

Route 71), O'Brien county (north of County Road B24 and east of U.S. Route 59), and Osceola county (east of U.S. Route 59). GIPSA announced the interim availability for the geographic area and selected Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service Company as the interim provider effective August 1, 2013 until a permanent designee is selected. Accordingly, GIPSA is asking persons or governmental agencies interested in providing official services in part of the geographical area presently assigned to Fremont to submit an application for designation.

**DATES:** Applications must be received by September 19, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit applications and comments concerning this notice using any of the following methods:

- *Applying for Designation on the Internet:* Use FGISOnline ([https://fgis.gipsa.usda.gov/default\\_home\\_FGIS.aspx](https://fgis.gipsa.usda.gov/default_home_FGIS.aspx)) and then click on the Delegations/Designations and Export Registrations (DDR) link. You will need to obtain an FGISOnline customer number and USDA eAuthentication username and password prior to applying.

- *Submit Comments Using the Internet:* Go to Regulations.gov (<http://www.regulations.gov>). Instructions for submitting and reading comments are detailed on the site.

- *Mail, Courier or Hand Delivery:* Eric J. Jabs, Chief, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS, QACD, QADB, 10383 North Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153.

- *Fax:* Eric J. Jabs, 816-872-1257.

- *Email:* [Eric.J.Jabs@usda.gov](mailto:Eric.J.Jabs@usda.gov).

*Read Applications and Comments:* All applications will be available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(c)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eric J. Jabs, 816-659-8408 or [Eric.J.Jabs@usda.gov](mailto:Eric.J.Jabs@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 79(f) of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) authorizes the Secretary to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services (7 U.S.C. 79 (f)). Under section 79(g) of the USGSA, designations of official agencies are effective for three years unless terminated by the Secretary, but may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in section 79(f) of the USGSA.

### Area Open for Designation

Pursuant to Section 79(f)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act, the following geographic area, in the State of Iowa, is assigned to this official agency.

#### *In Iowa*

Clay county (west of U.S. Route 71), Dickinson county (west of U.S. Route 71), O'Brien county (north of County Road B24 and east of U.S. Route 59), and Osceola county (east of U.S. Route 59).

### Opportunity for Designation

Interested persons or governmental agencies may apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic areas specified above under the provisions of section 79(f) of the USGSA and 7 CFR 800.196. Designation in the specified geographic area is for a period of no more than three years and will be concurrent with any existing designation. To apply for designation or for more information, contact Eric J. Jabs at the address listed above or visit GIPSA's Web site at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov>.

We consider applications, comments, and other available information when determining which applicants will be designated.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 71-87k.

**Marianne Plaus,**

*Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-KD-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. NRCS-2013-0002]

### Notice of Proposed Changes to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices for the Natural Resources Conservation Service

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for public review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the intention of NRCS to issue a series of revised conservation practice standards in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These standards include: Contour Farming (Code 330), Critical Area Planting (Code 342), Cross Wind Ridges (Code 588), Deep Tillage

(Code 324), Field Border (Code 386), Filter Strip (Code 393), Land Smoothing (Code 466), Livestock Shelter Structure (Code 576), Mulching (Code 484), Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (Code 329), Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Code 345), Spring Development (Code 574), Stripcropping (Code 585), and Underground Outlet (Code 620).

NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices for use within their States will incorporate them into section IV of their respective electronic Field Office Technical Guide. These practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land (HEL) or on land determined to be a wetland. Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 requires NRCS to make available for public review and comment all proposed revisions to conservation practice standards used to carry out HEL and wetland provisions of the law.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* This is effective August 20, 2013.

*Comment Date:* Submit comments on or before September 19, 2013. Final versions of these new or revised conservation practice standards will be adopted after the close of the 30-day period, and after consideration of all comments.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be submitted, identified by Docket Number NRCS-2013-0002, using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Email:* [Public.comments@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Public.comments@wdc.usda.gov). Include Docket Number NRCS-2013-0002 or "comment on practice standards" in the subject line of the message.

- *Mail:* Comment Submissions, Attention: Anetra Harbor, Policy Analyst, Resource Economics, Analysis and Policy Division, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, George Washington Carver Center, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., Room 1-1112C, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

All comments received will become a matter of public record and will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov> including any personal information provided.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** 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.

