

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Farm Service Agency  
Washington, DC 20250

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**Agricultural Resource  
Conservation Program  
2-CRP (Revision 6)**

**Amendment 9**

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**Approved by:** Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



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**Amendment Transmittal**

**A Reasons for Amendment**

Subparagraphs 18 C, 52 E, 171 C, 181 A, B, C, and E, 184 B and H, and 211 E and F have been amended to update the name of the CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet.

Subparagraph 66 B has been amended to clarify CP3 and CP3A are 15-year practices for general CRP signups.

Subparagraph 66 C has been amended to clarify contract lengths for continuous CRP signup through HELI and continuous CRP signup through Wellhead Protection.

Subparagraph 66 D has been amended to provide clarity for the following practices:

- CP1 contract length by signup
- CP2 contract length
- CP3 contract length by signup
- CP3A contract length by signup
- CP21 to reflect the correct practice name, "Filter Strips"
- CP21B to reflect the correct practice name, "Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips"
- CP21S to reflect the correct practice name, "Saturated Filter Strips"
- CP38E to reflect CP38E-12 is not eligible for incentive payments.

Subparagraph 81 H has been amended to provide steps 5 through 8 for counties with 20 percent or greater cropland enrolled in CRP/ACEP-WRE.

Subparagraph 101 C has been amended to provide maximum payment rates.

Subparagraph 102 B has been added to provide clarification for the SPI range.

Subparagraph 182 B has been amended to correct Example 2.

## **Amendment Transmittal (Continued)**

### **A Reasons for Amendment (Continued)**

Subparagraphs 183 A, B, and C have been amended to provide clarity for continuous signup wind or water weighted average EI for HELI.

Subparagraph 183 E has been amended to provide HELI practice contract durations.

Subparagraph 184 E has been amended to provide the maximum per-acre payment rate for all CLEAR30 offers is \$380 per acre.

Subparagraph 197 B has been amended to clarify PIP examples.

Subparagraph 237 B has been amended to update practice names.

Subparagraph 263 C has been amended to provide additional clarity for grassland CRP cropping history.

Subparagraph 264 C has been amended to reference Exhibit 20 for grassland CRP signup numbers and dates.

Subparagraphs 265 B and 269 C have been amended to update the references to the accepted and rejected letters. The County Office will use:

- CRP-23 to notify producers if offers are accepted
- CRP-26 to notify producers if offers are rejected.

Subparagraph 293 B has been amended to provide the point range for N1 (Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits) is 0 through 100.

Subparagraph 335 A has been amended to include clarification that conservation plans, when completed by NRCS for land enrolled in CRP, are considered an FSA document. FSA spousal signature authority applies, and spouses may sign CRP conservation plans on behalf of one another without a power of attorney.

Subparagraph 335 C has been amended to reference 1-CM for signature guidance for a trustee of BIA representing Native Americans owning the land who signs on their behalf.

Paragraph 368 has been amended to update the paragraph title to “NRCS Conservation Plan and C/S Agreement”.

Subparagraph 401 A has been amended to clarify requirements that the first 5 new or revised CREP offers per county must be reviewed by STC or its representative before approval.

Subparagraph 426 B has been amended to include that producers may start a CRP practice after submitting the offer to the County Office, after completing the environmental review as provided in subparagraph 367 F, and after being notified CRP-1 has been approved.

## Amendment Transmittal (Continued)

### A Reasons for Amendment (Continued)

Subparagraph 493 C has been amended to remove the note referencing archeological surveys.

Subparagraph 522 H has been amended to require DD's to provide a summation to the State Office by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month on the FSA-848A, Practices With Expiration Date Exceeded Report.

Subparagraph 546 J has been amended to provide CRP-1 Appendix for general signup 60 and grassland signup 205.

Subparagraph 576 C has been amended to clarify **when determining whether a waiver of refunds will be approved, at a minimum, COC's must include all considerations listed.**

Subparagraph 603 F has been amended to clarify an act of not good faith on the part of the participant includes unauthorized harvesting of tree cover.

Subparagraph 604 A has been amended to correct the subparagraph title to "Assessing Payment Reduction".

Exhibit 2 has been amended to:

- update the definitions of "beginning farmer or rancher" and "socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher"
- add the definitions of "limited resource producer" and "subfactor F2a veteran farmer or rancher".

Exhibit 5 has been amended to:

- update the language in CRP-23 to be used as the accepted offer letter for general, continuous, and grassland signup
- update the language in CRP-26 to be used as the unacceptable offer letter for general, continuous, and grassland signup
- remove CRP-27, CRP-28, and corresponding instructions
- update the instructions for CRP-23, CRP-24, CRP-25, CRP-26, CRP-35, and CRP-36.

## **Amendment Transmittal (Continued)**

### **A Reasons for Amendment (Continued)**

Exhibit 11 has been amended to:

- add language clarifying CP15B to reflect contour grass strips established on terraces must be installed to the minimum design standard to ensure long-term viability of the terraces to reduce erosion and enhance water quality
- add language clarifying CP23A must be applied to either land located outside the 100-year floodplain or playa lakes
- clarify C/S is not authorized for management activities for CP24 and CP25
- clarify CP27 and CP28 are no longer pilot practices
- add 595 as an eligible technical practice code for CP33
- add 383 and 394 as eligible technical practice codes for CP88.

Exhibit 20 has been amended to add continuous CRP signup 59, general CRP signup 60, and grassland CRP signup 205.

Exhibit 24 has been amended to:

- add expiring GRP with an expiration date within the current FY as eligible cover for F1
- update the title of paragraph 3 to “National Ranking Factor F2 for Beginning, Socially Disadvantaged, Veteran, and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers”
- provide a reference for the definition of “beginning farmer or rancher”
- update the definition of “socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher”
- provide the definition of “limited resource producer”
- provide the formula for F7
- add language for subfactor F7a clarifying if the maximum grassland CRP rental rate for a county is less than or equal to \$15, the offer will get 15 points
- add language to provide clarification for subfactor F7b point calculation.

## **Amendment Transmittal (Continued)**

### **A Reasons for Amendment (Continued)**

Exhibit 26 has been amended to update:

- subparagraph 1 C to reflect N3 is now eligible for 10 to 100 points
- subparagraph 1 C to reflect N5b is now eligible for 0 or 10 points
- subparagraph 2 A to clarify expiring CRP land with trees loses its cropland status after the expiration of the contract except for 1- to 2-row shelterbelts

**Note:** See 10-CM, subparagraph 17 B.

- subparagraph 2 B to provide FSA or TSP will only allow those covers that are suitable for the site designated for the offer
- all tables to reflect general CRP signup 60 information
- subparagraph 3 D to replace RKLS language with water erosion language
- subparagraph 4 A to update language about sheet and rill erosion software and wind erosion software
- subparagraph 4 B to reflect changes in points based on the EI score
- subparagraphs 6 A and 6 B to remove language about the climatic factor and soil erosion index.

**Amendment Transmittal (Continued)**

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**Part 2 Responsibilities**

**Section 1 Agency Responsibilities**

**18 Responsibilities**

**A FSA Responsibilities**

FSA will administer CRP. Supervision will be provided by:

- STC to COC
- COC to County Offices for the day-to-day CRP operations.

**B NRCS Responsibilities**

NRCS will, as appropriate, participate in State-level technical determinations and policy reviews, such as evaluating soil payment rates, C/S policies, and other requirements.

**C NRCS and TSP Responsibilities**

NRCS and TSP will:

- develop an approved conservation plan
- \*-assist participants to ensure that practice specifications are met, including using CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheets for continuous CRP signup only for land not--\* currently enrolled in CRP
- provide FSA with the following:
  - certification of practice completion on FSA-848B, according to paragraphs 507 and 508
  - copy of all completed status reviews
- through State Foresters:
  - develop the tree planting plan for inclusion in the approved conservation plan

**18 Responsibilities (Continued)**

**C NRCS and TSP Responsibilities (Continued)**

- provide technical assistance for the tree planting practices
- monitor and certify practice completions
- develop landowner stewardship plans for converted CRP-1's.

**D NIFA Responsibilities**

NIFA will coordinate and conduct educational activities on CRP through the State Extension System.

**E Conservation Districts Responsibilities**

Conservation Districts will have the opportunity to approve conservation plans.

52 NRCS Responsibilities (Continued)

E NRCS Field Offices

The following provides the responsibilities of the District Conservationist.

Activity	Responsibility
Coordination and Representation	Coordinates responsibilities and represents NRCS with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSA</li> <li>• FSA COC</li> <li>• State Forestry Agency</li> <li>• State Wildlife Agency</li> <li>• Conservation Districts</li> <li>• other agencies, as appropriate.</li> </ul>
Reporting and Records Management	Reports the following to FSA COC promptly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• findings that may affect an applicant’s eligibility, including changes in cropping history or management</li> <li>• cases of apparent noncompliance with program requirements.</li> </ul>
Planning and Application	Assists producers with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•*--evaluating eligibility of the practice by completing the CRP Suitability--* and Feasibility Worksheet</li> <li>• developing a conservation plan that NRCS has technical responsibility for that contains all appropriate practices, including operation and maintenance</li> <li>• servicing all FSA-848B’s that NRCS has technical responsibility for the assigned practices (CP1, CP2, etc.) identified in the conservation plan</li> <li>• ensuring that all conservation practices meet FOTG standards</li> <li>• obtaining Conservation District approval of conservation plans</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> See subparagraphs 366 D and 368 C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coordinating planning of tree planting with the producer and State Forestry Agency representative for development of the tree planting plan to be referenced in the conservation plan (other approved electronic form)</li> <li>• complete conservation plan modifications as needed and provide copy to FSA.</li> </ul>

52 NRCS Responsibilities (Continued)

E NRCS Field Offices (Continued)

Activity	Responsibility
Certification	<p>Certifies on approved forms that the conservation plan meets minimum requirements before obtaining the Conservation District review and approval.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> See subparagraphs 366 D and 368 C regarding Conservation District signature.</p> <p>Certifies on FSA-848B that all CRP practices (CP1, CP2, etc.) on CRP-1 and included in the conservation plan are installed according to NRCS standards and specifications. See paragraphs 507 and 508.</p>
Completes Status Reviews	<p>*--Completes status reviews for all site visits and provides FSA a--* copy, with pictures if there are possible compliance issues.</p>

F NRCS Employee Prohibitions

NRCS employees are prohibited from servicing CRP-1's on land that they, or their immediate family, own or lease. The Area or State Conservationist must designate another NRCS employee to service such CRP-1's.

53-65 (Reserved)

66 National Practices (Continued)

**B Practices for General CRP Signup**

The following provides eligible practices and CRP-1 period for general CRP signup.

Practice	CRP-1 Period
CP1	10
CP2	10
CP3	*--15
CP3A	15--*
CP4B <u>3/</u>	10 to 15 <u>1/</u>
CP4D	10
CP12 <u>2/</u>	10 to 15
CP25	10 to 15 <u>1/</u>
CP42	10

1/ Producer must elect a CRP-1 period between 10 and 15 years.

2/ CP12 is only available in conjunction with certain other practices. The CRP-1 period is determined by the practice used in conjunction with CP12. See Exhibit 11.

3/ Practice is not available as of January 4, 2021.

## 66 National Practices (Continued)

**C Practices for Continuous CRP Signup**

The following provides eligible practices and CRP-1 period for the continuous CRP signup.

\*--**Note:** Not applicable to CLEAR30, FWP, HELI, SAFE, and Wellhead Protection which are listed in separate tables.

<b>Practice</b>	<b>CRP-1 Period</b>
CP5A <u>2/</u>	14 to 15
CP8A	10
CP9	10
CP12 <u>1/</u>	10 to 15
CP15A	10
CP15B	10
CP16A <u>2/</u>	14 to 15
CP17A	14 to 15
CP18B	10
CP18C	10
CP21 <u>2/</u>	10 to 15
CP21B <u>2/</u>	10 to 15
CP21S <u>2/</u>	10 to 15
CP22	14 to 15
CP22B	14 to 15
CP22S	14 to 15
CP23	10 to 15
CP23A	10 to 15
CP24	10
CP27	10 to 15
CP28	10 to 15
CP29	10 to 15
CP30	10 to 15
CP31	14 to 15
CP33 <u>2/</u>	10
CP36	14 to 15
CP37	10 to 15
CP 42 <u>2/</u>	10
CP 43 <u>2/</u>	10 to 15

1/ CP12 is only available in conjunction with certain other practices. The CRP-1 period is determined by the practice used in conjunction with CP12. See Exhibit 11.

2/ Practices enrolled under organic operations eligibility must be designated in COLS.--\*



## 66 National Practices (Continued)

**C Practices for Continuous CRP Signup (Continued)**

The following provides eligible practices and CRP-1 period for continuous CRP signup through CLEAR30.

<b>Practice</b>	<b>CRP-1 Period</b>
CP8A	30 years
CP15A	30 years
CP15B	30 years
CP21	30 years
CP22	30 years
CP23	30 years
CP23A	30 years
CP29	30 years
CP30	30 years
CP31	30 years
CP37	30 years

The following provides eligible practices and CRP-1 period for continuous CRP signup through FWP.

<b>Practice</b>	<b>CRP-1 Period</b>
CP27	10 to 15 years
CP28	10 to 15 years
CP39	10 to 15 years
CP40	10 to 15 years
CP41	10 to 15 years

The following provides eligible practices and CRP-1 period for continuous CRP signup through HELI.

<b>Practice</b>	<b>CRP-1 Period</b>
CP1	10 years
CP2	10 years
CP3	*--14 to 15 years
CP3A	14 to 15 years--*
CP4D	10 years
CP25	10 years

## 66 National Practices (Continued)

## C Practices for Continuous CRP Signup (Continued)

\*--The following provides eligible practices and CRP-1 period for continuous CRP signup through SAFE.

Practice	CRP-1 Period
CP38A-8A <u>3/</u>	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38A-15A <u>3/</u>	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38A-15B <u>3/</u>	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38A-21	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38A-22	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38A-33 <u>3/</u>	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38A-43	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38B-9	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38B-23	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38B-23A	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38B-27	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38B-28	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38B-37	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38C-3	14 to 15 years
CP38C-3A	14 to 15 years
CP38C-5A	14 to 15 years
CP38C-16A	14 to 15 years
CP38C-17A	14 to 15 years
CP38C-25 (primarily trees)	14 to 15 years
CP38C-31	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38D-36	14 to 15 years
CP38E-1	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38E-2	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38E-4D	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38E-12 <u>4/</u>	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38E-18B	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38E-18C	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38E-24	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38E-25 (primarily grass)	10 to 15 Determined based on project
CP38E-42	10 to 15 Determined based on project

3/ SAFE practices were moved from CP38E to CP38A starting with SU55 – January 4, 2021.

4/ CP12 is only authorized in combination with certain conservation practices. The length of CRP-1 is determined by the contract duration of the companion practice.--\*

66 National Practices (Continued)

C Practices for Continuous CRP Signup (Continued)

The following provides eligible practices and CRP-1 period for continuous CRP signup through Wellhead Protection.

Practice	CRP-1 Period
CP1	*--10 years
CP2	10 years
CP3	14 to 15 years
CP3A	14 to 15 years
CP4D	10 years--*

66 National Practices (Continued)

**D CRP Practices, Signup Types, Contract Periods, and Incentives**

The following provides CRP practices, signup types, contract periods, and incentives.

**Important:** The terms of the CREP Agreement will provide the CRP practices, contract period, and incentives, if any, for each CREP.

