

NRCS Technical Service Providers

Requirements and procedures to
provide Technical Assistance for 595
and IPM CAPs contracts



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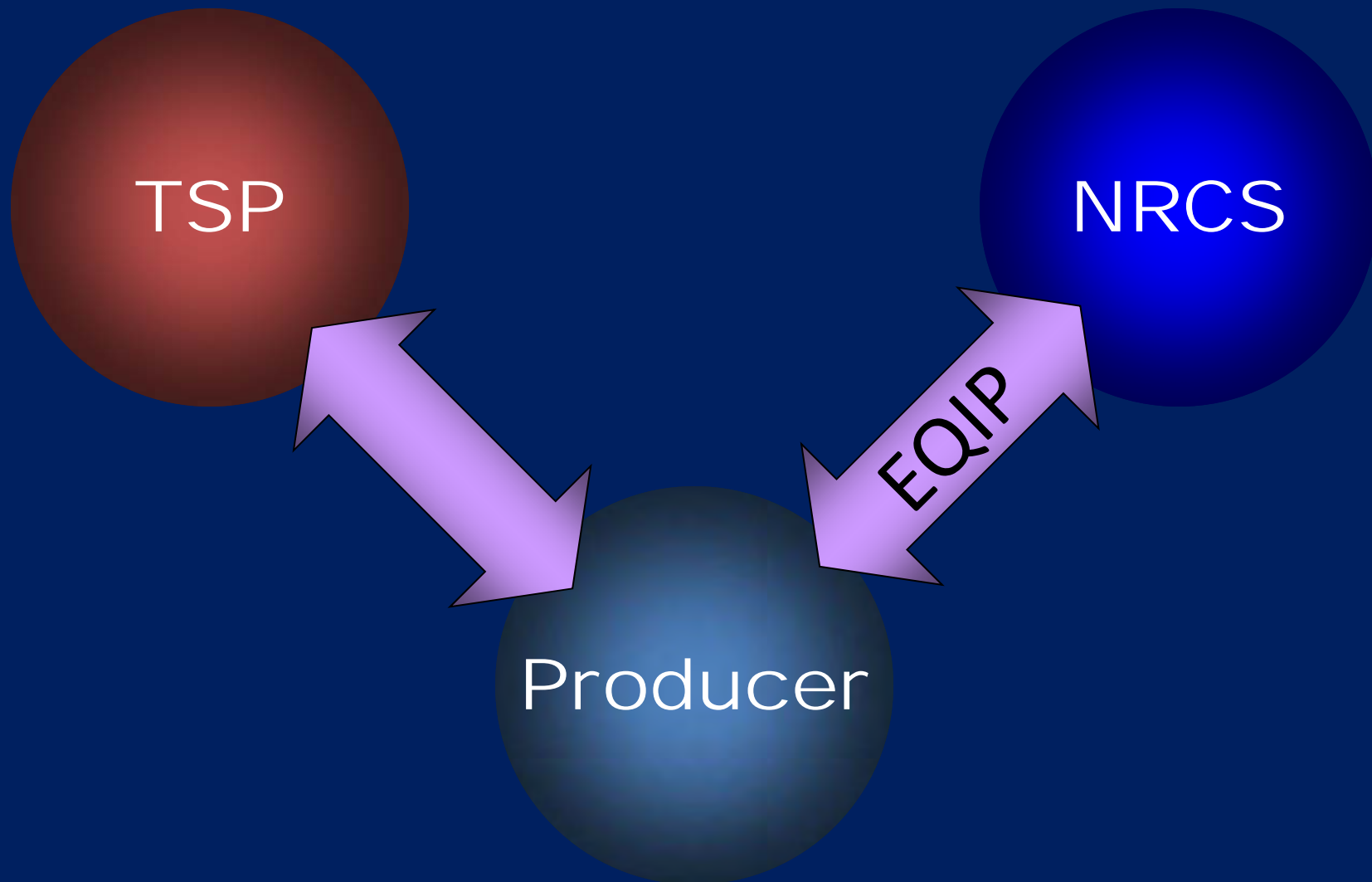
Outline

- Role of the Technical Service Provider
- TSP certification criteria: IPM CAPs and 595
- Review of required NRCS modules
- TechReg
- AgLearn
- Electronic Field Office Technical Guide
- Additional Resources

Technical Service Providers

- Private sector employees used by NRCS to help implement USDA programs.
- TSPs must be certified for each conservation practice or “activity” they provide Technical Assistance for.
- NRCS does not pay TSPs. TSPs are responsible for charging producers for their services.
- NRCS can require a producer to use a certified TSP for Technical Assistance relating to NRCS conservation program contracts.

