant specific information relative to seeding rates, seeding dates, and areas of adaptation can be found on the e-FOTG within the Appendix 1 which is linked to the applicable conservation practices.
- Any variance outside of these specifications must be approved by the State Resource Conservationist prior to planning an application.

Review of Important Resource Issues

NEPA dictates that NRCS address Threatened and Endangered species in accordance with the ESA

- Federally listed Threatened And Endangered species can be found by county at <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>
- State listed species (species of concern) must be considered in planning of conservation practices.
https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/nongame/listed-species/

Review of Important Resource Issues

Conservation practices when addressing T & E species will include:

- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – 645
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – 644
- Prescribed Grazing – 528 (where livestock grazing is a concern)

All conservation practices within the EFOTG may be utilized to meet the “Life Requirements” of the species.

Contact the NRCS State Biologist for additional information on planning considerations for T & E species.

Review of Important Resource Issues

Wetlands are an important resource concern due to loss and degradation

NEPA dictates that NRCS address this resource to prevent loss of and degradation of wetland ecosystems.

Conservation planning may include the need for permits under the CWA (Sec 404)

For additional information contact State Wetland Specialist or State Wildlife Biologist.

Review of Major Land Uses or Agronomic Practices

Texas has 97.4 million acres of rangeland, 24.3 million acres of cropland, 11.9 million acres of Forestland, 16.9 million acres of pastureland and 3.2 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program land.

- Major crop productions include cotton, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, rice and wheat. Areas of South Texas produces fruits, vegetables and sugar cane. East Texas is home to our timber production.
- Dotted across the State are dairies, feedyards, poultry farms, orchards, home gardens and farms/ranches as diverse as the State of Texas itself.
- The native rangelands of Texas are vast and diverse. The state has short grass, mid-grass and tall grass prairies in addition to marshland along the Gulf Coast. The primary grazers are cattle. Wildlife (terrestrial, aquatic, wetland) can be found throughout these areas.

Expected TSP Workflow

- The State Resource Conservationist, TSP Coordinator and appropriate Ecological Sciences discipline staff will be responsible for reviewing TSP conservation planning for the National Planner Certification.
- Subsequent conservation plans will be reviewed by the District Conservationist (DC) at the local USDA Service Center.
- The State TSP Coordinator and appropriate Ecological Sciences discipline staff will conduct plan reviews for TSP planner certification renewals.
- TSPs will work with the local District Conservationist to make sure the proper environmental evaluations (NRCS.CPA.52) are completed.

Additional References or Training

- **State Field Office Technical Guide**
- **EQIP CPA's, DIA's and CEMA's**
- **Texas NRCS Home page**
- State Training on CNMP Development
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension; <https://nutrientmanagement.tamu.edu/>

Certificate of Completion

After viewing the State Specific Training module, please print and sign the completion certificate on the following slide.

The certificate is your acknowledgment that based on the information provided in this module, you have the proper knowledge, skills and ability to conduct planning in the State of Texas.

Send the signed certificate to the Texas State TSP Coordinator. Click the below link for a list of State TSP Coordinators.

[State TSP Coordinators and Backups](#)

STATE SPECIFIC TRAINING MODULE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

I, _____, hereby verify I have viewed and understand the
TSP Name
content of the Texas State Specific Training Module and affirm I have the
knowledge, skills and ability to conduct conservation planning services in that
state.

TSP signature

Date

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Persons with Disabilities

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish, or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers.

All Other Inquires

For any other information not pertaining to civil rights, please refer to the listing of the USDA Agencies and Offices.