\*--

Practice Number And Name	Continuous	General	Contract Period	32.5 Percent SIP	50 Percent PIP <u>3/</u>	20 Percent Rental Rate Incentive <u>3/</u>	Climate-Smart Incentive Percent	Maintenance Incentive Rate
CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes		X	10	N <u>1/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N	5%	
CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes	Wellhead/ HELI		10	N <u>1/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N	5%	
CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grass	Wellhead/ HELI	X	10	N <u>1/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N	3%	
CP3, Tree Planting	Wellhead/ HELI		14-15 <u>9/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N	10%	
CP3, Tree Planting		X	15 <u>10/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N	10%	
CP3A, Hardwood Tree Planting	Wellhead/ HELI		14-15 <u>9/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N	10%	
CP3A, Hardwood Tree Planting		X	15 <u>10/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N	10%	
CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat Corridors <u>4/</u>	Wellhead	X	10-15	N <u>1/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N	N	
CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat	Wellhead/ HELI	X	10	N <u>1/</u>	N <u>1/</u>	N	3%	
CP5A, Field Windbreak Establishment	X		14-15 <u>9/</u>	Y	Y	N	10%	
CP8A, Grass Waterway	X		10	Y	Y	Y	3%	

--\*

1/ SIP and PIP are authorized for practices enrolled under wellhead protection criteria and HELI.

3/ Effective for contracts approved on or after June 14, 2021.

4/ Practice is no longer available as of January 4, 2021.

9/ Effective for contracts approved after October 1, 2022.

\*--10/ Effective for general CRP signup beginning February 27, 2023.--\*

66 National Practices (Continued)

**D CRP Practices, Signup Types, Contract Periods, and Incentives (Continued)**

\*--

Practice Number And Name	Continuous	General	Contract Period	32.5 Percent SIP	50 Percent PIP <u>3/</u>	20 Percent Rental Rate Incentive <u>3/</u>	Climate-Smart Incentive Percent	Maintenance Incentive Rate
CP9, Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife	X		10	Y	Y	N	3%	
CP12, Wildlife Food Plot	X	X	10-15	N <u>2/</u>	N	N	N	
CP15A, Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover - Contour Grass Strip	X		10	Y	Y	Y	5%	
CP15B, Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover - Contour Grass Strip on Terraces	X		10	Y	Y	Y	5%	
CP16A, Shelterbelt Establishment	X		14-15 <u>2/</u>	Y	Y	N	10%	

--\*

2/ SIP is authorized only when enrolled under continuous CRP.

3/ Effective for contracts approved on or after June 14, 2021.

\*-9/ Effective for contracts approved after October 1, 2022.--\*

66 National Practices (Continued)

D CRP Practices, Signup Types, Contract Periods, and Incentives (Continued)

Practice Number And Name	Continuous	General	Contract Period	32.5 Percent SIP	50 Percent PIP <u>3/</u>	20 Percent Rental Rate Incentive <u>3/</u>	Climate-Smart Incentive Percent	Maintenance Incentive Rate
CP17A, Living Snow Fences	X		14-15 <u>9/</u>	Y	Y	N	10%	
CP18B, Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity	X		10	Y	Y	N	3%	
CP18C, Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover	X		10	Y	Y	N	3%	
CP21, *-Filter Strips	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	3%	\$0, \$5, \$10
CP21B, Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	3%	\$0, \$5, \$10
CP21S, Saturated Filter Strips--*	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	3%	\$0, \$5, \$10
CP22, Riparian Buffer	X		14-15 <u>9/</u>	Y	Y	Y	10%	\$2, \$5, \$10
CP22B, Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffer	X		14-15 <u>9/</u>	Y	Y	Y	10%	\$2, \$5, \$10
CP22S, Saturated Riparian Buffer	X		14-15 <u>9/</u>	Y	Y	Y	10%	\$2, \$5, \$10
CP23, Wetland Restoration	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	3%	
CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	3%	

3/ Effective for contracts approved on or after June 14, 2021.

9/ Effective for contracts approved after October 1, 2022.

66 National Practices (Continued)

**D CRP Practices, Signup Types, Contract Periods, and Incentives (Continued)**

\*--

Practice Number And Name	Continuous	General	Contract Period	32.5 Percent SIP	50 Percent PIP <u>3/</u>	20 Percent Rental Rate Incentive <u>3/</u>	Climate-Smart Incentive Percent	Maintenance Incentive Rate
CP24, Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover as Cross Wind Trap Strips	X		10	Y	Y	N	5%	
CP25, Rare and Declining Habitat	HELI only	X	10-15	N	N	N	10%	
CP27, Farmable Wetlands Pilot Wetland	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	3%	
CP28, Farmable Wetlands Pilot Buffer	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	3%	
CP29, Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	5%	\$0, \$5, \$10
CP30, Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	3%	\$0, \$5, \$10
CP31, Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands	X		14-15 <u>2/</u>	Y	Y	Y	10%	
CP33, Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds	X		10	Y	Y	N	5%	
CP36, Longleaf Pine - Establishment	X		14-15 <u>2/</u>	Y	Y	N	10%	
CP37, Duck Nesting Habitat	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	3%	

3/ Effective for contracts approved on or after June 14, 2021.

2/ Effective for contracts approved after October 1, 2022.--\*

66 National Practices (Continued)

D CRP Practices, Signup Types, Contract Periods, and Incentives (Continued)

Practice Number And Name	Continuous	General	Contract Period	32.5 Percent SIP	50 Percent PIP <u>3/</u>	20 Percent Rental Rate Incentive <u>3/</u>	Climate-Smart Incentive Percent	Maintenance Incentive Rate
CP38A, SAFE – Buffers (CP8A, CP21)	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y	3%	
CP38A, SAFE – Buffers (CP15A, CP15B, CP33, CP43)	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y <u>5/</u>	5%	
CP38A, SAFE – Buffers (CP22)	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y <u>6/</u>	10%	
CP38B, SAFE – Wetlands (CP9, CP23, CP23A, CP27, CP28, CP37)	X		10-15	Y	Y	Y <u>7/</u>	3%	
CP38C, SAFE – Trees (CP3, CP3A, CP5A, CP25)	X		14-15 <u>9/</u>	Y	Y	N	10%	
CP38C, SAFE – Trees (CP16A, CP17A, CP31)	X		14-15	Y	Y	N	10%	
CP38D, SAFE – Longleaf Pine (CP36)	X		14-15	Y	Y	N	10%	
CP38E, SAFE – Grass (CP2, CP4D, CP12, CP18B, CP18C)	X		10-15	*--Y <u>8/</u>	Y <u>8/</u> --*	N	3% <u>8/</u>	
CP38E, SAFE – Grass (CP1, CP24, CP42)	X		10-15	Y	Y	N	5%	

3/ Effective for contracts approved on or after June 14, 2021.

5/ Practice CP38A-33is not authorized for the 20 Percent Rental Rate Incentive.

6/ Practice CP38A-5Ais not authorized for the 20 Percent Rental Rate Incentive.

7/ Practice CP38B-9 is not authorized for the 20 Percent Rental Rate Incentive.

\*--8/ Practice CP38E-12 is not authorized for incentive payments or C/S.--\*

9/ Effective for contracts approved after October 1, 2022.



81 County Cropland Limitation (Continued)

**\*--H Counties With 20.0 Percent or Greater Cropland Enrolled in CRP/ACEP-WRE**

County Offices **must** access and review the **current** CRP 25 Percent County Cropland Report each week when the report is updated. Using prior versions of the report will result in inaccurate data and may result in erroneous enrollment of acres.

County Offices must follow the steps in the following table for each continuous CRP signup offer, including offers to enroll cropland through CREP, submitted that includes any cropland acres when **both** the percentage listed in the “% cropland enrolled in CRP/WRP” column of the report is equal to or greater than 20.0 percent for the county where the cropland being offered is **physically located**, and:

- for offers with a current FY start date (start date before October 1), the number of acres listed in the “Maximum Signup that could be approved for current FY contracts” column of the report is greater than zero
- for offers with a subsequent FY start date (start date on or after October 1), the number of acres listed in the “Maximum Signup that could be approved in total for the current FY and subsequent FY contracts” column of the report is greater than zero.

Step	Action	Result
1	Follow the process flow according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 171 C, through Step 17. COC or CED will <b>not</b> act on CRP-1 until completing all steps in this table.	
2	Access the current 25 Percent County Cropland Report through the SharePoint site provided in subparagraph 81 E.  <b>Important:</b> County Offices must access the <b>current</b> 25 Percent County Cropland Report. Using prior versions of the report will result in inaccurate data and may result in erroneous enrollment of acres.	
3	From the <b>current</b> 25 Percent County Cropland Report, enter the value from the “Maximum Signup that could be approved for current FY contracts” column for the county where the cropland on the CRP-1 from Step 1 is physically located.  <b>Important:</b> The data for the county where the cropland is <b>physically located must</b> be used.	
4	From the <b>current</b> 25 Percent County Cropland Report, enter the value in the “Maximum Signup that could be approved for current FY and subsequent FY contracts” for the county where the cropland on the CRP-1 from Step 1 is physically located.  <b>Important:</b> The data for the county where the cropland is <b>physically located must</b> be used.	

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81 County Cropland Limitation (Continued)

**H Counties With 20.0 Percent or Greater Cropland Enrolled in CRP/ACEP-WRE (Continued)**

\*--

Step	Action	Result
5	<p>Enter the total number of cropland acres from all CRP-1's that were approved, but not recorded in CCMS as an approved CRP-1, any time before the date of the <b>current</b> 25 Percent County Cropland Report.</p> <p><b>Important:</b> If the cropland on CRP-1 from step 1 is physically located in a different county, the County Office must contact the physical location County Office to obtain the total number of cropland acres from all CRP-1's that were approved, but not recorded in CCMS as an approved CRP-1, the week before the date of the <b>current</b> 25 Percent County Cropland Report.</p>	
6	<p>Enter the total number of cropland acres from all CRP-1's that have been approved since the <b>current</b> 25 Percent County Cropland Report was posted.</p> <p><b>Important:</b> If the cropland on CRP-1 from step 1 is physically located in a different county, the County Office must contact the physical location County Office to obtain the total number of cropland acres from all CRP-1's that have been approved since the <b>current</b> 25 Percent County Cropland Report was posted.</p>	
7	<p>Enter the total number of acres determined acceptable from the current FY general CRP signup for which CRP-1 has <b>not</b> been approved.</p> <p><b>Important:</b> If the cropland on CRP-1 from step 1 is physically located in a different county, the County Office must contact the physical location County Office to obtain the total number of acres determined acceptable from the current FY general CRP signup for which CRP-1 has not been approved.</p>	
8	<p>Enter the total number of <b>cropland</b> acres determined acceptable from the current FY grassland CRP signup for which CRP-1 has <b>not</b> been approved.</p> <p><b>Important:</b> If the cropland on CRP-1 from step 1 is physically located in a different county, the County Office must contact the physical location County Office to obtain the total number of acres determined acceptable from the current FY general CRP signup for which CRP-1 has not been approved.</p>	

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81 County Cropland Limitation (Continued)

**H Counties With 20.0 Percent or Greater Cropland Enrolled in CRP/ACEP-WRE (Continued)**

Step	Action	Result
9	Add the result of step 5, step 6, step 7, and step 8.	
10	Subtract the result of step 9 from the result of step 3.	
11	Subtract the result of step 9 from the result of step 4.	
12	Enter the total number of cropland acres on CRP-1 offer being processed from step 1.	
13	Enter the FY of CRP-1 from step 1.  If the start date of CRP-1 is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• before October 1, then the FY of CRP-1 is the current FY; go to step 14</li> <li>• on or after October 1, then the FY of CRP-1 is the subsequent FY; go to step 16.</li> </ul>	
14	Is the result of step 12 less than or equal to the result of step 10? If: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Yes”, go to step 15</li> <li>• “No”, go to step 18.</li> </ul>	
15	The County Office may continue to process CRP-1 from step 1 according to subparagraph 171 C. This is the last step to be completed.  <b>Important:</b> If the cropland on CRP-1 from step 1 is physically located in a different county, the County Office must immediately contact the physical location County Office and provide the total number of cropland acres that will be approved.	
16	Is the result of step 12 less than or equal to the result of step 11? If: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Yes”, go to step 17</li> <li>• “No”, go to step 18.</li> </ul>	
17	The County Office may continue to process CRP-1 from step 1 according to subparagraph 171 C. This is the last step to be completed.  <b>Important:</b> If the cropland on CRP-1 from step 1 is physically located in a different county, the County Office must immediately contact the physical location County Office and provide the total number of cropland acres that will be approved.	
18	<b>STOP. COC must immediately reject the offer and follow subparagraph F to inform the producer using CRP-26. The number of cropland acres offered on CRP-1 from step 1 exceeds the number of cropland acres that can be enrolled without exceeding the 25 percent county cropland limit.</b>	



## Part 5 SRR's and Maximum Payment Rates

### 101 Maximum Payment Rates

#### A About Maximum Payment Rates

\*--Before the producer submits an offer on CRP-1 and CRP-2, CRP-2C, CRP-2C30, or--\* CRP-2G, as applicable, the County Office must calculate and inform the producer of the maximum payment rate for the eligible acreage being offered. The maximum payment rate is the maximum per acre rental rate that CCC is willing to pay for the eligible acreage offered. Offers submitted in excess of the calculated maximum payment rate shall be automatically rejected.

A maximum payment rate will be calculated for each offer based on:

- posted SRR tables and any applicable reductions
- \*--soils MUSYM and acreage data collected and recorded on CRP-2, CRP-2C, or CRP-2C30, as applicable
- incentive amounts, as applicable according to subparagraph 66 D
- maintenance rates, as applicable according to subparagraph 66 D.

#### B Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for General CRP, Grassland CRP and Continuous (Non-CREP) CRP

A Climate-Smart Practice Incentive as a percentage of the per acre weighted average SRR is added to the weighted average SRR. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is available for CRP practices that increases carbon sequestration, reduces greenhouse gases emissions, and otherwise mitigates climate change. Practices include establishment of trees and permanent grasses, development of wildlife habitat, and wetland restoration.

The incentive amount will be based on the estimated benefits of each practice type.

Practices are broken into the following 3 cover types:

- Woody Biomass – 10 Percent Incentive
- Grass and Legume – 5 Percent Incentive
- Grass – 3 Percent Incentive.

See subparagraph 66 D for the list of practices and incentive amounts.

**Note:** The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is not applicable for CREP offers.--\*

101 Maximum Payment Rates (Continued)

C Maximum Payment Rate

The weighted average SRR’s and maximum payment rate limitation for general CRP signup offers is \$240 per acre.

The maximum payment rate limitation for continuous CRP signup offers is \$300 for all continuous CRP signup types, except:

- \*--CLEAR30, which is \$380--\*
- CREP.

102 SRR’s

A About SRR’s

SRR’s are soil-specific estimates of dryland cropland rental rates used to set maximum annual payment rates for CRP cropland offers and contracts. SRR’s are maintained by State Offices using the Conservation SDMS.

The Cash Rents Survey administered by NASS generates county average dryland cash rent estimates, which are generally the foundation for the county average rental rates and will be reviewed annually.

SRR’s are based on multiplying County Average Rental Rate (County AVGRT) by soil-specific productivity factors and an SRR percentage for each signup type.

**Note:** The prorated general and continuous SRR’s are determined by multiplying the posted SRR by 85 percent and 90 percent, respectively.

\*--B Adjustment to the SPI Range

FSA adjusts all county rental rates to reflect an SPI range of 0.5 to 1.5 (50 to 150 percent of the county rental rate). SPI is used along with the NRCS National Commodity Crop Productivity Index to normalize the county rental rate by soil within each county.

**Note:** The SPI adjustment is applicable for the calculation of CREP SRR’s.--\*

State	County	County AVGRT	Map Unit Symbol	Productivity Factor 1/	Posted SRR 2/	Prorated General SRR	Prorated Continuous SRR
Any State	Any County	\$100	AcA1	.6	\$50	\$43	\$45
Any State	Any County	\$100	Cr	0.75	\$75	\$64	\$68
Any State	Any County	\$100	PVa	1.0	\$100	\$85	\$90
Any State	Any County	\$100	PVb	1.5	\$150	\$128	\$135

102 SRR's (Continued)

**C Additional One-Time 10 Percent Inflationary Adjustment**

FSA will increase the county rental rate by a 1-time 10 percent “inflationary” adjustment for the life of the contract. This inflationary adjustment will be set at contract start and be factored into the SRR.

