

responses. This estimate is a decrease based on historical submission data and expectation that fewer interventions may be submitted to the SNAP-Ed Toolkit on a biennial basis.

*Estimated Time per Response:* The revised estimated time per response for this voluntary collection is 5.5 hours for the Intervention Submission Form and 3 hours for the Intervention Scoring Tool. This estimate was calculated based on feedback from the stakeholder consultation group. Estimates were averaged based on stakeholder feedback;

any data outliers were not included in this estimate. This reflects an increase from the current estimate of 2 hours for the Intervention Submission Form and a decrease from the current estimate of 6 hours for the Intervention Scoring Tool.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* The revised estimated total biennial burden on respondents for this voluntary collection is 353 hours, as this voluntary collection receives responses on a biennial basis. The revised estimated total annual burden on respondents for this voluntary

collection is 176.5 hours. This revised estimate is a reduction from the current estimated total annual burden of 523 hours. This revised estimate is a decrease based on historical submission data and expectation that fewer interventions may be submitted to the SNAP-Ed Toolkit on a biennial basis.

There are no recordkeeping or third-party/disclosure requirements associated with this information collection.

BURDEN ESTIMATE TABLE

Respondent category	Burden activity	Form	Estimated number of respondents	Responses per respondent	Total annual responses	Estimated hours per response	Estimated total burden hours
State/Local/Tribal Government.	Completing intervention submission form.	FNS-886	22	1	22	5.5	121.0
	Completing intervention scoring tool.	FNS-885	15	2	30	3	90.0
	Training for intervention scoring tool.	FNS-885	15	1	15	1	15.0
Subtotal: State/Local/Tribal Government.	.....		37	.....	67	.....	239.0
Business, Non-Profit .....	Intervention Submission Form.	FNS-886	5	1	5	5.5	27.5
	Scoring Tool .....	FNS-885	5	2	10	3	30.0
	Scoring Tool (Training) ...	FNS-885	5	1	5	1	5.0
Subtotal: Business, Non-Profit.	.....		10	.....	20	.....	91.5
Business, Profit .....	Intervention Submission Form.	FNS-886	1	1	1	5.5	5.5
	Scoring Tool .....	FNS-885	2	2	4	3	12.0
	Scoring Tool (Training) ...	FNS-885	2	1	2	1	2.0
Subtotal: Business, Profit.	.....		3	.....	7	.....	22.5
Total .....	.....		50	1.8800	94	3.7553	353.0

**Tameka Owens,**  
Assistant Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service.

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

[Docket No. NRCS-2023-0022]

**Proposed Revisions to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices for the Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability, request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is giving notice that it intends to issue a series of revised conservation practice standards in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). NRCS is also giving the public an opportunity to provide comments on the specified conservation practice standards in the NHCP.

**DATES:** We will consider comments that we receive by March 4, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** We invite you to submit comments in response to this notice. You may submit your comments through one of the following methods below:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRCS-2023-0022. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments; or
- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Mr. Bill Reck, National Environmental Engineer,

Conservation Engineering Division, NRCS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, South Building, Room 4636, Washington, DC 20250. In your comment, please specify the Docket ID NRCS-2023-0022.

All comments received will be made publicly available on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

The copies of the proposed revised standards are available through <http://www.regulations.gov> by accessing Docket No. NRCS-2023-0022. Alternatively, the proposed revised standards can be downloaded or printed from <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/conservation-practices>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Bill Reck at (202) 317-0245, or email at [bill.reck@usda.gov](mailto:bill.reck@usda.gov). Individuals who require alternative means for communication may contact the USDA TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and text telephone (TTY)) or dial

711 for Telecommunications Relay service (both voice and text telephone users can initiate this call from any telephone).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

NRCS plans to revise the conservation practice standards in the NHCP. This notice provides an overview of the planned changes and gives the public an opportunity to offer comments on the specific conservation practice standards and NRCS's proposed changes.