TSP Relationships



Landowner and TSP Relationship

- Landowner :
- Asks NRCS for TSP funding in EQIP contract.
- Finds a certified TSP and contracts for services.
 - TSP and landowner negotiate price.
- Get s Cultural Resources clearance.
- Monitors TSP progress.
- Installs practice/plan.
- Submits completion documentation to NRCS.
- Reimburses TSP.

TSP Certification Options

Two routes to become a NRCS TSP:

1. Certifications

- ❖ Complete required NRCS modules.
- ❖ State licenses.
- ❖ Third-party licenses.

2. Knowledge and training

- ❖ NRCS modules.
- ❖ State licenses .
- ❖ Complete narratives explaining knowledge and experience.

595 TSP Criteria: Certification Option

Prospective TSP must meet all of the following:

1. Third-party professional certification
 - American Society of Agronomy (Certified Crop Advisor, Certified Professional Agronomist and Certified Professional Plant Pathologist)
 - National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
2. Hold a valid pesticide applicator license for your state.

595 TSP Criteria: Certification Option

3. Proficient in the use of pest management tools
RUSLE2 and/or WEQ, Win PST.
4. NRCS Pest Management Training:
 - Successfully complete modules 1-6 of Pest Management track in the NRCS Nutrient and Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning.

IPM CAPs TSP Criteria

Prospective TSP must meet all of the following:

1. All criteria for a 595 TSP.
2. Knowledge of NRCS Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (EFOTG).
3. Develop sample IPM CAP that meets IPM plan criteria (activity 114) in EFOTG Sec III.
4. Knowledge of National Plan Procedures Handbook – Title 180, part 600.
5. Conservation Planning Training (AgLearn)
 - Conservation Planning Part One (Modules 1-5)
 - Pest Management Track 2 (Modules 1-6)

TSP Certification Process

1) Register on TechReg

- ❖ <http://techreg.usda.gov>
- ❖ Obtain user ID and password.
- ❖ Apply for Level 2 eAuthentication.
- ❖ Create a profile.

TSP Certification Process

2) Apply online for certification as a TSP

- ❖ Once criteria has been met for all categories, fill out and submit application to the state you are seeking certification in.
- ❖ Sign certification agreement to complete submission process.
- ❖ Note: Applicant must submit to be certified for each state they want to provide TSP services in.

TSP Certification Process

3) Become certified.

- ❖ NRCS will have 60 days to review application and verify credentials.
- ❖ NRCS will countersign certification agreement.
- ❖ NRCS posts TSP information on an approved list on TechReg indicating what services the TSP may provide in that state.

4) Provide services.

Required Modules for 595

Nutrient & Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning

Module Descriptions:

- Module 1 – Introduction to Nutrient & Pest Management Planning
- Module 2 – Pesticides & Nutrient in the Environment
- Module 3 – Science of Nutrient & Pest Management
- Module 4 – Influence of Climate and Water Management on Nutrient & Pest Management Planning
- Module 5 - Natural Resource Planning for Nutrient and Pest Management
- Module 6 – Planning and Applying Nutrient and Pest Management

Required Modules IPM CAPs

Conservation Planning

Module Descriptions:

- Module 1 - How NRCS Will Do Business
- Module 2 - Planning Policy and Guidance
- Module 3 - Key Elements of Conservation Planning
- Module 4 - Conservation Planning Environment
- Module 5 - Resource Management Systems

Other Module Descriptions in Con. Planning (Not required):

- Modules 6, 7, 8: Three Phases of Planning
- Module 9: Actual Conservation Planning

Required Modules IPM CAPs

Nutrient and Pest Management Planning

- The following must be completed:
 - AgLearn modules 1-6 in Nutrient and Pest Management track two;
 - Two online exams;
 - Nutrient and Pest Management Course Evaluation.

What is TechReg?