**D SRR Calculation**

The following table provides an example of calculated general CRP signup SRR's using the SPI.

State	County	NASS Rate	Map Unit Symbol	10 Percent Inflationary Incentive	Rate With Inflationary Incentive	General CRP Signup – 85 Percent <u>1/</u>	SPI <u>2/</u>	SPI Adjusted SRR <u>1/</u>
Any State	Any County	\$100	ADC1	\$10	\$110	\$94	1.50	\$141
Any State	Any County	\$100	ADC2	\$10	\$110	\$94	1.25	\$118
Any State	Any County	\$100	CR1	\$10	\$110	\$94	1.00	\$94
Any State	Any County	\$100	PVa	\$10	\$110	\$94	.75	\$71
Any State	Any County	\$100	PVb	\$10	\$110	\$94	.50	\$47

The following table provides an example of calculated continuous CRP signup SRR's using the SPI.

State	County	NASS Rate	Map Unit Symbol	10 Percent Inflationary Incentive	Rate With Inflationary Incentive	Continuous CRP Signup – 90 Percent	SPI <u>2/</u>	SPI Adjusted SRR <u>1/</u>
Any State	Any County	\$100	ADC1	\$10	\$110	\$99	1.50	\$149
Any State	Any County	\$100	ADC2	\$10	\$110	\$99	1.25	\$124
Any State	Any County	\$100	CR1	\$10	\$110	\$99	1.00	\$99
Any State	Any County	\$100	PVa	\$10	\$110	\$99	.75	\$75
Any State	Any County	\$100	PVb	\$10	\$110	\$99	.50	\$50

1/ Rounded to whole dollars.

2/ Soil productivity index (SPI) is based on the publicly available National Commodity Crop Productivity Index developed by NRCS.

3/ Posted SRR's include a note regarding the reduction/proration factor.

102 SRR's (Continued)

**E SRR Tables**

SRR tables will show the individual maximum SRR for groups of soils by using the NRCS soil map unit symbols based upon the soil survey ID. These groupings' rates are established based on similar productivity levels, each soil grouping will have only one SRR.

**Note:** The productivity factors may be capped, reducing the number of soil groups, and are subject to any proration/reduction for that signup.



**102 SRR's (Continued)****F Reviewing and Adjusting Soil Map Unit Symbols and SRR's**

FSA posts SRR's for cropland based on soil map units using unique soil map unit symbols. To facilitate using standardized soils data within USDA, the soil map unit symbols used for SRR posting need to be reviewed periodically to ensure that they match symbols patterns currently published in the soils legends of NRCS' FOTG.

\*--The National Office, in conjunction with NRCS, will ensure that rental rates are--\* established for all cropped soils in each county using NRCS's most current soil survey legend from FOTG, including proper uppercase and lowercase patterns for those symbols using alphabetic letters.

Additionally, some new SRR's and soil map unit symbols may need to be approved for CRP use to reflect recent soil survey changes by NRCS.

All SRR and soil map unit symbol maintenance will be completed by State Offices.

County Offices that require the addition of a soil map unit symbol and SRR must submit a request to the State Office.

**G Weighted Average Soil Rental Rate**

The weighted average soil rental rate is calculated for each offer using the acreage and SRR's of the 3 predominant soils on the land offered for enrollment.

**Notes:** If marginal pastureland is part of the offer, all the marginal pastureland acres must be included in the predominate soils.

If all of the offer is marginal pastureland, the marginal pastureland rate will be used.

**103 Establishing SRR's****A Rental Rate Establishment for Cropland**

Maximum payment rates for cropland offered for CRP are calculated using SRR's. SRR's must be set at levels that reflect the average cash rental rates per acre for **nonirrigated** cropland for annually tilled crops for each soil map unit area within a soil survey area within a county during the past year.

These SRR's shall be set:

- for soil types where share rents are most common which is the cash equivalent of share rents
- for soil types with a predominance of summer fallow or double/triple cropping, reflecting the market rental values of these cropping patterns
- using one SRR per soil map unit only
- at levels reflecting rate consistency within soil surveys and across all county and State lines and soil survey boundaries.

The National Office:

- is responsible for establishing SRR's
- will use the most current NASS survey, NRCS productivity indexes, and other information as necessary.

171 Overview (Continued)

C Continuous CRP Signup Process Flow (Continued)

Step	Continuous CRP Signup Activity	Reference
5A	<p>*--Based on a site visit, NRCS/TSP determines, using the CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet, if:--*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementation of the CRP practice offered is feasible and needed to, and will, solve or address the resource concerns listed for the CRP practice</li> <li>• the existing cover is solving or addressing the resource concerns in the CRP practice purpose</li> <li>• practice offered meets the purpose of the CRP practice according to Exhibit 11</li> <li>• the acreage offered is suitable for installation of the NRCS *--conservation practices needed to solve the resource concern of the CRP practice.--*</li> </ul>	<p>Paragraphs 181 and 211, Exhibit 11, and *--CRP--* Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet</p>
5B	<p>Based on a site visit, NRCS/TSP determines, using either conservation assistance notes, status review form, or State NRCS Office developed form, if the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRP practice is being maintained according to the conservation plan, including the engineering design and size requirements, if applicable</li> <li>• approved cover is being maintained according to the conservation plan</li> <li>• CRP practice is resolving or addressing the resource concerns and meets the purpose of the practice</li> <li>• NRCS conservation practices are applied in a way that meets the purpose of the CRP practice</li> <li>• CRP practice meets the current practice standards.</li> </ul> <p>If any of the above are not being met, NRCS/TSP must provide to FSA the condition of the practice/approved cover not being met.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 181 and 211, Exhibit 11, and applicable NRCS document</p>

171 Overview (Continued)

C Continuous CRP Signup Process Flow (Continued)

Step	Continuous CRP Signup Activity	Reference
6	<p>NRCS or TSP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• returns unsigned CRP-2C and geospatial data/map to County Office</li> <li>• provides the County Office:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for new land (land not currently enrolled in CRP) offered, a signed and dated CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet and other documentation supporting NRCS determination, if applicable</li> <li>• for land currently enrolled in CRP being offered for re-enrollment, either conservation assistance notes, status review form, or State NRCS Office developed form, as applicable, and other documentation supporting NRCS determination, if applicable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Subparagraph 211 F, CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet, and/or applicable NRCS document</p>
7	<p>COC or CED reviews NRCS or TSP documents and findings. County Office files all documents received from NRCS or TSP in the CRP folder.</p> <p>If NRCS or TSP determined the practice and acreage offered is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for new land (land not currently enrolled in CRP):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not suitable, needed, and feasible; <b>Stop</b> and notify the producer the practice is <b>not</b> acceptable using CRP-26</li> <li>• suitable, needed, and feasible without any changes; go to step 9</li> <li>• suitable, needed, and feasible, but only if required changes are made; go to step 8</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Paragraphs 211, 215, and 603</p>

## Section 1 Continuous CRP Signup Basic Eligibility Criteria

## 181 Eligibility Requirements

## A Eligibility Requirements for Cropland

All the following **must** be met before **cropland** acreage may be determined acceptable for enrollment under continuous CRP signup:

**Note:** For cropland within an approved wellhead protection area, see subparagraph B.

**Important:** Land that meets the definition of cropland cannot be enrolled in CRP as marginal pastureland. See subparagraph C for eligibility requirements for marginal pastureland.

- COC or CED determines that the:
  - cropland offered to be devoted to CP21, CP21B, CP21S, CP22, CP22B, or CP22S, is immediately adjacent and parallel to the water body identified and documented by NRCS or TSP according to subparagraph E
  - producer eligibility requirements in Part 6, Section 1, are met
  - acreage offered is cropland

**Important:** See 10-CM for the definition of cropland.

- acreage offered meets eligibility criteria in subparagraph 151 A
- practice offered is an eligible practice for continuous CRP signup

**Note:** See subparagraph 66 C for a list of eligible practices.

- practice and acreage offered meet the program policy and size requirements for the practice provided in Exhibit 11
- county cropland limit eligibility criteria in Part 4 is met

## 181 Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

## A Eligibility Requirements for Cropland (Continued)

- NRCS or TSP determines:
  - for new land offered (land not currently enrolled in CRP), based on a site visit and \*--using the CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet, all of the following:--\*
    - there is a resource concern the offered acreage and CRP practice will solve
    - existing cover is not solving or addressing the resource concerns of the CRP practice offered
    - acreage offered is suitable for the CRP practice offered
    - CRP practice offered is needed and feasible to solve the resource concern
    - practice offered meets the purpose of the CRP practice according to Exhibit 11
  - for land currently enrolled in CRP being offered for re-enrollment, based on a site visit and using either conservation assistance notes, status review form, or State NRCS Office developed form, if the:
    - CRP practice is being maintained according to the conservation plan, including the engineering design and size requirements, if applicable
    - approved cover is being maintained according to the conservation plan
    - CRP practice is resolving or addressing the resource concerns and meets the purpose of the practice
    - NRCS conservation practices are applied in a way that meets the purpose of the CRP practice
    - CRP practice meets the current practice standards

**Important:** If any of the above are not being met, NRCS/TSP must provide to FSA the condition of the practice/approved cover not being met.

## 181 Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

**B Eligibility Requirements for Cropland Within Wellhead Protection Areas (Continued)**

- the acreage offered does not exceed a radius of 2,000 feet from the approved public wellhead

**Examples:** The approved public wellhead protection area designated by the appropriate State agency is a 1,000-foot radius surrounding the approved public wellhead. Therefore, the acreage enrolled in CRP will not exceed the acreage within the 1,000-foot approved area.

The approved public wellhead protection area designated by the appropriate State agency is a 3,000-foot radius surrounding the approved public wellhead. Therefore, the acreage enrolled in CRP will not exceed the acreage within a 2,000 radius from the approved public wellhead.

**Exception:** Enrollment may be allowed beyond a radius of 2,000 feet from the approved public wellhead, provided the State has established hydrologically delineated public wellhead protection areas using a 5-year or 10-year time-of-flow criteria and the State water quality agency has approved the hydrologically delineated public wellhead protection area.

- NRCS or TSP determines:
  - for new land offered (land not currently enrolled in CRP), based on a site visit and \*--using the CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet, all of the following:--\*
    - there is a resource concern the offered acreage and CRP practice will solve
    - existing cover is not solving or addressing the resource concerns of the CRP practice offered
    - acreage offered is suitable for the CRP practice offered
    - CRP practice offered is needed and feasible to solve the resource concern
    - practice offered meets the purpose of the CRP practice according to Exhibit 11

## 181 Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

**B Eligibility Requirements for Cropland Within Wellhead Protection Areas (Continued)**

- for land currently enrolled in CRP being offered for re-enrollment, based on a site visit and using either conservation assistance notes, status review form, or State NRCS Office developed form, if the:
  - CRP practice is being maintained according to the conservation plan, including the engineering design and size requirements, if applicable
  - approved cover is being maintained according to the conservation plan
  - CRP practice is resolving or addressing the resource concern(s) and meets the purpose of the practice
  - NRCS conservation practices are applied in a way that meets the purpose of the CRP practice
  - CRP practice meets the current practice standards.

**Important:** If any of the above are not being met, NRCS/TSP must provide to FSA the condition of the practice/approved cover not being met.

- producer offers a per acre rental rate that is less than or equal to the calculated maximum payment rate. Offers in excess of the maximum payment rate will be rejected.

**Notes:** To calculate the per acre maximum payment rate when all the acreage offered is cropland, TERRA identifies and uses the 3 predominant soil types for the eligible \*--acreage offered on CRP-2C. See paragraphs 102, 196, and 212 and 4-CRP.--\*

The TERRA tool:

- provides official CRP data and calculations
- will be used for all CRP administration purposes.

**Land that meets the definition of cropland cannot be enrolled in CRP as marginal pastureland.** See subparagraph C for eligibility requirements for marginal pastureland.



## 181 Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

**C Eligibility Requirements for Marginal Pastureland**

The following is **not** eligible to be enrolled in CRP as marginal pastureland:

- cropland
- forestland
- woodland.

**Under no circumstances can land be considered both cropland and marginal pastureland.** See 10-CM, for provisions for removing land from cropland status to be enrolled in CRP under marginal pastureland criteria.

Marginal pastureland can only be enrolled as CP22, CP22B, CP22S, CP29, or CP30.

**All** of the following **must** be met before **marginal pastureland**, including grazing land that may not have been previously seeded, may be determined acceptable for enrollment under continuous CRP signup:

- devoted to a CP22 riparian buffer (planted or natural regeneration), CP29 wildlife habitat buffer, or CP30 wetland buffer as determined by the producer in consultation with NRCS or TSP
- COC or CED determines that the:
  - marginal pastureland offered is immediately adjacent and parallel to the water body identified and documented by NRCS or TSP according to subparagraph E
  - producer eligibility requirements in Part 6, Section 1, are met
  - land offered is marginal pastureland

**Important:** Land that meets the definition of cropland cannot be enrolled in CRP as marginal pastureland. See 10-CM for the definition of cropland.

- practice and acreage offered meets program policy and size requirements for the practice provided in Exhibit 11

\* \* \*

**181 Eligibility Requirements (Continued)****C Eligibility Requirements for Marginal Pastureland (Continued)**

- NRCS or TSP must advise the producer on the selection of the appropriate practice and cover type based on site conditions and producer objectives
- NRCS or TSP determines:
  - for new land offered (land not currently enrolled in CRP), based on a site visit and \*-using the CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet, all of the following:--\*
    - there is a resource concern the offered acreage and CRP practice will solve
    - existing cover is not solving or addressing the resource concerns of the CRP practice offered
    - acreage is suitable for the CRP practice offered
    - CRP practice offered is needed and feasible to solve the resource concern
    - practice offered meets the purpose of the CRP practice according to Exhibit 11
  - for land currently enrolled in CRP being offered for re-enrollment, based on a site visit and using either conservation assistance notes, status review form, or State NRCS Office developed form, if the:
    - CRP practice is being maintained according to the conservation plan, including the engineering design and size requirements, if applicable
    - approved cover is being maintained according to the conservation plan
    - CRP practice is resolving or addressing the resource concerns and meets the purpose of the practice

## 181 Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

**C Eligibility Requirements for Marginal Pastureland (Continued)**

- NRCS conservation practices are applied in a way that meets the purpose of the CRP practice
- CRP practice meets the current practice standards

**Important:** If any of the above are not being met, NRCS or TSP must provide to FSA the condition of the practice/approved cover not being met.

- producer offers a per acre rental rate that is less than or equal to the calculated maximum payment rate using the applicable marginal pastureland rental rate for the county. Offers in excess of the maximum payment rate will be rejected.

**\*--D Marginal Pastureland Existing Vegetation--\***

If existing vegetation is functioning as buffer as determined by NRCS or TSP, the land is **not** eligible to be enrolled in CRP. Sites must be enhanced to provide water quality benefits and wildlife habitat.

**Example 1:** Mary Smith offers to enroll marginal pastureland to be devoted to CP29. Cattle have been excluded from the riparian area. Based on a site visit, NRCS or TSP determines that the existing vegetative cover is functioning as a wildlife habitat buffer. No further action would be required for the existing cover to function as a wildlife habitat buffer. Therefore, the land is **not** eligible to be enrolled in CRP.

**Example 2:** Bob Brown offers to enroll marginal pastureland to be devoted to CP22. Based on a site visit, NRCS or TSP determines that the existing trees are not functioning as a riparian buffer because of the presence of livestock and the lack of a sufficient understory. Cattle exclusion and additional vegetation **must** be planted to establish a functioning riparian buffer. Therefore, provided all other eligibility requirements are met, the land may be enrolled in CRP to be devoted to CP22.

If NRCS or TSP determines that existing vegetation is not functioning as the practice offered, the conservation plan **must** require some action by the producer, such as tree planting, enhancement of cover, or wetland restoration; otherwise, the land is not eligible to be enrolled in CRP.

