

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Natural Resources Conservation Service****Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Oklahoma**

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oklahoma, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the FOTG of the NRCS in Oklahoma for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS in Oklahoma to issue a series of new and revised conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. These new standards include Access Road (Code 560); Forage Harvest Management (Code 511); Irrigation Erosion Control, Polyacrylamide (Code I-444); Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) Irrigation System (Code I-442A); Stream Crossing (Code I/583A); Well Decommissioning (Code 351); and Wetland Development or Restoration (Code 657). The revised standards include Brush Management (Code 314); Conservation Cover (Code 327); Firebreak (Code 394); Forest Site Preparation (Code 490); Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666); Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410); Pond (Code 378); Prescribed Grazing (Code 528A); Residue Management, No Till and Strip Till (Code 329A); Residue Management, Mulch Till (Code 329B); Residue Management, Ridge Till (Code 329C); Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344); Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391); Terrace (Code 600); Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612); Tree/Shrub Pruning (Code 660); Trough or Tank (Code 614); Windbreak Renovation (Code 650); and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Code 380). Some of these practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land.

DATES: Comments will be received on or before October 20, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Kevin D. Norton, State Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), 100 USDA, Suite 203, Stillwater, OK 74074-2655. Copies of these standards will be made available upon written request.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after

enactment of the law, to NRCS state technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law, shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days, the NRCS in Oklahoma will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period, a determination will be made by the NRCS in Oklahoma regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Dated: September 3, 1997.

Ronnie L. Clark,

State Conservationist, Stillwater, Oklahoma.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Utilities Service****Municipal Interest Rates for the Fourth Quarter of 1997**

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the fourth quarter of 1997.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the fourth calendar quarter of 1997.

DATES: These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning October 1, 1997, and ending December 31, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Dotson, Loan Funds Control Assistant, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, Room 2234-S, Stop 1524, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1500. Telephone: 202-720-1928. FAX: 202-690-2268. E-mail: CDotson@rus.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the fourth calendar quarter of 1997 for municipal rate electric loans. RUS regulations at 7 CFR 1714.4 state that each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to 7 CFR 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the "Bond Buyer" for the four weeks prior to the first Friday of the last month before the beginning of

the quarter. The rate for interest rate terms of 20 years or longer is the average of the 20 year rates published in the Bond Buyer in the four weeks specified in 7 CFR 1714.5(d). The rate for terms of less than 20 years is the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer for the same four weeks in the table of "Municipal Market Data—General Obligation Yields" or the successor to this table. No interest rate may exceed the interest rate for Water and Waste Disposal loans.

The table of Municipal Market Data includes only rates for securities maturing in 1998 and at 5 year intervals thereafter. The rates published by RUS reflect the average rates for the years shown in the Municipal Market Data table. Rates for interest rate terms ending in intervening years are a linear interpolation based the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer. All rates are adjusted to the nearest one eighth of one percent (0.125 percent) as required under 7 CFR 1714.5(a). The market interest rate on Water and Waste Disposal loans for this quarter is 5.375 percent.

In accordance with 7 CFR 1714.5, the interest rates are established as shown in the following table for all interest rate terms that begin at any time during the fourth calendar quarter of 1997.

| Interest rate term ends in (year) | RUS rate (0.000 percent) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018 or later | 5.375 |
| 2017 | 5.375 |
| 2016 | 5.250 |
| 2015 | 5.250 |
| 2014 | 5.250 |
| 2013 | 5.250 |
| 2012 | 5.125 |
| 2011 | 5.125 |
| 2010 | 5.000 |
| 2009 | 4.875 |
| 2008 | 4.875 |
| 2007 | 4.750 |
| 2006 | 4.625 |
| 2005 | 4.625 |
| 2004 | 4.500 |
| 2003 | 4.500 |
| 2002 | 4.375 |
| 2001 | 4.250 |
| 2000 | 4.125 |
| 1999 | 4.000 |
| 1998 | 3.750 |

Dated: September 12, 1997.

Wally Beyer,

Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.

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