<http://techreg.usda.gov/>

The screenshot shows the TechReg website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, About TechReg, FAQ, Help, Contact Us, and Logout. Below this is a large banner with the USDA logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service TechReg Technical Service Provider Registry".

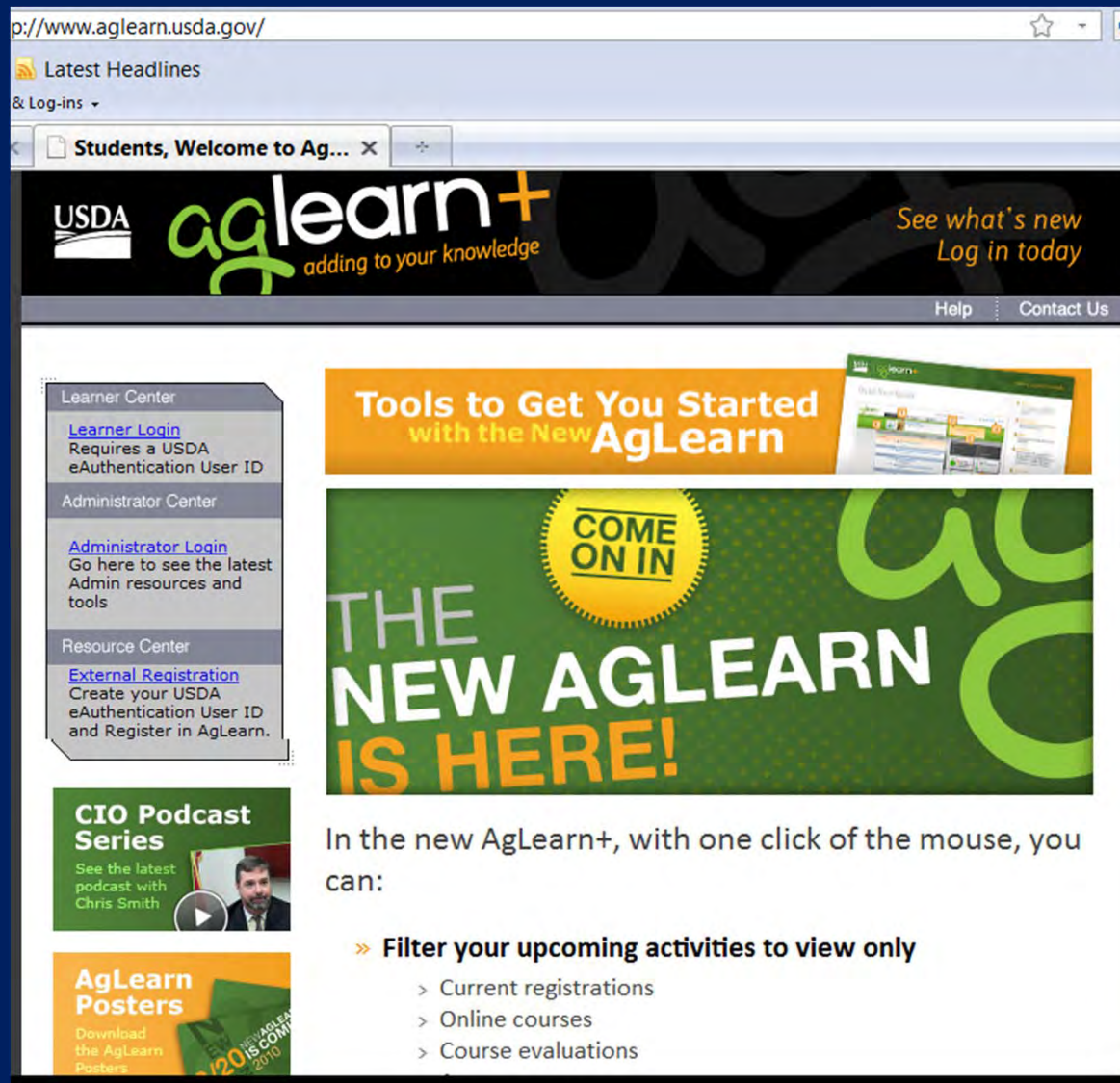
On the left side, there is a "Search USDA" box with a "Go" button. Below it are links for "TechReg" (Login, New User) and "TechReg Resources" (Conservation Activity Plans, Certification Categories, Civil Rights Responsibilities, News, Online Resources).