## 181 Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

**E Determinations, Identification, and Documentation**

For **cropland** to be eligible to be enrolled as practice CP21, CP21B, CP21S, CP22, CP22B, CP22S, COC or CED must determine whether the cropland is immediately adjacent and parallel to 1 of the following:

- stream having perennial flow
- stream having seasonal/intermittent flow (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after a rainfall or snowmelt)
- sinkhole/karst area
- wetlands with water areas capable of reducing damages by sedimentation and associated pollutants that meet 1 of the following:
  - permanently flooded
  - intermittently exposed
  - semi-permanently flooded
  - seasonally flooded
- **permanent** water bodies, such as lakes and ponds, if **both** of the following are met:
  - contains water cover **throughout the year in all years**
  - provides at least a seasonal flow of surface water from the water body off the farm.

**Important:** NRCS or TSP must identify and document the type of eligible water body on \*--the CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet for new land, or on the--\* applicable document for land currently enrolled in CRP that is being reoffered, as applicable. COC or CED must determine whether the cropland offered is immediately adjacent and parallel to the identified eligible water body.

## 181 Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

**E Determinations, Identification, and Documentation (Continued)**

For **marginal pastureland** to be eligible to be enrolled as practice:

- CP22, CP22B, CP22S, or CP29, COC or CED must determine whether the **marginal pastureland** is immediately adjacent and parallel to 1 of the following:
  - stream having perennial flow
  - stream having seasonal/intermittent flow (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after a rainfall or snowmelt)
  - sinkhole/karst areas
  - **permanent** water bodies, such as lakes and ponds, if **both** of the following are met:
    - contains water cover **throughout the year in all years**
    - provides at least a seasonal flow of surface water from the water body off the farm.

**Important:** NRCS or TSP must identify and document the type of eligible water body *\*--on the CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet for new land, or on the--\** applicable document for land currently enrolled in CRP that is being reoffered, as applicable. COC or CED must determine whether the marginal pastureland offered is immediately adjacent and parallel to the identified eligible water body.

- CP30, COC or CED must determine whether the **marginal pastureland** is immediately adjacent and parallel to wetlands with water areas capable of reducing damages by sedimentation and associated pollutants that meet 1 of the following:
  - permanently flooded
  - intermittently exposed
  - semi-permanently flooded
  - seasonally flooded.

**Important:** NRCS or TSP must identify and document the type of eligible wetland on *\*--the CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet for new land, or on the--\** applicable document for land currently enrolled in CRP that is being reoffered, as applicable. COC or CED must determine whether the marginal pastureland offered is immediately adjacent and parallel to the identified eligible wetland.

## 181 Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

**F Expiring Continuous CRP Signup Land Eligibility**

Cropland and marginal pastureland that is currently enrolled may be offered for enrollment in CRP no earlier than 6 months before CRP-1 is scheduled to expire. In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements of paragraph 151 and subparagraph 181 A, B, or C, as applicable, the practice must meet the current practice standards for the practice according to Exhibit 11.

Cropland that was previously enrolled in CRP but CRP-1 has expired or was terminated and the land is not enrolled in CRP at the time it is offered may be eligible to be enrolled under continuous CRP signup if the land meets all eligibility requirements for new land (land not currently enrolled in CRP), including needed and feasible criteria.

**Note:** Land that is currently enrolled or has expired and the cover has been maintained is **not** eligible for SIP.

The following are examples of land enrolled in CRP being offered for enrollment in CRP within 6 months of CRP-1 expiring.

**Example 1:** Land is enrolled as CP21. The average width of the practice is 80 feet. The participant and land are in compliance with CRP-1. NRCS determines the average width must be 100 feet to meet the current practice standards (practice standards at time land is being offered). The participant may enroll the land as CP21 provided the average width enrolled is 100 feet according to an approved conservation plan and all other eligibility requirements are met.

**Example 2:** Land is enrolled as CP21. The average width of the practice is 80 feet. The participant and land are in compliance with CRP-1. The participant submits an offer to enroll the land currently enrolled plus additional land not currently enrolled making the average width 100 feet. NRCS determines the practice meets the current practice standards (practice standards at time land is being offered) and the land enrolled (average width of 80 feet) is solving the resource concern. The offer is not approved because the existing land and practice meets the current practice standards and is solving the resource concern, and the offer includes additional land not needed.

**\*--Example 3:** Land is enrolled as CP1 under an expiring general CRP signup CRP-1.--\* The land enrolled includes a seasonally flooded wetland. The participant and land are in compliance with CRP-1. The participant submits an offer under continuous CRP signup for just the seasonally flooded wetland acreage and an upland buffer to be devoted to CP23. The land may be enrolled as CP23 provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

182 Infeasible-to-Farm (Continued)

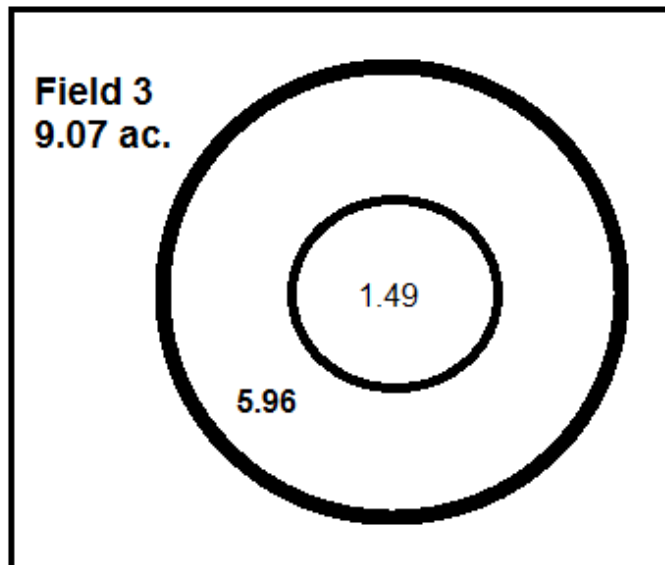
**B Infeasible-to-Farm Policy (Continued)**

Producers may enroll land as infeasible-to-farm if more than 75 percent of the field is enrolled as 1 of the following continuous CRP signup practices:

- CP5A
- CP8A
- CP17A
- CP18B
- CP18C
- CP23
- CP23A
- CP24
- CP27
- CP28
- CP31
- CP36
- CP37
- CP41.

**Example 1:** Producer offers to enroll a 1.20-acre CP8A, Grass Waterways, in Field 2. Field 2 is comprised of 16.0 acres of cropland. Because 1.20 acres are less than 75 percent of the 16.0-acre field, infeasible-to-farm provisions do not apply.

**Example 2:** Field 3 is comprised of 9.07 acres of cropland. The producer offers to enroll a 7.45-acre CP23A, Wetland Restoration. The offered acres (7.45) are 82.14 percent of the total cropland in Field 3 (9.07). Therefore, the \*--1.62 acres remaining portion of Field 3 is eligible to be offered for--\* enrollment in CRP using infeasible-to-farm criteria.



**182 Infeasible-to-Farm (Continued)**

**C Per-Acre Incentive Payments for Infeasible-to-Farm Acreage**

Per-acre maintenance incentive payments, that may apply to practices eligible under continuous CRP signup, do apply to land enrolled using the infeasible-to-farm criteria. See paragraph 196.



## 183 Heli Offers

**A Purpose**

HELI offers a continuous sign-up to establish long-term cover on highly erodible cropland \*--that has a wind or water weighted average EI greater than or equal to 20, and that will--\* reduce:

- erosion to below the soil loss tolerance level that will assist in maintaining the long-term productivity of the land
- off-site adverse impacts to water quality
- adverse impacts to hydrology by changing the land use, including reducing potential adverse flood impacts associated with severe storm events
- adverse impacts commonly associated with wind borne soil, including impacts to human health and property damage associated with severe dust storms.

**B Eligible Land**

Eligible cropland for Heli must:

- be cropland according to paragraph 151
- \*--have a wind or water weighted average EI of 20 or greater for the offered acreage--\*
- be needed and feasible to solve the resource concern, as determined by NRCS or TSP according to subparagraph 181 A.

\*--Notes: The producer may enroll a field or a portion of a field provided the wind or water weighted average EI (not a combination of the wind and water EI) for all land--\* offered is greater than or equal to 20 based on the 3 predominant soils (determined by TERRA).

Existing grass or other perennial stands that are **not** currently enrolled in CRP are **not** eligible.

Consistent with the statute and criteria for all other continuous sign-up practices, expiring CRP acreage is eligible for re-enrollment and, therefore, automatically meets the needed and feasible eligibility requirements.

## 183 HELI Offers (Continued)

**C Eligible Practices**

The following practices are eligible for HELI:

- CP1
- CP2
- CP3
- CP3A
- CP4D
- CP25.

**Note:** CP12 is not an eligible practice associated with any HELI practice.

**Important:** Vegetative cover on new offers or offers to re-enroll expiring CRP land must meet the minimum N1a EBI with a point value greater than zero listed in Exhibit 26 for the applicable practice.

**\*--Example:** An applicant has land that has a wind or water weighted--\* average EI of 22. The land is not currently enrolled in CRP. The land meets the cropping history requirements of paragraph 151. The practice is determined needed and feasible by NRCS or TSP. The producer is offering to install a CP1. The cover must be a minimum of 2 to 3 species of an introduced grass.

**D Incentives**

SIP's and PIP's are authorized for new land enrolled under HELI provisions according to paragraphs 196 and 197.

Per acre Climate-Smart Practice Incentive rental rate incentive is authorized for all land enrolled under HELI provisions based on the practice. See subparagraph 66 D.

## 183 Heli Offers (Continued)

**E Contract Duration and Effective Date**

\*--The CRP-1 period for CRP contracts under HELI is 10 years for the following practices:

- CP1
- CP2
- CP4D
- CP25.

The CRP-1 period for CRP contracts under HELI is 15 years for CP3 and CP3A.--\*

The effective date of the CRP-1 is the first day of the month following the month that COC approves the contract, or may be deferred up to 6 months according to paragraph 213.

General signup contracts scheduled to expire on September 30 of the current year may be offered for enrollment under HELI. The effective start date of CRP-1 is October 1 of the year the existing CRP-1 expires.

See paragraph 213 for an example of expiration date for a 10-year continuous contract.

**F Continuous Signup Number**

For acreage enrolled in the CRP under HELI, County Offices will use the current continuous signup number.

**Note:** Continuous signup numbers change at the beginning of every FY.

**184 CLEAR30 Pilot****A Purpose**

The CLEAR30 Pilot was authorized in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018. CLEAR30 provides long-term water quality benefits by authorizing FSA to re-enroll small targeted environmentally sensitive acreage into a 30-year contract.

**B Eligible Land**

CLEAR30 is available nationwide.

Cropland must be currently enrolled under a CRP contract in a continuous CRP water quality practice, with the contract expiring on September 30 of the year offered. Certain marginal pastureland that is devoted to riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, or wetland buffers is also eligible to enroll in CLEAR30, but also must be under a CRP contract expiring on September 30 of the year offered.

**Important:** Some land enrolled in CRP through a CREP agreement may **not** be eligible for CLEAR30. The terms and conditions of some CREP agreements prohibit or restrict enrollment of the land after the existing CRP contract expires, such as requiring the land to be placed under an easement or separate agreement with the State that makes the land ineligible for CRP. For land enrolled under a CREP agreement, County Offices must read the agreement to ensure that the land is not prohibited from enrollment in CRP before approving a CRP contract under CLEAR30.

FSA must provide an unsigned CRP-2C30 and geospatial data or map identifying the land offered for enrollment to NRCS for all CLEAR30 offers.

For expiring CRP land, NRCS is not required to determine need, feasibility, and suitability at the time of the offer. However, NRCS must determine whether the enrolled practice is present and functioning properly and that the number of acres offered meet the current practice standard, such as width of a filter strip. NRCS is **not** required to provide the \*--CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet to FSA for re-enrolled practices. NRCS will--\* return to FSA the unsigned CRP-2C30 and geospatial data or map.

184 CLEAR30 Pilot (Continued)

**B Eligible Land (Continued)**

**Example:** A producer submits an offer to enroll land under CLEAR30 signup. The land is currently enrolled in CRP under an eligible continuous signup practice with an established and functioning 2.50-acre CP21, Filter Strips, that is expiring on September 30. The producer offers the expiring 2.50 acres as CP21, Filter Strips. Because NRCS made a determination of need, feasibility, and suitability at the time the acreage was originally enrolled as CP21, such determinations are not required at the time of enrollment into CLEAR30. However, NRCS must determine whether the filter strip is present and functioning properly and that the number of acres offered meets the current practice standard, such as width of the \*--filter strip. NRCS is **not** required to provide the CRP Suitability and--\* Feasibility Worksheet to FSA **unless** additional acreage is needed to meet the current practice standard.

**C Eligible Practices**

The current practice **must** be in compliance at the time of offer into CLEAR30. All water quality practices listed in the following table are eligible to be offered under CLEAR30.

Practice	Title
CP8A	Grass Waterways
CP15A	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)
CP15B	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips) on Terraces
CP21	Filter Strips
CP22 <u>1/</u>	Riparian Buffer
CP23 <u>1/</u>	Wetland Restoration
CP23A <u>1/</u>	Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
CP29	Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer
CP30	Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer
CP31 <u>1/</u>	Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands
CP37	Duck Nesting Habitat

1/ The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, limits re-enrollment of land devoted to hardwood trees to 1 re-enrollment, excluding riparian forested buffers and forested wetlands. Identified practices are **not** limited to 1 re-enrollment.

**Note:** Participants may offer:

- all or a portion of the expiring acres
- new acres, in addition to the expiring acres, if necessary, to meet the current practice standard according to paragraph 181.

184 CLEAR30 Pilot (Continued)

**D Incentives**

SIP’s and PIP’s are **not** authorized for land enrolled under CLEAR30.

Per acre Climate-Smart Practice Incentive rental rate incentive is authorized for all land enrolled under CLEAR30 provisions based on the practice. See subparagraph 66 D.

A per acre Water Quality annual rental rate incentive of 20 percent will be added to the weighted average SRR for all practices offered under CLEAR30.

To encourage enrollment in the longer-term CLEAR30 contract of 30 years, FSA will provide a 27.5 percent rental rate adjustment to the weighted average SRR.

**E SRR Calculation**

Example of CLEAR30 Annual Rental Payment Calculation:

10-acre CP22 CLEAR30 offer.

The following incentives are applicable for this practice:

- 27.5 percent rental rate adjustment
- 20 percent Water Quality Incentive
- 10 percent Climate-Smart Incentive.

