



# Revising Conservation Practice Standards

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# Conservation Practice Standards

- Contains information on why and where the practice is applied.
- Sets forth the minimum quality criteria to achieve the practice's intended purpose.
- Conservation practice standards must be met to qualify for payments in NRCS programs.
- These practices are housed in Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide located at
  - <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov>
- NRCS currently has 170 conservation practice standards. Examples include:
  - Engineering practices like terraces, waterways, irrigation sprinkler, dams
  - Vegetation practices like cover crops, range plantings, wildlife seedings
  - Management practices like nutrient management, irrigation water mgt.



# Welcome to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

Select a state for documents.

State:




Click on the dropdown to select state

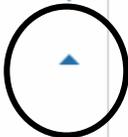
Document Tree

Document Search

Recently Changed

## Keyboard navigation instructions

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- Access Control (472)
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Click on the dropdown for Section IV



Click on Conservation Practice Standards and Support Documents

Practice Standards are in alphabetical order

## Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents

Documents (0)

Document Title	Type	Pub Date	Subject	Keywords	Abstract	Size (kB)	Actions
No documents to show.							

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## Access Control (472)

Documents (3)

Document Title	Type	Pub Date
472 NE CPS Access Control 2017		2017-10-2
472 NE SOW Access Control 2017		2020-6-15
472 NE IR Access Control 2017		2017-10-13

## Conservation Practice Files

CPS = Conservation Practice Standard

SOW = Statement of Work (outlines Items required for practice)

IR = Implementation Requirements, previously known as a job sheet. We provide this to producers and contractors.

# Revising Conservation Practices

- To stay up with current science, conservation practice standards must be reviewed and revised at a minimum every five years.
- The revision process begins at the national level.
- Within one year after the national practice standard is revised, each state must revise their state standard with the national revisions plus any other state revisions desired.

# Notification of Practice Revisions

- National – when a national practice standard is revised, notification is placed in the Federal Register regarding the draft practice revision.
  - This notification is sent to the State Technical Committee.
  - The practice is not finalized until after the comment period from the Federal Register.
- State – when revising a state practice standard, the applicable NRCS state specialist (agronomist, engineer, etc) solicits input from University professors, partner organizations, and others with expertise, etc.
  - The State Technical Committee is consulted when the proposed practice changes are significant and/or controversial.

# Additional Notification of State Practice Revisions

- Recently, a member of the Nebraska State Technical Committee noticed the 590 Nutrient Management Standard had been revised and posted in our Field Office Technical Guide in July.
- We sent this member a list of the revisions made to 590.
- In the future, we will let the State Technical Committee know of the conservation practices we plan to revise in the next year.
  - Anyone interested in seeing a draft revision of a practice standard can let us know. We will send you the draft and solicit your feedback on the revision.

# Current and Upcoming Conservation Practice Revisions

- Corey Brubaker, NRCS State Agronomist is currently working on
  - Pest Management – minor changes from the national standard will be incorporated.
  - Developing cover crop seeding guidance to address species and conditions where it's appropriate to seed by aerial or broadcast seeding methods.
- Ritch Nelson, NRCS State Wildlife Biologist is currently working on
  - 420 – Wildlife Planting – this is a new practice standard that separates out several wildlife-focused plantings into one practice standard. Criteria for commonly targeted species such as upland gamebirds, pollinators, and monarch butterflies will be outlined.

# Current and Upcoming Conservation Practice Revisions

- A national notice was received on August 19 notifying us of several Engineering standards that will be updated in 2021. This will be sent to the State Technical Committee with minutes from this meeting.
- Another national notice is anticipated soon for Ecological Science practices to be revised.

# Questions?



United States Department of Agriculture

340-CPS-1

Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

**COVER CROP**

**CODE 340**

(ac)

## DEFINITION

Crops including grasses, legumes, and forbs for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes.

## PURPOSE

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes—

- Reduce erosion from wind and water
- Increase soil organic matter content
- Capture and recycle or redistribute nutrients in the soil profile
- Promote biological nitrogen fixation and reduce energy use
- Increase biodiversity
- Suppress Weeds
- Manage soil moisture
- Minimize and reduce soil compaction.

## CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

All lands requiring vegetative cover for natural resource protection and or improvement.

## CRITERIA

### General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

~~Plant species, seedbed preparation, seeding rates, seeding dates, seeding depths, fertility requirements~~