In the center, a "NEW!" announcement states: "On Tuesday August 24th a Web seminar, or Webinar was carried out on the topic: 'New tools for Conservation Planning and doing business with NRCS'. If you would like to review the tools, you're welcome to visit the following links: The webinar, polls and questions and answers are summarized in this link: <http://wikiagro.com/en/Webinar:New tools for conservation planning and doing business with the NRCS> You may download the tools that we reviewed, from this link: <http://www.geoagro.com/en/content/get-started> Tutorials for getting started: http://www.wikiagro.com/en/Portals:GeoAgro_Training Support information: http://www.wikiagro.com/en/Portals:GeoAgro_Support Please don't hesitate to contact GeoAgro if you have any questions or comments about these tools, at info@geoagro.com

On the right side, there are two sections: "I Want To..." with links like "Find a TSP", "Find Technical Service Payment Rates", "Become a TSP", "Receive TSP Training", "Complete TSP Renewal", "Register A Business", "Add Categories to my Profile", "Add States to my Profile", and "Update My Contact Info/Profile"; and "I Need Help With..." with a link for "Frequently Asked Questions".

Aglearn

<http://www.aglearn.usda.gov>



- NRCS required modules are completed using Aglearn.
- Requires USDA eAuthentication.

Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)



- eFOTG: www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/
- The Field Office Technical Guide is the primary scientific reference for NRCS.
- It contains the information about the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, animal natural resources and other information about the human environment.

(SWAPA + H)

Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

The screenshot displays the NRCS eFOTG (electronic Field Office Technical Guide) website. The header includes the United States Department of Agriculture logo, NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service, and navigation links for eFOTG, Search/Index, and About. The date is Jan 16 | Sat, and there are links for Close, Preferences, Contact, and Help. The location is YOLO COUNTY, CA, and the page is titled "eFOTG electronic Field Office Technical Guide".

Search menu: [GO]

eFOTG Home Page

What is eFOTG?
Technical guides are the primary scientific references for NRCS. They contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources.
For additional information and requirements please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

What's Changed Recently
[Log of Technical Guide Notices - 12/09 \(1/13/2010\)](#)
[Log of California Technical Guide Notices](#)
[A Index - Sorted numerically by code number of conservation practice \(TGN 101 11/30/09\) \(1/13/2010\)](#)
[Index of Conservation Practices Updated in Tech Guide Notice 101 - November 30, 2009 - Numeric Sort](#)
[A Index - Sorted alphabetically by name of conservation practice \(TGN 101 11/30/09\) \(1/13/2010\)](#)
[Index of Conservation Practices Standards Updated in Tech Guide Notice 101 - November 30, 2009 - Alphabetical sort of Practice Standards and Specifications](#)
[TG Notice No. 101-attachments \(1/13/2010\)](#)
[Attachments to TG Notice 101 TG Notice No. 101 \(1/13/2010\)](#)
[Issue new or revised conservation practice standards](#)
[A Table of Contents - Introduction \(1/13/2010\)](#)
[Table of Contents - Introduction FPPA County Data Table for Form AD-1006 \(1/13/2010\)](#)
[This FOTG Table provides data needed by NRCS staff to complete Part II of form AD-1006 used to document Important Farmlands for the Farmland Protection Policy Act \(FPPA\) review.](#)
[Forestry - No Link References \(1/13/2010\)](#)

What's Changed Recently

In The Spotlight
Tools
Technical Materials

Search menu: [GO]

eFOTG FYI

- eFOTG
 - Section I
 - Table of Contents
 - Cover Page - Section II
 - Introduction - Section II
 - Table of Contents - Section II
 - Section II
 - A. Soils Information
 - B. Climatic Data
 - C. Cultural Resources Information
 - D. Special Environmental Concerns
 - Threatened and Endangered Species Interpretations
 - 1. References
 - 2. Species identification aids
 - 3. Conservation planning guidance
 - 4. Inventory forms
 - 5. Mitigation procedures
 - E. Forage Suitability Groups
 - F. Ecological Site Descriptions
 - G. Vegetative Guide
 - H. Draft - Review Documents
 - Section III
 - Section IV
 - Section V

Section I - General References
In this section you will find general state m...
I contains links to researchers, universities
information about protected plant and anim...