4 acres of Soil CR1 – Conservation Online System (COLS) rate = \$99 X 4 acres = \$396

3 acres of Soil ADC2 – COLS rate = \$124 X 3 acres = \$372

2.5 acres of Soil PVa – COLS rate = \$75 X 2.5 acres = \$188

Soil	Acres	COLS Soil Rate	Total Rent	Weighted Average SRR
CR1	4	\$99	\$396	
ADC2	3	\$124	\$372	
PVa	2.5	\$75	\$188	
Totals	9.5		\$956	\$100.63/acre

Total acres in 3 predominate soils = 9.5 acres

Total rent = \$956

Weighted average SRR of 3 predominate soils = \$956/9.5 acres = \$100.63/acre

Total incentive adjustment (57.5 percent) = \$100.63 X .575 = \$57.86/acre

Maximum rental rate = \$100.63 + \$57.86 = \$158.49/acre

Annual payment = 10 acres X \$158.49/acre = \$1,585/year for 30 years

\*--The maximum per-acre payment rate for all CLEAR30 offers is \$380 per acre.--\*

H CLEAR30 Signup Process Flow (Continued)

Step	CLEAR30 Signup Activities	
7	<b>IF land offered for enrollment is...</b>	<b>THEN...</b>
	land currently enrolled in CRP being offered for enrollment into CLEAR30	go to step 7A.
	a combination of new land (additional acreage needed to meet the current practice standard) and land currently enrolled in CRP being offered in CLEAR30	go to step 7A for land currently enrolled in CRP. go to step 7B for new land (additional acreage needed to meet the current practice standard for the currently enrolled land) being offered in CLEAR30.
7A	Based on a site visit using either conservation assistance notes, status review form, or State NRCS Office developed form, NRCS/TSP determines whether the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRP practice is being maintained according to the conservation plan, including the engineering design and size requirements, if applicable</li> <li>• approved cover is being maintained according to the conservation plan</li> <li>• CRP practice is resolving or addressing the resource concerns and meets the purpose of the practice</li> <li>• NRCS conservation practices are applied in a way that meets the purpose of the CRP practice</li> <li>• CRP practice meets the current practice standards.</li> </ul> If any of these are not being met, NRCS/TSP must provide to FSA the condition of the practice/approved cover not being met.	
7B	*--Based on a site visit using the CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet,--* NRCS/TSP determines whether the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• additional acreage offered needed to meet the current practice standard for the expiring land being offered into CLEAR30 is feasible and needed to, and will, solve or address the resource concerns listed for the CRP practice</li> <li>• existing cover is solving or addressing the resource concerns in the CRP practice purpose</li> <li>• practice offered meets the purpose of the CRP practice according to Exhibit 11</li> <li>• acreage offered is suitable for installation of the NRCS conservation practices needed to apply the CRP practice.</li> </ul>	

184 CLEAR30 Pilot (Continued)

H CLEAR30 Signup Process Flow (Continued)

Step	CLEAR30 Signup Activities
8	<p>NRCS or TSP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• returns the unsigned CRP-2C30 and geospatial data/map to the County Office</li> <li>• provides the County Office with:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for land currently enrolled in CRP being offered for enrollment in CLEAR30:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either conservation assistance notes, status review form, or State NRCS Office developed form, as applicable</li> <li>• other documentation supporting NRCS determination, if applicable</li> </ul> </li> <li>• for new land (additional land needed to meet the current practice standard for an *--expiring offer into CLEAR30), a signed and dated CRP Suitability and--* Feasibility Worksheet and other documentation supporting NRCS determination, if applicable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## 197 One-Time Payments (Continued)

**B PIP (Continued)**

PIP:

- is considered a C/S payment
- plus CCC C/S payments, and any C/S payments from other sources combined, cannot exceed 100 percent of the cost of the practice
- will be paid in 2 phases:
  - forty percent PIP will be paid at certification of a major component or practice installation
  - the remaining 10 percent PIP will be paid at the time that NRCS completes a status review, not later than 2 years after certification that all practices were installed to determine whether the approved permanent cover is fully established according to subparagraph 601 B.

**\*--Note:** PIP is calculated at the component level in CSS. See 6-CRP. Eligible cost is the lesser of participant's actual cost or average actual cost times the extent approved.--\*

The following examples are for calculating PIP's.

**PIP Example 1:** Bob Smith enrolls 10 acres.  
 Bob's CRP-1 share is 100 percent.  
 Bob's total installation cost is \$1,500.  
 Bob's calculated C/S is \$750 from CCC.  
 Bob received no C/S from outside sources.

**PIP Calculation:**

- $50\% \text{ PIP} \times \$1,500 = \$750$ 
  - $\$750 \text{ C/S} + \$0 \text{ Outside C/S} + \$750 \text{ PIP} = \$1,500$
  - $\$1,500 = \$1,500$
- **PIP earned by Bob is \$750**
- 40 percent PIP of \$600 is paid at the time of practice
- 10 percent PIP of \$150 will be paid following NRCS completion of a status review to determine whether the approved permanent cover is fully established according to subparagraph 601 B review.

## 197 One-Time Payments (Continued)

**B PIP (Continued)**

**PIP Example 2:** John Jones enrolls 15 acres.  
 John's CRP-1 share is 100 percent.  
 John's total installation cost is \$5,500.  
 John's calculated C/S is \$2,750 from CCC.  
 John received \$1,100 C/S from the State.

**PIP Calculation:**

- 50% PIP x \$5,500 = \$2,750
- **PIP earned by John is \$2,750**
  - \$2,750 CCC C/S + \$1,100 Outside C/S + \$2750 PIP = \$6,600
  - \$6,600 > \$5,500
  - CCC C/S will be reduced to \$1,650; PIP remains \$2,750
  - 40 percent PIP of \$2200 is paid at the time of practice
  - 10 percent PIP of \$550 will be paid following NRCS completion of a status review to determine whether the approved permanent cover is fully established according to subparagraph 601 B review.

**PIP Example 3:** Sally Smith enrolls 30 acres.  
 Sally's CRP-1 share is 100 percent.  
 Sally's total installation cost is \$10,000.  
 Sally's calculated C/S is \$5,000 from CCC.  
 Sally received \$3,000 C/S from the State.

**PIP Calculation:**

- 50% PIP x \$10,000 = \$5,000
- **PIP earned by Sally is \$3,000**
  - \$5,000 CCC C/S + \$3,000 Outside C/S + \$5,000 PIP = \$13,000
  - \$13,000 > \$10,000
  - \*--CCC C/S will be reduced to \$2,000; PIP remains \$5,000--\*
  - 40 percent PIP of \$4000 is paid at the time of practice

**197 One-Time Payments (Continued)****B PIP (Continued)**

- 10 percent PIP of \$1,000 will be paid following NRCS completion of a status review to determine whether the approved permanent cover is fully established according to subparagraph 601 B review.

**\*--PIP Example 4:** John Jones and Bob Smith enroll 30 acres.  
John Jones and Bob Smith CRP-1 shares are 50/50.

Total installation costs are as follows:

- John: \$10,000
- Bob: \$0.

John's calculated C/S is \$5,000 from CCC.  
Bob's calculated C/S is \$0.

**PIP Calculation:**

- 50% PIP x \$10,000 = \$5,000
- **PIP earned by John is \$5,000**
- **PIP earned by Bob is \$0**
- \$5,000 CCC C/S + \$0 Outside C/S = \$5,000 PIP = \$10,000
- 40 percent PIP of \$4,000 is paid at the time of practice installation.--\*

**198 First Year Prorated Annual Rental Payment for Continuous CRP Signup****A Prorated Annual Rental Payment**

All CRP annual rental payments are made after October 1 of each year of the contract period. All CRP-1's under continuous CRP signup **must** be for a minimum contract period of 10 years and will not exceed 15 years. See subparagraph 66 C for continuous CRP signup practices and associated contract period.

Because CRP-1's for certain land enrolled through continuous CRP signup may have an effective date other than October 1, the first year's annual rental payment may be for less than a 12-month period.

198 **First Year Prorated Annual Rental Payment for Continuous CRP Signup (Continued)**

**B Example of Prorated Annual Rental Payment**

Producer offers land not currently enrolled in CRP for enrollment through continuous CRP signup. The 10-year CRP-1 was approved on February 21, 2022, with an effective start date of March 1, 2022. Because the CRP-1 effective date is March 1, 2022, the producer will receive CRP payments for 10 years and 7 months if all eligibility requirements were met.

The producer will receive a total of 11 annual payments. The first annual rental payment will be made after October 1, 2022, for the 7 months (March 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022) CRP-1 was effective in FY 2022. The remaining 10 annual rental payments will be made after October 1 of each applicable year.

**Important:** All CRP annual rental payments, including first year prorated annual rental payments, will be made after October 1 of the applicable year. See paragraph 462.

199-210 **(Reserved)**

**211 Continuous CRP Signup Process Information (Continued)****D COC or CED Responsibilities**

Before submitting unsigned CRP-2C to NRCS or TSP, COC or CED will determine whether all eligibility requirements in paragraph 181 are met.

**Exceptions:** COC or CED will not make a determination about:

- suitability of the acreage for the practice offered
- need and feasibility of the practice offered to solve the resource concern
- the eligibility of the per acre rental rate offered amount until maximum payment rate amount is calculated.

If all applicable eligibility requirements that COC or CED are responsible for in paragraph 181 are:

- **not** met, COC or CED must:
  - **not** submit unsigned CRP-2C to NRCS or TSP
  - use CRP-26 to inform producer the offer is not acceptable
- met, COC or CED must submit unsigned CRP-2C and geospatial data/map to NRCS or TSP.

**E Withdrawing Offers and Acreage Modifications**

For continuous CRP signup, before CRP-1 is approved by COC or CED, producers may modify the offer in any way except changes to the following:

- practice offered to another practice that is not eligible for continuous CRP signup
- rental rate per acre offered to exceed the calculated maximum payment rate.

**Note:** See paragraphs 101, 171, and 181.

## 211 Continuous CRP Signup Process Information (Continued)

### E Withdrawing Offers and Acreage Modifications (Continued)

Producers who withdraw or modify acreage offered under continuous CRP signup **before** CRP-1 is approved will not be assessed liquidated damages.

**Important:** Liquidated damages are applicable after CRP-1 is approved.

When the producer modifies the acreage or practice offered after NRCS or TSP has returned **\*--unsigned CRP-2C, geospatial data/map, and CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet--\*** and other NRCS documents, as applicable, County Office must:

- update the TERRA scenario, COLS, and geospatial data/map to reflect modifications
- print updated CRP-2C
- provided updated unsigned CRP-2C and geospatial data/map to NRCS or TSP for suitability, needs and feasibility based on the producer's modifications.

A measurement service, if applicable, must be completed for all acreage determined acceptable **before** CRP-1 is approved. See paragraph 401.

**Exception:** Any acreage currently enrolled that is being reoffered if the acreage was previously measured and official fields.

### F TSP Responsibilities

NRCS or TSP will determine, for every unsigned CRP-2C received:

- for new land offered (land not currently enrolled in CRP), based on a site visit and using **\*--the CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet, all of the following:--\***
  - there is a resource concern the offered acreage and CRP practice will solve
  - existing cover is not solving or addressing the resource concerns of the CRP practice offered
  - acreage offered is suitable for the CRP practice offered
  - CRP practice offered is needed and feasible to solve the resource concern
  - practice offered meets the purpose of the CRP practice according to Exhibit 11

## 211 Continuous CRP Signup Process Information (Continued)

## F TSP Responsibilities (Continued)

- for land currently enrolled in CRP being offered for re-enrollment, based on a site visit and using either conservation assistance notes, status review form, or State NRCS Office developed form, if the:
  - CRP practice is being maintained according to the conservation plan, including the engineering design and size requirements, if applicable
  - approved cover is being maintained according to the conservation plan
  - CRP practice is resolving or addressing the resource concerns and meets the purpose of the practice
  - NRCS conservation practices are applied in a way that meets the purpose of the CRP practice
  - CRP practice meets the current practice standards

**Important:** If any of the above are not being met, NRCS/TSP must provide to FSA the condition of the practice/approved cover not being met.

- return to County Office:
  - unsigned CRP-2C
  - geospatial data/map
  - \*--completed, signed, and dated CRP Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet for new offered land--\*
  - conservation assistance notes, status review form, or State NRCS Office developed form
  - other documentation supporting determinations.

## 212 Completing CRP-2C for Continuous CRP Signup

### A About CRP-2C

CRP-2C will be completed for all acreage on which producers want to submit an offer for enrollment. CRP-2C is used by FSA and NRCS or TSP to:

- make eligibility determinations
- calculate maximum payment rates
- obtain data and statistics on acreage offered for enrollment.

**Important:** Offers containing both marginal pastureland and cropland with the same contract period must be completed using one CRP-2C and CRP-1.

\*--Before completing CRP-2C, the County Office must ensure that the base acre limitation--\* is not exceeded. See paragraph 401, 10-CM, and 1-ARCPLC.

To be eligible to be enrolled in CRP, marginal pastureland **must** be devoted to CP22, CP22B, CP22S, CP29, or CP30. See paragraph 181.

**Important:** Land that meets the definition of cropland **cannot** be enrolled in CRP as marginal pastureland. See 10-CM for the definition of cropland.

**All changes to data entered on CRP-2C, including completion of item numbers 2 and 3B, after producer signs CRP-2C must be initialed and dated by both the employee making the change and the producer.**

CRP-2C is:

- a COLS computer-generated form used for continuous CRP signup offers
- provided for display purposes only.

**Manual CRP-2C's are not authorized.**



**Part 8 FWP Provisions****237 General FWP Information****A Background**

The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 authorized FWP for the enrollment of the following:

- certain cropped wetlands and associated buffers
- land devoted to constructed wetlands and associated buffers
- land devoted to certain commercial pond-raised aquaculture
- land subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland (flooded prairie wetland) and associated buffers.

**B Authorized Practices**

Practices authorized for continuous CRP signup enrollment in CRP under FWP are:

- \*--CP27, FWP Farmable Wetland
- CP28, FWP Farmable Wetland Buffer--\*
- CP39, FWP Constructed Wetland
- CP40, FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration
- CP41, FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland.

See Exhibit 11 for practice writeups for CP27, CP28, CP39, CP40, and CP41.

## 237 General FWP Information (Continued)

## C Practice Eligibility Criteria Side by Side

The following provides a side-by-side of the eligibility criteria for each of the practices under FWP.

Practice	Name	Cropland	Cropping History	Wetland Size <u>1/</u>	Buffer
CP27	FWP Cropped Wetlands	Yes	Yes 3 of 10 most recent crop years.	Not to exceed 40 acres per tract.	4:1 ratio
CP28	FWP Buffer	Yes	Yes 3 of 10 most recent crop years.		
CP39	FWP Constructed Wetland	No	No	Not to exceed 40 contiguous acres per tract.	4:1 ratio Enrolled as part of the CP39.
CP40	FWP Aquaculture Wetland Restoration	No	Yes 1 year 2002 through 2007.	No limit.	No buffer required.
CP41	FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland	Yes	Yes 3 years out of 10 years from January 1, 1990, through December 31, 2002.	Not to exceed 40 acres per tract.  No wetland greater than 20 acres.	4:1 ratio

1/ Buffer acreage plus wetland acreage may exceed 40 acres per tract; however, wetland component may **not** exceed limits of “Wetland Size” column.

**262 Acreage Limitations and Practice Eligibility****A 25 Percent County Cropland Limitation**

\*--Cropland enrolled in grassland CRP will count against the 25 percent county cropland limitation.

**B CRP Acreage Enrollment Limitation**

All land enrolled in grassland CRP counts against the National CRP acreage limitation.

**Note:** The statute provides that 2 million acres of the CRP acreage limitation are reserved for grassland CRP. Those acres are not authorized for any other CRP signup.

**C Authorized Practices**

**CP88 is the only practice authorized for grassland CRP. Existing contracts will--\* continue to use** practices CP42, CP87, CP87A, CP88, and CP88A if enrolled during signup 200 and practices CP87, CP87A, CP88, and CP88A if enrolled during signup 201. Practices must be determined suitable for the site conditions by the technical agency to be authorized or enrolled.

**Note:** See Exhibit 11 for practice writeup for CP88.

\* \* \*

**263 Land and Producer Eligibility****\*--A States and Counties Authorized for Grassland CRP**

Grassland CRP is eligible for enrollment in all States and territories.

**B Eligibility for Owners and Operators**

Persons determined eligible for CRP according to Part 6 may request to enroll certain acreages in grassland CRP according to this part.--\*

## 263 Land and Producer Eligibility (Continued)

### C Land Eligibility Requirement

Eligible land for grassland CRP is land on a tract or a portion of a tract that:

- is classified according to 10-CM, paragraph 30 as:
  - cropland if the land use or land cover is an improved pasture or hay-land established to a permanent vegetative cover
  - rangeland including native pasture or native land

**\*--Note:** Cropping history is not required for grassland CRP.--\*

- contains forbs or shrubland (including improved rangeland and improved pastureland) for which grazing is the predominant use

**Exception:** Grassland with less than 5 percent tree canopy interspersed throughout the offered acreage is eligible.

- is located in an area historically dominated by grassland
- provides habitat for animal and plant populations of significant ecological value if the land is retained in its current use or restored to a natural condition
- is expiring CRP

**Note:** Expiring CRP devoted to tree practices are not eligible.

- land that was previously enrolled in EQIP and the contract is currently expired; however, the land is currently within the EQIP practice lifespan.

