

USDA Develops, Revises Conservation Practice Standards; Seeks Public Comments

USDA has revised or developed several conservation practice standards, including nutrient management, and published them in the Federal Register for public comment. USDA is seeking comments on all the practices through **February 25, 2011**.

The nutrient management standard, code 590, helps producers and other landowners better manage nutrients on their agricultural operations. The standard sets minimum criteria for supplying nutrients for crop production while reducing impacts of non-point source pollution. It applies to all land where plant nutrients are applied to grow agricultural crops. Proper nutrient management planning stresses the importance of applying the right fertilizer at the right rate at the right time and in the right place. The revised standard promotes enhanced nutrient management planning activities at the state level.

In addition to nutrient management, USDA is seeking public comment on the following standards:

- Aquatic Organism Passage (Code 396)
- Bivalve Aquaculture Waste Control (Code 400)
- Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code 589c)
- Irrigation Field Ditch (Code 388)
- Waste Facility Closure (Code 360)

All comments will be considered and the final standards will be adopted after the 45-day public comment period has closed.

Please submit comments before or by Feb. 25, 2011 to Wayne Bogovich, National Agricultural Engineer, Conservation Engineering Division, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 6136 South Building, Washington, DC 20250.

Additional instructions about the standards and how to submit comments are contained in the Federal Register notice.

To view the Federal Register notice, please visit:
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-373.pdf>

To view the revised or new conservation practice standards, please visit:
<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/federal-register/>

To view NRCS technical resources, including conservation practice standards, please visit:
www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/