Section II - Soil and Site Information
In this section you will find detailed informa...
Forage Suitability Groups, Cropland Produc...
available.

Section III - Conservation Manage...
In this section you will find information on...

Section IV - Practice Standards and S...
In this section you will find the NRCS Cons...
installing the practice in the state.

Section V - Conservation Effects
In this section you will find background info...

Technical Resources

- Agronomy & Erosion
- Air Quality & Atmospheric Change
- Animal Feeding Operations
- Biology
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Conservation Practices
- Cultural Resources
- Ecology
- Economics
- Engineering
- Environmental Compliance
- Forestry
- Maps, Imagery, and Data, & Analysis
- Nutrient & Pest Management
- Range and Pasture
- Pollinators
- Social Sciences
- Soils
- Water Resources

Find a Service Center

States and Regions

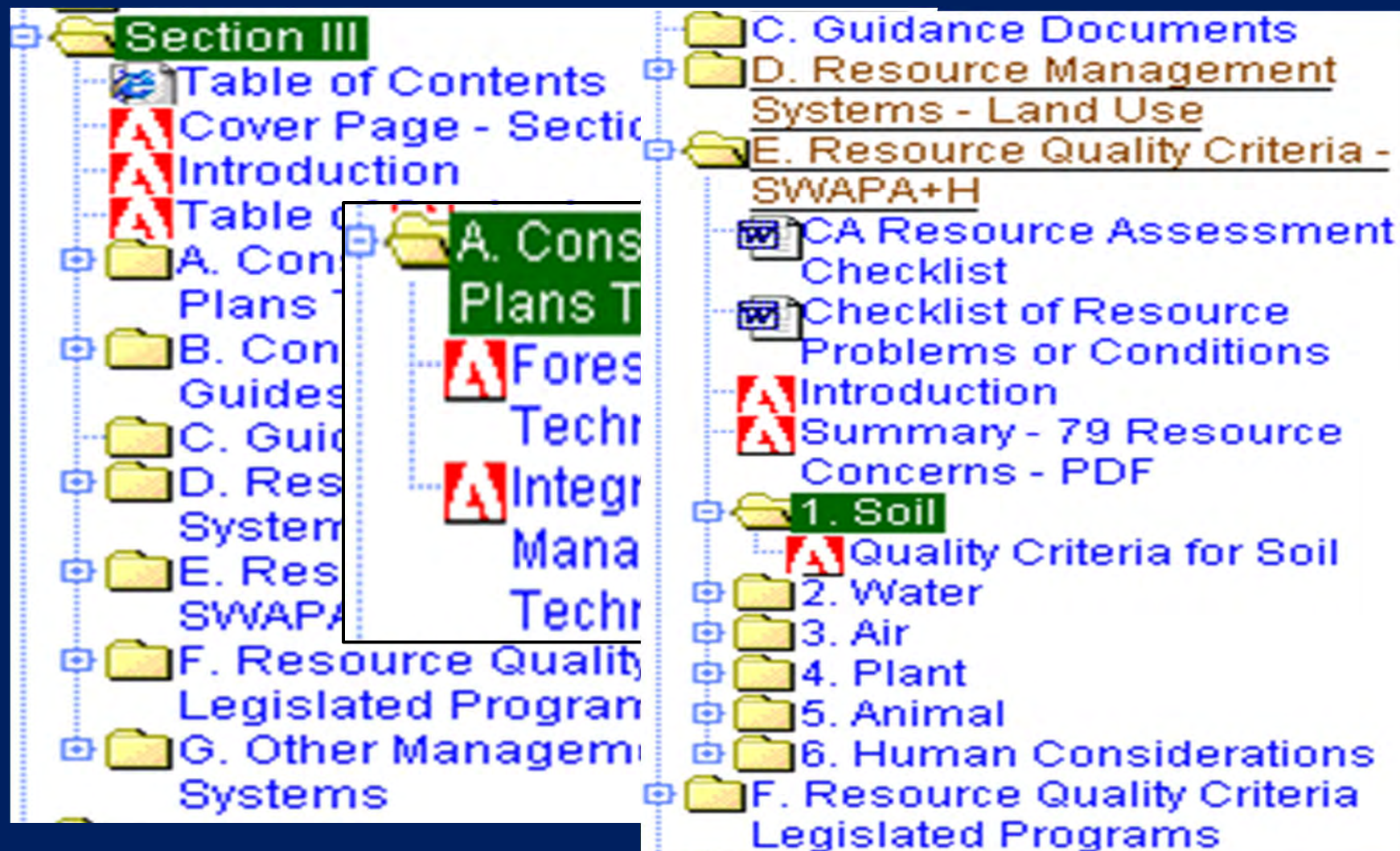
NRCS | USDA | Accessibility Statement | USDA Privacy Policy | USDA Nondiscrimination Statement | FOIA

Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

- Section 1: General References
- Section 2: Ecological, soil, environmental, site information, and other guidance
- Section 3: Conservation Management Systems – Quality Criteria
- Section 4: Practice Standards
- Section 5: Conservation Effects

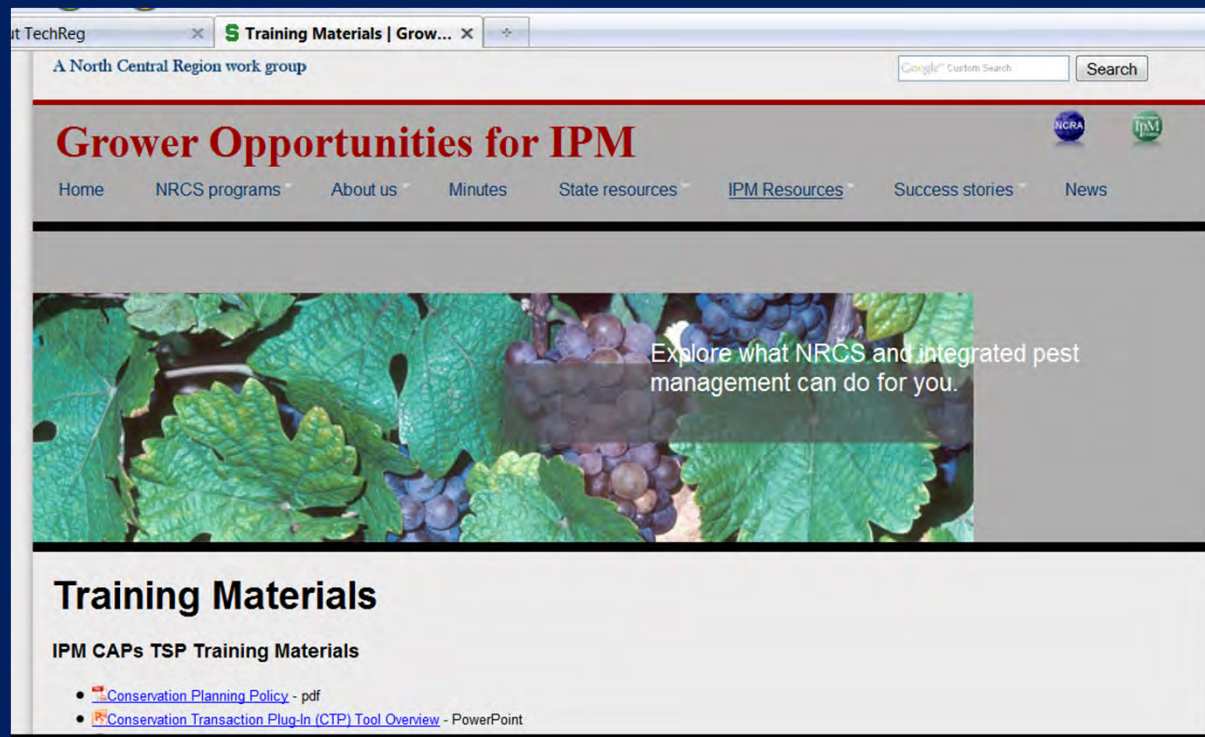
Section 3 of the FOTG will have most of the information needed by TSPs to support development of conservation activity plans:

Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)



Additional Resources for TSPs

NRCS & IPM Working Group: Grower Incentives for IPM
www.nrcs.ipm.msu.edu/nrcs/training_materials



- Comprehensive materials that explain steps and procedures for TSP certification for IPM CAPs and 595.

Questions?