NRCS State Conservationists who choose to adopt these practices in their States will incorporate these practices into the 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 wetland. Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–127) 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.

##### Revisions to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices

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, which can be found at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/conservation-practice-standards>.

NRCS is requesting comments on the following conservation practice standards:

- Field Border (Code 386);
- Filter Strip (Code 393);
- Grazing Management (Code 528);
- Hedgerow Planting (Code 422);
- Mulching (Code 484);
- Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife (Code 646);
- Structure for Water Control (Code 587); and
- Wetland Restoration (Code 657).

The following are highlights of some of the proposed changes to each standard:

**Field Border (Code 386):** Revised the "Purpose" section to maintain consistency with the current resource concerns. Clarified the wording and formatting to increase readability of the "General Criteria" section and added text to the "Introduction in the Plans and Specifications" section.

**Filter Strip (Code 393):** Revised the definition to indicate the location of the filter strip. Revised the "Purpose" section to improve clarity and readability, added text to the "General Criteria" section to locate the filter strip downslope from a source area of contaminants and added a vegetation section. Added both criteria for flow lengths based on Agronomy Technical Note No. 2, and new content to specify burning frequency. Revised the "Irrigation Tailwater and Excessive Sediment in Surface Waters" section to clarify the plant stem spacing.

**Grazing Management (Code 528):** Changed the title to "Grazing Management" to eliminate confusion, promote a sense of adaptability, and better convey the intended purpose. Revised the "Purpose" section to add the purpose to reduce plant pest pressure and to create two new purposes from one existing purpose, one addressing soil erosion and the other addressing soil health related resource concerns. Revised the "General Criteria" section to include provisions to build resilience and resistance to climate-related disturbances. Added text to clarify that the standard is intended to be used for managing vegetation using herbivores. Added a new statement to the "Plans and Specifications" section referring to the National Range and Pasture Manual and clarified that contingency plans need to consider if weather events may be intensified due to climate change. Revised the "References" section.

**Hedgerow Planting (Code 422):** Combined purposes to reduce the numbers from 10 to 5. Pollinator, terrestrial wildlife, and aquatic wildlife purposes were consolidated to a single wildlife purpose. The purposes intercepting airborne particulates, reducing chemical drift and odor movement were combined as a filtering section purpose. Screens and barriers to noise and dust were changed to a barrier section purpose which also includes living fences. Boundary delineation and contour guidelines were removed as a purpose but retained as a consideration.

**Mulching (Code 484):** Clarified wording and formatting to increase readability. Deleted "Maintain or increase organic matter content." Added "non-biodegradable" to synthetic mulches in the "General Criteria" section. Revised the "Moisture Management Additional Criteria" title to "Additional Criteria to Improve the Efficiency of Rain-fed Moisture Management, to Improve Irrigation Energy Efficiency, or to Improve the Efficient Use of Irrigation Water." Added paragraph on materials to

moderate soil temperature to the "Additional Criteria to Improve Plant Productivity and Health" section. Added the "Additional Criteria to Reduce Plant Pest Pressure" section. Revised the "Considerations" section for clarity and formatting to increase readability. Clarified and added an additional purpose in the "Plans and Specifications" section. Deleted one purpose on fire damage to mulch material and added a note that some biodegradable mulches can be disked into soil while others should be removed and composted in the "Operation and Maintenance" section. Also, added an additional reference to the "Reference" section.

**Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife (Code 646):** Title changed to "Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife" to articulate the intent to provide temporary habitat needs through the management of water. Updated the standard to remove development and focus on management. Changed lifespan from 5 years to 1 year to align with other management practices. Development actions will be implemented through implementation of other practices. Added the requirement to use a state approved habitat assessment.

**Structure for Water Control (Code 587):** Updated formatting of the standard to meet current agency requirements. Minor revisions made for clarity and readability purposes.