The following land classifications, as described in 10-CM, subparagraph 30 B, are **not** eligible to be enrolled in grassland CRP:

- urban
- mined land
- forest
- water body
- barren
- tundra
- perennial snow and ice
- other agricultural land not normally used for livestock grazing activities
- rangeland with greater than 5 percent tree canopy.

**264 Contract Duration and Program Year**

**A Contract Duration and Effective Date**

The CRP-1 period for grassland CRP must be 10 or 15 years in duration.

The effective date of CRP-1 will start on October 1.

**B Program Year**

The program year is the FY in which the first annual rental payment is earned.

**C Signup Number**

\*--Grassland CRP will use signup numbers as provided in Exhibit 20.--\*

\* \* \*

**265 Processing Offers for Grassland CRP**

**A General Information About Grassland CRP Signup and Offer Process**

Signup periods will be announced by DAFP. The National Office must provide State and County Offices:

- program information sheets for producers
- updated program provisions and procedures
- other information as requested.

During signup, producers will submit offers for the amounts they are willing to accept to enroll acreage in the program. County Offices will calculate the maximum acceptable rental rate for the acreage being submitted. This amount is referred to as the maximum payment rate and is described in detail in paragraph 101.

Offers will be ranked at the National Office using a national ranking process. Offers selected will be those meeting the national ranking criteria cut-off score.

265 Processing Offers for Grassland CRP (Continued)

**B County Office Responsibilities**

The following table provides the steps a County Office may follow for grassland CRP signup and the reference for each step. County Offices may adjust the order of events in the following table to provide for a workable signup period.

\*--

Step	Action	Reference
1	National Office announces grassland CRP signup period.	Press Release and National Notice
2	<p>Producer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expresses an interest in enrolling in grassland CRP</li> <li>• indicates the acreage they want to enroll on a digital imagery or map.</li> </ul> <p>County Offices must explain the following program details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• land eligibility and ineligibility</li> <li>• payment rate</li> <li>• national ranking and selection process</li> <li>• COC determinations</li> <li>• available practices and applicable C/S rates.</li> </ul> <p>County Offices must provide the producer with current Grassland CRP Ranking Criteria Fact Sheet, the Grassland CRP Working Lands Fact Sheet, and any State specific technical practice standard requirements.</p> <p><b>Example of State Specific Practice Standard Requirements:</b> The NRCS practice standard 528 for prescribed grazing requires that participants fence off any streams or rivers. County Office staff will provide the participant with a State Grassland CRP Fact Sheet or implementation requirements explaining any State specific planning requirements at the time of application.</p>	<p>National Notice and Part 9 of 2-CRP</p> <p>Paragraph 332</p> <p>Paragraph 151</p>
3	Producer requests to submit an offer for enrollment in grassland CRP Signup and informs FSA of any C/S requests.	National Notice and Press Release

--\*

265 Processing Offers for Grassland CRP (Continued)

B County Office Responsibilities (Continued)

Step	Action	Reference
4	<p>Participant will provide FSA with the requested practices and estimate extents needed. FSA will inform the participant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C/S is not guaranteed and will be determined based on need by the technical agency</li> <li>• C/S practice will not be started before the environmental review has been completed and FSA has notified the participant of the approval of the cost share agreement (FSA-848A).</li> </ul>	Part 15, Paragraph 367, and 1-EQ
5	<p>County Office determines whether all the following are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all producer eligibility requirements</li> <li>• all land eligibility requirements</li> <li>• CRP county cropland limit has not been exceeded.</li> </ul> <p>If all are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• met, proceed to step 6</li> <li>• not met, STOP. Do not proceed. Inform the producer the *--eligibility requirements are not met using CRP-26--* (Exhibit 5).</li> </ul>	Part 6
6	If all requirements in step 5 are met, create a TERRA offer.	4-CRP
7	After completing a TERRA scenario, process offers through COLS.	4-CRP
8	County Office enters the offer data (practice, cover type, acres, CRP-1 period) in COLS, as provided by the producer.	4-CRP

265 Processing Offers for Grassland CRP (Continued)

**B County Office Responsibilities (Continued)**

\*--

Step	Action	Reference
9	County Office completes and prints CRP-2G and CRP-1 and notifies the producer that CRP-2G and CRP-1 are ready for signature. Provide producers CRP-1 Appendix (Exhibit 29) before submitting offers.	4-CRP
10	Producer signs and dates the completed CRP-1 <b>and</b> CRP-2G and provides the signed documents to the County Office.  <b>Note:</b> Only 1 signature is required to submit an eligible offer. All signatures are required before COC or CED approves CRP-1.	4-CRP
11	County Office must ensure that offer is in “Submitted” status in COLS.	4-CRP
12	State and County Offices review the offer ranking data to identify incomplete or erroneous ranking data. If ranking data is incomplete or erroneous, County Office must edit the offer to correct the incomplete or erroneous data.  County Office must go back and repeat steps 9 through 11.	CRP Notice
13	National Office locks COLS for ranking. County Offices can no longer access grassland CRP signup offer records.	National Office
14	National Office ranks all grassland CRP signup offers in a “Submitted” status.	National Office
15	A national ranking cutoff score is determined and final results of acceptable and rejected offers are announced.	CRP Notice
16	Accepted or Rejected Offers are posted.	CRP Notice
17	County Offices must conduct a post ranking eligibility review.	CRP Notice

--\*



265 Processing Offers for Grassland CRP (Continued)

B County Office Responsibilities (Continued)

Step	Action	Reference
18	<p>County Office notifies producer of acceptability of offer using *--CRP-23 or rejected offer using CRP-26. For accepted--* offers, the County Office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provides producer a copy of signed CRP-1 and CRP-2G</li> <li>• provides producer a copy of CRP-1 Appendix</li> <li>• updates offer status in COLS to “submit to plan”</li> <li>• provides NRCS a copy of the:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *--letter of acceptability sent to producer (CRP-23)--*</li> <li>• signed CRP-1</li> <li>• signed CRP-2G</li> <li>• CRP-1 Appendix</li> <li>• geospatial data or map created in step 6, if applicable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	CRP Notice
19	County Office will complete a paid for measurement service for acceptable offers, if requested by the producer.	Paragraph 401
20	NRCS completes site visit as determined necessary as part of the conservation plan development.	Paragraph 366
21	<p>NRCS provides County Office with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRCS signed conservation plan and all supporting documentation</li> <li>• NRCS-CPA-52 with the NRCS portion completed.</li> </ul>	Paragraph 376

265 Processing Offers for Grassland CRP (Continued)

**B County Office Responsibilities (Continued)**

\*--

Step	Action	Reference
22	<p>County Office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• completes all necessary consultations, if needed</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Ground disturbing practices (example: water wells, livestock pipelines, ponds, and watering facilities) on land offered for grassland CRP will require consultation and may result in the need for a field survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• obtains copy of all permits or other permissions necessary to perform and maintain practices as provided by NRCS on NRCS-CPA-52, Section G</li> <li>• completes FSA’s portion of NRCS-CPA-52</li> <li>• ensures all required signatures on CRP-1 and conservation plan have been obtained</li> <li>• updates offer status in COLS to “submit to COC”.</li> </ul>	Paragraphs 366 and 367 and 1-EQ
23	If determined complete and acceptable, COC or CED signs conservation plan.	Paragraph 366
24	County Office ensures that AGI certification is filed and recorded in subsidiary file for the FY of the COC approval date.	Paragraph 131
25	COC or CED approves CRP-1.	Paragraph 401

--\*

**\*--268 Processing Offers**

**A Reviewing Offers**

COC or CED **must** ensure that:

- producers have submitted offers for CRP-1 by tract and year
- CRP-2G and CRP-1 were signed by at least 1 eligible producer
- after the conclusion of the ranking period, offers that have been determined **not** acceptable will **not** be kept for consideration under the next ranking period.

**B Submitting Offers for National Office Ranking**

County Offices **must** ensure that all offers are submitted no later than COB of the last day of the signup period.

**269 Notifying Producers**

**A Eligibility Review**

COC or CED must:

- review the list of acceptable offers to ensure that all eligibility criteria have been met for all offers listed as acceptable by the National or State Office
- not approve CRP-1 if the producer or offered acreage does not meet eligibility criteria even though the offer is listed as acceptable by the National or State Office.

**Note:** Provide NRCS or TSP a list of acceptable offers.

**B Offer Not Acceptable**

If the offer is not acceptable, notify the producer of the unacceptable offer according to subparagraph C.--\*

## 269 Notifying Producers (Continued)

**C Procedure for Notifying Producers**

\*--COC or CED will notify producers, using CRP-23 and CRP-26 (Exhibit 5), of the status--\* of their offer as soon as the list of acceptable offers is received, and an eligibility review was conducted.

**D Offer Acceptable and Clearly Eligible**

If the offer is determined acceptable by national ranking, advise the producer:

- to notify the County Office if the producer wants the offer approved

**Note:** The producer's notification to the County Office is not required to be in writing. The County Office must notate the producer's notification and include the notation in the producer's CRP folder.

- that a conservation plan must be developed by NRCS or TSP before CRP-1 can be approved by COC or CED

**Note:** County Offices must provide to NRCS or TSP all documents necessary to complete the conservation plan, including, but not limited to, the following:

- CRP-1
  - CRP-2G
  - maps.
- of provisions for starting practices. See Part 11.

**E Rescoring Offers Where the Grass Cover Does Not Support the Ranking Score**

For acceptable grassland CRP offers where NRCS is unable to verify the number of grasses claimed by the producer, allow the offer to be re-ranked based on the information NRCS provides and if the score is:

- still acceptable continue to conservation plan development and CRP-1 approval
- **not** acceptable based on the national ranking cutoff score allow the producer to voluntarily withdraw the offer without liquidated damages.

**Section 1 Ranking and Selection Process**

**293 National Ranking and Selection Process**

**A About the National Ranking Plan**

The national ranking process was developed by FSA, in consultation with NRCS, ERS, EPA, FS, FWS, and other agencies. The process is designed to prioritize CRP offers based on environmental criteria and cost. The process uses an EBI that includes 6 national ranking factors: 5 factors that quantify the relative environmental benefits of each offer, and 1 cost factor that quantifies cost on a per acre basis.

The National Office must determine the rank of each offer by adding the sum of the scores received for all environmental factors plus a cost factor. Offers will be ranked from highest to lowest total score.

**Note:** The EBI scores assigned to each factor are applied generally to all eligible offers; therefore, the EBI point system is not appealable. The information used to determine the individual EBI score for a specific offer may be appealed.

The 5 national environmental ranking factors and 1 cost factor will be collected for all offers.

**B National Ranking Factors**

The following are the 6 national ranking factors.

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Point Ranges</b>
N1	Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits	*--0 through 100--*
N2	Water Quality Benefits from Reduced Erosion, Runoff, and Leaching	0 through 100
N3	On-Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion	0 through 100
N4	Enduring Benefits	0 through 50
N5	Air Quality Benefits	3 through 45
N6	Cost/Acre	to be determined

**293 National Ranking and Selection Process (Continued)****B National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

Scoring criteria for each national ranking factor are listed in Exhibit 26.

FSA will determine environmental scores for factors N1 through N5 for each offer during and shortly after signup.

**Note:** Offers under continuous CRP signup are not evaluated. See paragraph 181.

The National Office will determine the cost factor using the CRP per acre offer.

For general CRP signup, when the applicable cropland limit for the county is reached, the residency of the owner or operator that submitted the offer will be used to determine the acceptability of the offer when more than 1 offer has an equivalent EBI score.

**Example:** The EBI (environmental benefits plus cost) cutoff level in Bucks County, Pennsylvania is 250 points. Bucks County is 20 acres from the 25 percent cropland limit.

Offer A (250 EBI points and 20 acres in size) is from an out of State landowner with an operator from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Offer B (250 EBI point and 20 acres in size) is from a local Bucks County farmer.

Offer B will be selected for enrollment in the program.

**C Processing Offers**

Only general CRP signup offers will be accepted. Continuous CRP offers will be accepted under the continuous CRP signup process. Offers under continuous CRP signup are not evaluated. See Part 7.

General CRP signup offers must compete based on the scores for each national factor, including cost.

**D Selecting Offers**

After all offers have been ranked, the National Office will provide by notice the ranking list to each applicable State and County Office indicating the offers that have been accepted or rejected. County Offices must notify each producer according to paragraph 341 after conducting the final eligibility review.

**294-310 (Reserved)**

**334 Providing CRP-1 and CRP-1 Appendix**

**A Instructions to Producers**

Producers must be advised that:

- CRP-1 (Exhibit 21) is a binding contract; offers are irrevocable after the end of signup  
\* \* \*
- changes are not allowed on the preprinted portion of CRP-1 and CRP-1 Appendix
- any changes to the data entered on CRP-1 **must** be initialed and dated by both the employee making the change and the producer
- CRP-1 **must** be signed and dated by all required signatories. See paragraphs 335 and 340.

**B What to Give Producers Submitting Offers**

When the producer is ready to submit an offer, County Offices must provide the following to the producer:

- copy of CRP-2
- CRP-1 (Exhibit 21)
- copy of CRP-1 Appendix.

**335 Signature Requirements**

**A Required Signatures**

All owners, operators, and tenants who have an interest in the acreage being offered **must** sign CRP-1, including owners with zero share in CRP annual rental payments.

**Exception:** Deceased participants must be removed from CRP-1 within 10 workdays of becoming aware of the death of the participant, regardless of whether the deceased participant is still listed as an owner on the deed, purchase contract, or other acceptable document that affirms ownership. See subparagraph 554 D for County Office actions required within 10 workdays of becoming aware of the death of a participant.

Each person who signs CRP-1 for a share greater than zero:

- has entered into a 10- to 15-year binding agreement with CCC

**Exception:** See landlord and tenant provisions in paragraph 130.

- is jointly and severally liable for complying with terms and conditions of CRP-1.

**Note:** Zero-share participants are not jointly and severally responsible for CRP-1 performance.

The following shows forms and signature requirements.

<b>Form</b>	<b>Signature Required</b>
CRP-1 (Exhibit 21) Certification Statement (subparagraph 130 E)	All operators, owners, and tenants who have an interest in the acreage being offered
Conservation Plan	All operators, owners, and tenants who have an interest in the acreage being offered  <b>*--Important:</b> Conservation plans, when completed by NRCS for land enrolled in CRP, are considered an FSA document. FSA spousal signature authority applies, and spouses may sign CRP conservation plans on behalf of one another without a power of attorney.--*

**Notes:** See subparagraph C for exceptions on obtaining owners' signatures.

See 1-CM for acceptable signature methods.



## 335 Signature Requirements (Continued)

### B Owners' Signatures

An owner is required to sign CRP-1 unless a farm is under multiple ownership and the owner's name is not on the deed to the portion of land being offered on CRP-1.

**Important:** Deceased owners must be removed from CRP-1 within 10 workdays of becoming aware of the death of the owner, regardless of whether the deceased owner is still listed as an owner on the deed, purchase contract, or other acceptable document that affirms ownership. See subparagraph 554 D for County Office actions required within 10 workdays of becoming aware of the death of a participant.

### C Requirement Exceptions

The requirements for signatures apply unless:

- a trustee of BIA representing the Native Americans owning the land signs on their behalf

\*--Note: See 1-CM.--\*

- a native American has a restrictive 5-year BIA farm lease that has been extended according to BIA provisions.

**Exception:** If the land has non-Native American owners who are unknown, CRP-1 may be approved without the non-Native American owners' signatures if the total non-Native American owner share is 25 percent or less.

See 10-CM for recording unknown owners or operators in MIDAS Farm Records.

### D Policy on Evidence of Signature Authority

For CRP-1, CRP-1R, CRP-2, CRP-2C, CRP-2G, CRP-2C30, CRP-817U, FSA-848A, and FSA-848B, acceptable evidence of authority for an individual to sign in a representative capacity must be on file at the time the person is signing the applicable document in a representative capacity. The County Office will not accept a signature of an individual acting in a representative capacity unless there is acceptable evidence of this authority on file in the County Office at the time the individual signs the applicable document. See 1-CM for acceptable evidence of signature authority.