Electronic copies of these standards can be downloaded or printed from the following Web site: <ftp://pact.sc.egov.usda.gov/practice-standards/federal-register/>. Requests for paper versions or inquiries may be directed to Bill Kuenstler, National Practice Standards Review Coordinator, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Central National Technology Support Center, 501 W. Felix St., Fort Worth, Texas 76115.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The amount of the proposed changes varies considerably for each of the conservation practice standards addressed in this notice. To fully understand the proposed changes, individuals are encouraged to compare these changes with each standard's current version as shown at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143026849>. To aid in this comparison, following are highlights of the proposed revisions to each standard:

**Contour Farming (Code 330)**—The agency revised the definition to emphasize proper alignments and revised the general criteria for maximum row grade to 4 percent based on RUSLE2 technology. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

**Critical Area Planting (Code 342)**—The agency deleted the purpose to rehabilitate and re-vegetate degraded sites that cannot be stabilized using normal establishment techniques as this purpose is implied in other purposes. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

**Cross Wind Ridges (Code 588)**—The agency revised the definition to: Ridges formed by tillage, planting, or other operations and aligned perpendicular to prevailing wind direction during critical wind erosion periods and revised the purpose to: Reduce soil particulate emissions to the air to reduce soil particulate emissions effecting air quality. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

**Deep Tillage (Code 324)**—The agency deleted the purpose to reduce concentration of soil contaminants which inhibit plant growth because there is no technology to describe the level of either contamination or a dilution factor. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

**Field Border (Code 386)**—The agency revised the condition where the practice

applies to cover only on existing cropland and pastureland and deleted the purpose to manage pest populations. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

**Filter Strip (Code 393)**—The agency added a few additional considerations for species selection for native plant communities and organic operation considerations. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

**Land Smoothing (Code 466)**—The agency revised the Definition; added a cultural resource inventory and assessment to Considerations; added a plan to Operation and Maintenance; and added references.

**Livestock Shelter Structure (Code 576)**—The agency created this new conservation practice standard which includes livestock shade structures and livestock wind structures.

**Mulching (Code 484)**—The agency deleted the purposes to moderate soil temperature and suppress weeds as these do not address a resource concern; and revised the "Condition where practice applies" to remove this practice from being used for weed control for production agriculture. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

**Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (Code 329)**—The agency changed the practice name to Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till. No Till is inclusive of direct seed and strip till. In addition, we added criteria clarification to not allow any full-width tillage for this practice; reduced the maximum soil tillage intensity rating value for no till from 30 to 20; added implementation requirements to the specifications and plans; and changed the purpose "Reduce wind erosion and particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter—PM<sub>10</sub>" to "Reduce tillage-induced particulate emissions" to address all sizes of tillage particulate emissions.

**Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Code 345)**—The agency incorporated 346 Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till into this standard; added criteria to establish a maximum soil tillage intensity value of 80; clarified the air quality purpose to reduce tillage-induced particulate emissions vs. only PM<sub>10</sub> emissions; Revised the criteria for energy savings to a 25 percent reduction from the current baseline; and added implementation requirements to the specifications and plans.

**Spring Development (Code 574)**—The agency revised version is the result of a comprehensive review by NRCS

biologists and hydrologists from differing arid and humid U.S. regions. The new Purpose statement no longer includes the wording "other agricultural uses." Readability and flow of material is enhanced by using multiple sections with headings as opposed to the old format of a lengthy running text.

**Stripcropping (Code 585)**—The agency revised the definition to stress alternating strips of erosion susceptible crops and revised the wind erosion purpose to reduce wind erosion and associated transport of sediment and other wind borne contaminants. We added the implementation requirement document to the specifications and plans.

**Underground Outlet (Code 620)**—The agency expanded the Criteria and revised the Considerations sections.

Signed this 12th day of August, 2013, in Washington, DC.

**Thomas W. Christensen,**  
Acting Associate Chief for Operations,  
Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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## BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### Sunshine Act Meetings

**DATE AND TIME:** Wednesday, August 21, 2013, 9:15 a.m. EDT.

**PLACE:** Broadcasting Board of Governors, Cohen Building, Room 3321, 330 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20237.

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Closed Meeting of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

**SUMMARY:** The members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) will meet in a closed session to consider the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer. This meeting should be closed to public observation pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) in order to protect the privacy interests of candidates considered but not selected for the position. In accordance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and BBG policies, the meeting will be recorded and a transcript of the proceedings, subject to the redaction of information protected by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), will be made available to the public. The publicly-releasable transcript will be available for download at [www.bbg.gov](http://www.bbg.gov) within 21 days of the date of the meeting.

Information regarding member votes to close the meeting and expected attendees can also be found on the Agency's public Web site.