**Wetland Restoration (Code 657):** This standard was last revised in 2010. This practice will have a 15-year span. The primary purpose of this revision was to make plain that this conservation practice standard covers restoration of the abiotic characteristics (hydrology, topography, and soils). Other conservation practice standards are used to restore the plant community. Changes to the "Purpose" section were made to adequately align with resource concerns. Made minor changes for clarity and to better describe the practice definition, purpose, criteria, and considerations. Included supporting practices, as well as a list of activities that do not fall under this standard to alleviate confusion. Removed all references to permitting requirements, as those requirements are provided by NRCS national conservation planning policy and should not be included in a technical standard.

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**Louis Aspey,**

*Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Bureau of Economic Analysis**

[Docket Number—240126-0025]

**Nomination of Individuals to the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Economic Analysis, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of request for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Under Secretary for Economic Affairs requests the nomination of individuals to the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee (FESAC or the Committee). The Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, in coordination with the Directors of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Census Bureau, as well as the Commissioner of the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), will consider nominations received in response to this notice, as well as from other sources.

**DATES:** Nominations for FESAC will be accepted on an ongoing basis and will be considered as and when vacancies arise.

**ADDRESSES:** Please submit nominations by email to [Gianna.marrone@bea.gov](mailto:Gianna.marrone@bea.gov) (subject line "FESAC Nomination").

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gianna Marrone, Committee Management Official, Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, telephone 301-278-9282, email: [gianna.marrone@bea.gov](mailto:gianna.marrone@bea.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FESAC was established in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2). The following sections provide information about the Committee, membership to the Committee, and the Committee's nomination process.

**Objectives and Scope of FESAC Activities**

The Committee advises the Directors of BEA and the Census Bureau, as well as the Commissioner of BLS, on statistical methodology and other technical matters related to the design, collection, tabulation, and analysis of federal economic statistics.

**Description of FESAC Member Duties**

The Committee functions solely as an advisory committee to the senior officials of BEA, the Census Bureau, and BLS (the agencies). Important aspects of the Committee's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- a. Recommending research to address important technical problems arising in the field of federal economic statistics;
- b. Identifying areas in which better coordination of the agencies' activities would be beneficial;
- c. Exploring ways to enhance the agencies' economic indicators to improve their timeliness, accuracy, and specificity to meet changing demands and future data needs;
- d. Improving the means, methods, and techniques to obtain economic

information needed to produce current and future economic indicators; and e. Coordinating, in its identification of agenda items, with other existing academic advisory committees chartered to provide agency-specific advice, for the purpose of avoiding duplication of effort.

The Committee meets once or twice a year, budget permitting. Additional meetings may be held as deemed necessary by the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs or the Designated Federal Official. All Committee meetings are open to the public in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

**FESAC Membership**

The Committee will comprise approximately sixteen members who serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of Commerce. Members shall be appointed by the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs in consultation with the agencies. Committee members shall be professionals in appropriate disciplines, including economists, statisticians, survey methodologists, computer scientists, data scientists, and behavioral scientists who are experts in their fields and are recognized for their scientific, professional, and operational achievements and objectivity. Membership will represent data users with expertise from the public sector, academia, and the private sector. Members will be chosen to achieve a balanced membership that will meet the needs of the agencies.

Members shall serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs) and shall be subject to the applicable ethics rules.

A FESAC member term is three years. Members may serve more than one term as described in the FESAC Charter, available at: <https://apps.bea.gov/fesac/>.

**Compensation for Members**

Members of the Committee serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for Committee-related travel and lodging expenses.

**Solicitation of Nominations**

The Committee is currently filling one or more positions on FESAC.

The Under Secretary of Economic Affairs, in consultation with the agencies, will consider nominations of all qualified individuals to ensure that the Committee includes the areas of experience noted above. Individuals may nominate themselves or other individuals. Professional associations and organizations also may nominate one or more qualified persons for Committee membership. Nominations