**336 Submitting Offers After Signup Deadline****A Register of Offers**

Registers are authorized for CRP signups according to 1-CM, paragraph 2. Producers placed on the register by COB on the final date for submitting offers must be:

- assisted as soon as possible after the final date for submitting offers
- considered to have submitted their offers on time.

**B Late-Filed Offers**

Only offers filed before the deadline for submitting offers are eligible.

Using CRP-36 (Exhibit 5), advise producers who submit offers after the deadline that late-filed offers are not eligible.

**Note:** Producers listed on the register are not considered late-filed offers.

All offers submitted by producers on a register must be completed and submitted in COLS within 1 week after the last day of the announced general CRP signup period to be ranked.

## 367 Conservation Planning (Continued)

### H Technical Error

If a technical error is discovered resulting in an incorrect conservation plan, NRCS or TSP will:

- immediately contact the appropriate participant
- revise the plan to meet practice standards.

### \*--368 NRCS Conservation Plan and C/S Agreement--\*

#### A Conservation Plan and C/S Agreement

For CRP, the conservation plan must be developed to meet identified resource conservation needs. The conservation plan may or may not extend across program boundaries.

The C/S agreement is developed to meet specific program needs.

#### B Use of Existing Plans

Existing conservation plans, if applicable, may be used in preparing the conservation plan for CRP. NRCS, FSA, and the producer must each receive a copy of the conservation plan. All entries will be legible and use NRCS-approved electronic forms. Plans must also include:

- conservation planning map and legend
- applicable job sheets/implementation requirements referred to on an NRCS-approved electronic form.

#### C Required Signatures for Conservation Plan

For CRP, NRCS-approved electronic forms **must** be signed by all the following:

- CRP producers listed on CRP-1
- designated conservationist.

See paragraph 366 for:

- requirements before COC or CED approves the conservation plan
- signature by the Conservation District representative.

FSA COC or CED must have concurrence with the Contract Support Document for CRP acreage.

**369 Assembling and Filing CRP Documents**

**A Overview**

County FSA Offices must:

- maintain the original CRP-1, CRP-1 Appendix, and CRP-2, CRP-2C, and CRP-2G
- provide NRCS with a copy of any documents needed for NRCS CRP case files.

\*--CRP documents must be contained in a 6-part folder. The following subparagraphs provide instructions for assembling and filing CRP documents.

**Note:** Documents for current contracts may continue under previously established filing guidelines.--\*

\* \* \*

## Part 12 Approving CRP-1's

## 401 Approving and Numbering CRP-1's

## A Requirements Before Approval

Before approving CRP-1's, County Offices must:

- ensure that a separate CRP-1 is completed for:
  - \*--each CRP-2, CRP-2C, CRP-2C30, or CRP-2G--\*
  - practices with different CRP-1 periods

**Note:** See paragraphs 211 and 332.

- determine acres to be enrolled by completing a paid-for measurement service

**Exceptions:** Measurement service is not required for:

- official fields
- any acreage currently enrolled that has been reoffered and accepted, if the specific area accepted was measured before enrollment.

**Notes:** In early signup periods, offers were accepted by farm. Offers are now required to be by tract. If acreage currently enrolled were required to be reoffered separately because the acreage is located on more than 1 tract, the acreage is required to be measured.

The use of TERRA is considered a measurement service. No measurement service fee is charged for the use of TERRA. If staking and referencing or in office measurement, other than TERRA, is performed, see 2-CP, paragraph 927 for fees.

- adjust the acreage on CRP-1 as appropriate according to the completed measurement service
- ensure that base acres and CRP acres do not exceed effective DCP cropland on the farm, according to subparagraph B
- complete approved farm reconstitutions

## 401 Approving and Numbering CRP-1's (Continued)

## A Requirements Before Approval (Continued)

- review NRCS-CPA-52, Section G, to determine whether the producer is required to obtain any permits or other permissions necessary to perform and maintain practices, and if FSA needs to complete consultations
- complete a second party review of all eligibility requirements and maximum payment rate calculations
- ensure that CCC-526, CCC-931, CCC-933, or CCC-941 as applicable, has been filed for all producers with a share greater than zero, including members of entities and joint operations, and updated in the web-based Subsidiary Eligibility System before CRP-1 approval

**Notes:** CCC-941 **must** be filed to ensure that CRP participants are aware of payment eligibility for new CRP-1's or revised CRP-1's where there is a succession. This does **not** require that a prospective CRP participant be eligible for payments, **only** that CCC-941 be filed.

If a zero share producer revises their share, the appropriate AGI form is required. See paragraph 131.

- review the multiple county producer list with other County Offices
- ensure county cropland limit eligibility according to Part 4
- determine the total annual rental rate for the acreage being offered and all previously approved CRP-1's
- ensure that NRCS has terminated all applicable WBP agreements

**Note:** File a copy of the terminated WBP agreement in the producer's CRP folder.

- **--for a new or revised CREP agreement, submit the first 5 offers per County Office to STC for review.--\***

## 426 Establishing Approved Cover (Continued)

### B When to Start CRP Practice

Producers will be advised that:

•\*--approved CRP practices may be started after:

- submitting the offer to the County Office
- completing the environmental review as provided in subparagraph 367 F

**Note:** Starting a practice before final approval of CRP-1 is at the producer's own risk.

- being notified CRP-1 has been approved--\*
- where practicable, as determined by NRCS or TSP, State-certified seed must be used for CRP

**Note:** However, common seeds, especially for natives, may be used when certified seed is not available.

- C/S payments are ineligible if:
  - offer is not accepted
  - designated acres are ineligible
  - practice does not meet specifications
  - practice is not included in the approved conservation plan.

**Note:** See paragraph 429 for C/S when modifying approved conservation plan.

### C Permanent Covers

The approved conservation plan **must** include the establishment of a permanent vegetative cover:

- according to the planting timespan requirement in Exhibit 11
- before the presence of an erosion problem.

The participant is eligible to receive C/S assistance after CRP-1 is approved and the approved cover is seeded, or for approved water cover the required establishment activities, such as earth moving and blocking drains, have been completed.

## 426 Establishing Approved Cover (Continued)

## C Permanent Covers (Continued)

Approved permanent cover is required to be seeded within 12 months after the CRP-1 effective date, according to Exhibit 11. However, NRCS or TSP, in consultation with COC or CED, may, in developing the conservation plan, permit up to an additional 12 months, not to exceed 24 continuous months, to seed or install the approved permanent cover if any of the following apply:

- the specific site conditions require additional time to seed the approved cover to not adversely impact the natural resources of the site or surrounding areas
- the approved grass seed, grass mixture, trees, or shrubs are not available
- seed costs will create an economic hardship on the participant.

**Example:** Jane Smith's signup 52 CRP-1 for 100 acres was approved with an effective date of October 1, 2019. The approved permanent cover is required to be seeded by October 1, 2020, according to Exhibit 11. The next normal planting date for the approved permanent cover begins in May 2020 and ends in June 2020. Because of the specific site conditions, planting the entire 100 acres to the approved permanent cover at 1 time would cause severe erosion on the acreage enrolled and cause similar adverse impacts on the surrounding fields. NRCS, in consultation with COC or CED, may, in developing the conservation plan, provide Ms. Smith an additional 12 months (to October 1, 2021) to seed the approved permanent cover on a portion of the field to reduce the adverse environmental impacts to the site. An approved temporary cover, if needed, **must** be seeded on the acreage not planted to the approved permanent cover according to the conservation plan.

**Notes:** Determinations to permit an additional 12 months to seed the approved permanent cover must be:

- made on a case-by-case basis
- recorded in the conservation plan.

Up to 3 years may be permitted for certain hardwood tree plantings. See Exhibit 11.



## 493 Establishing C/S Rates (Continued)

**C Ineligible Items**

The cost of the following items are ineligible for establishing C/S rates:

- engineering charges, consultant fees, permit fees, or archeological surveys
- \* \* \*
- providing land
- other C/S payments
- right to use water
- incentives
- power sources, including but not limited to electrical and obtaining utility service generator

**Exception:** Solar fence charger included as part of or attached to the fence.

- portable equipment
- donated material
- meeting supplemental requirements, such as abstaining from harvesting
- loss of or reduction in revenue from the land
- cost of pumps and pumping accessories, except for permanently installed pumps that are needed as an integral part of the practice.

**Note:** One or more of these items may be required to make the practice serve its purpose, but these items may not be used to establish C/S rates.

**D Arbitrary Hold-Downs**

STC, COC, and CED must ensure that arbitrary hold-downs are not used when establishing C/S rates and limitations.

494 National Component Codes

**A Denitrifying Bioreactors**

The National Office established the component code DENBIO for C/S for denitrifying bioreactors on existing or re-enrolled CP21's and CP22's. This code is not authorized on practices other than CP21 and CP22.

**B Saturated Buffers**

Use component code SATBUF for C/S for saturated buffers on existing or re-enrolled CP21's and CP22's.

**C No C/S Management Activities**

National component codes for management activities with no C/S have been created in \*-Program Provisioning. The National component codes may be broader than the exact description approved by DAFP. County Offices will compare the management activity on the conservation plan and select the National component code that best fits the planned activity. Program Provisioning will not allow changes at the State or county level.

County Offices are required to copy the following uniform component codes to their county database in Program Provisioning.

<b>Category 21 – No C/S – Required Management--*</b>			
<b>Sub-Category</b>		<b>Description</b>	<b>Component Code</b>
Mechanical	disking	MCM No Cost Share – Disking	<b>MCMNOCSDSK</b>
	mowing	MCM No Cost Share – Mowing	<b>MCMNOCSMOW</b>
	tree thinning/pruning	MCM No Cost Share – Thinning or pruning	<b>MCMNOCSTREE</b>
Chemical	chemical treatment	MCM No Cost Share – Chemical	<b>MCMNOCSCHM</b>
Burning	prescribed burning	MCM No Cost Share – Burning	<b>MCMNOCsBRN</b>
Inter-seeding	inter-seeding	MCM No Cost Share – Seeding	<b>MCMNOCsSEED</b>
Haying and Grazing	haying	MCM No Cost Share – Haying	<b>MCMNOCsHAYNG</b>
	grazing	MCM No Cost Share – Grazing	<b>MCMNOCsGRZNG</b>
Any Other Method or Combination of Methods	any other method	MCM No Cost Share – Other	<b>MCMNOCsOTH</b>

522 Monitoring CRP C/S Obligations (Continued)

H Monitoring CRP Obligation Reporting Action Responsibilities (Continued)

Report	Employee	Required Action
FSA-848A, Practices With Expiration Date Exceeded	Program Technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●*--At the beginning of each month, filter the*--* SharePoint site for your State and county to process all C/S agreements with FSA-848's with Practice Expiration Date Exceeded.</li> <li>● Contact all participants that have not submitted receipts or certified completion of practices with instructions for practice performance certification or extension, as applicable.</li> <li>●*--Export a progress report from SharePoint and review with COC.*--*</li> <li>● Process applicable payments for participants who had submitted receipts and certified completion of the practice.</li> <li>●*--Terminate FSA-848A's for practices not completed or an extension not requested and approved*--* according to paragraphs 502 through 504.</li> <li>● Record C/S agreement action taken and explanation, as required, on the SharePoint.</li> </ul>
	DD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Filter and review SharePoint C/S agreements for your *--district no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.</li> <li>● Review County Office progress on report by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month with CED.</li> <li>● Provide a summation of actions taken to resolve agreements to the State Office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.</li> </ul>
	State Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide County Offices updated instructions to resolve agreements on the Practice Expiration Date*--* Exceeded SharePoint site upon receipt of the monthly updated information from the National Office.</li> <li>● Review the monthly report provided by DD.</li> <li>●*--Provide summary report for the State to SED by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.</li> </ul>
	SED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the monthly report and communicate corrective actions needed to DD's no later than the end of the month.*--*</li> </ul>

522 Monitoring CRP C/S Obligations (Continued)

H Monitoring CRP Obligation Reporting Action Responsibilities (Continued)

Report	Employee	Required Action
Status Management Report – CSS Applications/Agreements	Program Technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the first of each month, prepare 2 versions of the Status Management Report using the selection criteria.</li> <li>• Review the practice status for each FSA-848A on the reports.</li> <li>• Contact all participants that have not submitted receipts or certified completion of practices, as applicable.</li> <li>• Review report with COC.</li> <li>• Process applicable payments for participants who had submitted receipts and certified completion of the practice.</li> <li>• Provide a copy of the monthly report to DD with action taken documented on the list by the 15th of each month.</li> </ul>
	DD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the monthly report provided by each County Office.</li> <li>• Contact the County Offices that do not provide a report by the 15th of each month.</li> <li>• Provide a summation of actions taken to the State Office by the end of each month.</li> </ul>
	State Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the monthly reports provided by DD’s.</li> <li>• Provide summary report for the State to SED.</li> </ul>
	SED	Review the monthly report and communicate corrective actions needed to DD’s.

546 Revisions to CRP-1's (Continued)

J Applicability of CRP-1 Appendix for CRP Offers (Continued)

IF CRP acreage was offered during...	THEN CRP-1 is effective for program year...	AND the date of the applicable CRP-1 Appendix is...
continuous signup 35	2007 and 2008	May 1, 2003.
continuous signup 36	2008 and 2009	
continuous signup 37	2009 and 2010	
continuous signup 38	2010 and 2011	
general signup 39	2011	
continuous signup 40	2011 and 2012	
general signup 41	2012	
continuous signup 42	2012 and 2013	
general signup 43	2013	
continuous signup 44	2013 and 2014	
general signup 45	2014	
continuous signup 46	2014 and 2015	
continuous signup 47	2015 and 2016	
continuous signup 48	2016 and 2017	one of the following:
general signup 49	2017	
grassland signup 200	2017 and subsequent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 22, 2015, for CRP-1's approved before August 30, 2016</li> <li>• August 30, 2016, for CRP-1's approved on or after August 30, 2016</li> <li>• October 14, 2016, for CRP-1's approved on or after October 14, 2016.</li> </ul>
continuous signup 50	2017 and 2018	either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 30, 2016</li> <li>• October 14, 2016, for CRP-1's approved on or after October 14, 2016.</li> </ul>
continuous signup 51	2018 and 2019	October 14, 2016.
grassland signup 201	2018	
continuous signup 52	2019 and 2020	
continuous signup 53	2020 and 2021	December 9, 2019.
general signup 54	2021	
grassland signup 202	2021	

546 Revisions to CRP-1's (Continued)

**J Applicability of CRP-1 Appendix for CRP Offers (Continued)**

<b>IF CRP acreage was offered during...</b>	<b>THEN CRP-1 is effective for program year...</b>	<b>AND the date of the applicable CRP-1 Appendix is...</b>
continuous signup 55	2021 and 2022	either of the following:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 9, 2019</li> <li>• June 14, 2021, for CRP-1's approved on or after June 14, 2021.</li> </ul>
general signup 56	2022	
grassland signup 203	2022	
continuous signup 57	2022 and 2023	June 14, 2021.
general signup 58	2023	
grassland CRP signup 204	2023	
continuous signup 59	2023 and 2024	
*--general signup 60	2024	
grassland signup 205	2024--*	

**Note:** Continuous signup 34 was used for EFCRP.

**K CCMS Pending Invalid Contract Report**

The county level CCMS Pending Invalid Contract Report provides a list of CRP contracts that have an “Invalid” indicator.

The CCMS Pending Invalid Contract Report identifies CRP contracts, by State, county, and CRP contract number, with an invalid status. The report also provides the reason for the invalid status, including but not limited to missing participant, invalid participant, and deceased participant. See 5-CRP, subparagraph 100 B, for CRP contract validity status indicators and the associated corrective action. See 5-CRP, subparagraph 140 B, to run the Pending Invalid Contract Report.

County Offices must use the CCMS Pending Invalid Contract Report to identify CRP contracts with an invalid status and determine the corrective action needed, review Farm Records data, and Business Partner data to ensure that the CRP contracts are accurate, and to make needed corrections.

On the first business day of each month, County Office must:

- run the county level Pending Invalid Contract Report
- review all CRP contracts listed on the report

## 576 Requests for Waiver of Refunds (Continued)

**B COC Waivers of Refunds**

COC must:

- determine whether criteria exist to warrant a waiver of refunds

**Note:** See subparagraph C.

- thoroughly document requests for waivers, including reasons and justification for decision, in COC minutes
- ensure that COC determination letter includes appeal rights and fully documents reasons for any waiver of refunds, how the waiver was determined, and why it is equitable
- submit requests for waivers in excess of \$5,000 to STC or SED, as applicable
- not submit requests for waivers to STC or SED if COC does not recommend approval
- provide CD a report of waivers of refunds, no later than December 1 for each FY, according to subparagraph F.

**Notes:** COC may waive liquidated damages according to paragraph 578.

COC may waive TIP liquidated damages according to subparagraph 812 C.

**Important:** If the CRP participant is requesting a waiver of refunds for more than one CRP-1 and any CRP-1 refund is in excess of the \$5,000 COC authority, no waiver of any CRP-1 may be provided by COC. Waivers for all CRP-1's must be submitted to STC.

**Example:** The CRP participant has a haying and grazing violation on three CRP-1's, and requests a waiver of refunds on all CRP-1's. Contract 1 calculated refund is \$2,360. Contract 2 calculated refund is \$15,400. Contract 3 calculated refund is \$18,000.

COC has no authority to waive refunds for any CRP-1 even though Contract 1 is within the \$5,000 COC authority. All CRP-1's must be submitted to STC for a determination.

**Note:** If any of CRP-1's is in excess of the \$25,000 STC authority, all contracts must be submitted to DAFP for authority to waive refunds.

## 576 Requests for Waiver of Refunds (Continued)

**B COC Waivers of Refunds (Continued)**

**Important:** In no case can either COC or STC provide a partial waiver for a contract in excess of their applicable authority.

**Example:** The CRP participant has a violation on their CRP-1. The calculated refund is \$7,200. COC **may not** waive any portion of the refund.

**C Criteria for Waivers of Refunds**

Refunds are requested from CRP participants when either the participant requests to terminate all or a portion of CRP-1 or COC terminates all or a portion of CRP-1. COC termination for a violation of CRP-1 occurs when a determination of “good faith” cannot be made. COC’s are responsible for maintaining program integrity and will not approve a waiver for refunds simply because a participant requests it. COC’s will only approve a waiver of refunds when extenuating circumstances warrant a waiver. COC must document the justification to support the determination. **When determining whether a waiver of \*--refunds will be approved, at a minimum, COC’s must include all the following--\* considerations:**

- could the waiver be justified to other participants who continue to comply with CRP and to taxpayers
- does approving a waiver treat all similarly situation participants fairly and equitably
- did the participant know or have reason to know that the action they took, or failed to take, could result in a violation of CRP-1 and requirement to refund payments
- were there conditions beyond the participant’s control that contributed to requirement to refund benefits
- will the participant gain a financial benefit from their actions

**Example:** Returning the land to agricultural production, or harvesting and selling a commodity planted in violation.

- whether the participant provided all required information timely without any misrepresentation, concealment, or intention to evade any program compliance provision



## 603 Noncompliance (Continued)

**F Good Faith Effort Not Determined**

If COC determines there was not a good faith effort to comply with the terms and conditions of CRP-1 and:

- the participant's request for termination of part of the land under CRP-1 was not approved, COC must terminate **all** land under CRP-1 according to subparagraph 571 A

**Example:** Participant has 100 acres enrolled in CRP. Participant requests to terminate part of the acres under CRP-1 to return to crop production. The request is not approved. Producer plants part of the acres under CRP-1 to corn. COC must terminate all land (100 acres) under CRP-1.

- there was no request to terminate part of the land under CRP-1, COC must terminate only land in violation according to subparagraph 571 B.

COC **must** determine there is not a good faith effort to comply with the terms and conditions of CRP-1 if:

- unauthorized grazing is discovered, and producer refuses to remove livestock from CRP acreage
- unauthorized haying is discovered, and producer refuses to destroy or donate the hay

**Note:** If the unauthorized hay has already been sold or used by the time the violation is discovered, COC may determine the producer made a good faith effort to comply with the terms and conditions of CRP-1. Burning is not an authorized method for destruction of the hay. Donation must be to a third-party.

- unauthorized planting or harvesting of a crop is discovered and producer refuses to destroy the crop

**Note:** If the unauthorized crop has already been sold or used by the time the violation is discovered, COC may determine the producer made a good faith effort to comply with the terms and conditions of CRP-1.

- \*--unauthorized harvesting or other commercial use, including the shearing or shaping of trees for Christmas trees or removal of pine straw, has been made of trees.--\*

604 Standard Payment Reductions

**\*--A Assessing Payment Reduction--\***

When COC determines a participant made a good faith effort to comply with the terms and conditions of land under CRP-1, a standard payment reduction will be assessed. The standard payment reduction must not exceed the annual rental payments for CRP-1 on which the violation occurred.

IF noncompliance is a result of...	THEN payment reduction will be calculated...
unauthorized haying or grazing	by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• multiplying the value per acre of the hayed or grazed production, as determined by COC, times</li> <li>• the number of acres in violation, times 2.</li> </ul> COC may prorate standard payment reduction based on the days, weeks, or months the violation occurred.
either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• noncontrol of weeds, insects, or rodents</li> <li>• wind or water erosion</li> </ul>	as applicable, by multiplying the estimated cost per acre to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• carry out satisfactory control measures, times the number of acres in violation, times 2</li> </ul>
failure to maintain or establish an eligible approved permanent cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish approved permanent cover, times the number of acres, times 2.</li> </ul>
unauthorized activity including treatment such as mowing, spraying, and burning, during the PNS for birds in the local area that are economically significant, in significant decline, or conserved according to Federal or State law	at the amount equal to the annual rental payment for the acreage that was in violation.
unauthorized planting or harvesting of a crop, such as annually tilled crops, pine straw, etc.	by multiplying the acres in violation times the current market value times the lesser of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• established yield for the crop times 2</li> <li>• actual yield for the crop times 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> See subparagraph 603 F if the participant refuses to destroy unauthorized crop.</p>

To ensure equity in assessment of SPR, STC may recommend standardized rates for the year. It is recommended that the same rate established under 4-CP provisions for noncontrol of weeds and erosion for ARC, CTAP, or PLC purposes be used for CRP.

**All** standard payment reductions must be recorded through Conservation Payments according to 5-CRP, Part 5, Section 8.

## Reports, Forms, Abbreviations, and Redelegations of Authority (Continued)

## Forms (Continued)

Number	Title	Display Reference	Reference
CRP-2	Conservation Reserve Program Worksheet (For General Signup)	333	Text, Ex. 11, 21, 26
CRP-2C	Conservation Reserve Program Worksheet (For Continuous Signup)	212	Text, Ex. 5, 21
CRP-2C30	Conservation Reserve Program Worksheet (For Continuous Signup CLEAR30)	184	81, 101, 184, 401, 571, 576 Ex. 21
CRP-2G	Conservation Reserve Program Worksheet (For Grassland CRP Signup)	267	Text, Ex. 21, 24
CRP-2G-1	CRP Grassland Small Livestock Operation Certification	267	263, 265, Ex. 11, 24
CRP-20	Notice of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Contract Termination		551
CRP-23	Notice Regarding Acceptable CRP Offers	Ex. 5	171, 184, 215, 265, 269, 286, 341
CRP-24	Notice of Contract Approval	Ex. 5	171, 215, 269, 286, 341, 401
CRP-25	Notice of CRP Waiver of Ownership	Ex. 5	129
CRP-26	Notice of Unacceptable Offer	Ex. 5	81, 171, 211, 215, 238, 265, 269, 286, 341
CRP-30	Deceased Participant Letter	Ex. 7	554
CRP-35	Notice of Offer Reconsideration	Ex. 5	5
CRP-36	Notice Regarding Late-Filed Offer	Ex. 5	336
CRP-37	Request for Incidental Grazing	Ex. 54	668
CRP-42	County Precipitation and Feed and Forage Loss Report	Ex. 51	681
CRP-117	Request to Participate in Haying and Grazing of CRP Acreage	Ex. 47	664, 665, 670, 683, 684
CRP-118	Certification of Participation in Haying and Grazing of CRP Acreage	Ex. 49	670, 683, 684, 686
CRP-817U	Certification of Compliance for CRP	602	335
FSA-325	Application for Payment of Amounts Due Persons Who Have Died, Disappeared, or Have Been Declared Incompetent		468
FSA-578	Report of Acreage		332, 602

## Reports, Forms, Abbreviations, and Redelegations of Authority (Continued)

## Forms (Continued)

Number	Title	Display Reference	Reference
FSA-848	Cost-Share Request		Text, Ex. 5
FSA-848A	Cost-Share Agreement	500	Text
FSA-848A-1	Continuation Sheet for Cost-Share Agreement		500
FSA-848B	Cost-Share Performance Certification and Payment	500	Text, Ex. 5
FSA-848B-1	Continuation Sheet for Cost-Share Performance Certification and Payment		500
FSA-850	Environmental Screening Worksheet		635
FSA-860	2009 Crop Assistance Program (CAP) Application		Ex. 48
IRS-1042	Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons		466
IRS-1042S	Foreign Persons U.S. Source Income Subject to Withholding		466
NRCS-CPA-52	Environmental Evaluation Worksheet		Text
NRCS-CPA-1155	Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations		369, 546
NRCS-CPA-1156	Revision of Plan / Schedule of Operations or Modification of a Contract		369
NRCS-LTP-13	Status Review		508, 601
SF-424-1 <u>1</u> /	Application for Federal Assistance		52
SF-LLL	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	Ex. 6	6
SF-LLL-A	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities Continuation Sheet	Ex. 6	6

1/ SF-424-1 is obsolete.

## Reports, Forms, Abbreviations, and Redelegations of Authority (Continued)

## Abbreviations Not Listed in 1-CM

The following lists approved abbreviations not listed in 1-CM.

Approved Abbreviation	Term	Reference
ACEP	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	Ex. 2
ACEP-ALE	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easement	553, 571, 630
ACEP-WRE	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easement	81, 82, 151, 332, 553, 571, 575, 630
ARC	Agriculture Risk Coverage	261, 604, Ex. 5
ARD	acreage reporting deadline	602
CARS	Crop Acreage Reporting System	602
CCMS	Conservation Contract Maintenance System	81, 171, 286, 522, 546
CD	Conservation Division	31, 511, 576, 821, Ex. 11, 24, 51
CIB	cumulative impact bonus	821
CLEAR30	Clean Lakes Estuaries and Rivers 30 Pilot	184
COLS	Conservation Online System	Text, Ex. 26
CP	conservation practice	Text, Ex. 11, 26
CSP	Conservation Stewardship Program	151, 640, 804, 806
CSS	Cost-Share Software	Text
EBI	environmental benefits index	Text, Ex. 26
EFCRP	Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program	522, 546, 821, Ex. 11
EI	erodibility index	81, 151, 183, 286, Ex. 2, 11, 26
ESA	Endangered Species Act	366, 367
FOTG	Field Office Technical Guide	52, 102, 366, 511, 633, 635, 363, 806, Ex. 2, 11, 26
FWP	Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program	66, Part 8, Ex. 11
HFRP	Healthy Forest Restoration Program	553, 571, 575, 630
HUC	hydrologic unit code	Ex. 26
MUSYM	map unit symbol	101
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act	366, 367
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	367
PIP	practice incentive payment	Text, Ex. 11
PLC	Price Loss Coverage	261, 604, Ex. 5
PLS	pure live seed	426, 490
PNS	primary nesting season	Text

Reports, Forms, Abbreviations, and Delegations of Authority (Continued)

Abbreviations Not Listed in 1-CM (Continued)

Approved Abbreviation	Term	Reference
RA	regional attorney	130, 335, 431, 546, 554, 579, 580
REX	re-enrollments and extensions	546, Ex. 20
RTCP	Reimbursement Transportation Cost Program	821
RUSLE2	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation	52, 151, Ex. 26
SAFE	State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement	Text, Ex. 26
SDMS	Soils Database Management System	102
SHIPP	Soil Health and Income Protection Program	428, 501
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer	367
SIP	Signup Incentive Payment	Text, Ex. 11
SPI	Soil Productivity Index	102
SRC	State Resource Conservationist	Ex. 11
TERRA	Tool for Environmental Resource Results Assessment	Text
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	367
TIP	Transition Incentive Program	126, 401, 576, 577, Part 21
TSP	Technical Service Provider	Text, Ex. 2, 11, 26, 48, 52
USLE	Universal Soil Loss Equation	151
WEPS	Wind Erosion Prediction System	Ex. 26
WEQ	Wind Erosion Equation	52, 151
WRI	Wetland Restoration Incentive	574, 821, Ex. 11

Delegations of Authority

The following table lists delegations of authority in this handbook.

Delegation	Reference
STC may delegate an official representative to sign documents.	31
COC may delegate to CED the responsibility to approve requests for emergency and nonemergency haying and grazing.	669, 670, 683

## Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook

### Affected Acres

The affected acres are designated CRP acres, as determined by COC, to be in violation of a term or condition of CRP-1.

### Agricultural Commodity

An agricultural commodity means:

- any crop planted and producer by annual tilling of the soil or on an annual basis by 1-trip planters
- sugarcane planted or produced in a State, or
- alfalfa and other multi-year grasses and legumes grown in a rotation practice not to exceed 12 years.

### Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

ACEP means the program that provides the establishment of wetland easements on land under subtitle H of Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended.

### Annual Rental Payment

Annual rental payment is, unless the context indicates otherwise, the annual payment specified on the CRP-1 that, subject to the availability of funds, is made to a participant to compensate a participant for placing eligible land in CRP, including any incentive payments that are not specifically C/S payments. For purposes of this definition, practice incentive payments and incentive payments related to forest management are not considered part of annual rental payments.

### Approved Cover

An approved cover means the permanent vegetative cover or water cover specified in an approved CRP-1.

## Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)

### Beginning Farmer or Rancher

\*--A beginning farmer or rancher is, as determined by CCC, a person or legal entity (for legal entities to be considered a beginning farmer or rancher, all members must be related by blood or marriage and all members must be beginning farmers or ranchers) for which the following are true for the farmer or rancher who:--\*

- has not been a farm or ranch operator or owner for more than 10 consecutive years
- materially and substantially participates in the operation of the farm or ranch involved in the CRP-1
- if an entity, is an entity in which 50 percent of the members or stockholders of the entity meets the first 2 requirement of this definition.

### Carrying Capacity

Carrying capacity has the same meaning as normal carrying capacity defined in 7 CFR Part 1416.

### Commercial Pond-Raised Aquaculture Facility

A commercial pond-raised aquaculture facility is any earthen facility from which \$1,000 or more of freshwater food fish were sold or normally would have been sold during a calendar year.

### Common Grazing Practices

Common grazing practices means grazing practices, including those related to forage and seed production, common to the area of the subject ranching or farming operation. Included are routine management activities necessary to maintain the viability of forage or browse resources that are common to the locale of the subject ranching or farming operation.

### Conservation District

Conservation District means a political subdivision of a State, Indian Tribe, or territory, organized pursuant to the State or territorial soil conservation district law, or Tribal law. The subdivision may be a conservation district, soil conservation district, soil and water conservation district, resource conservation district, natural resources district, land conservation committee or similar legally constituted body.



## Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)

### Indian Tribe

Indian Tribe means any Indian Tribe, band, nation or other organized group, or community including pueblos, rancherias, colonies and any Alaska Native Village, or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601-1629h), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

### Infeasible to Farm

Infeasible to farm means an area of land that is too small or isolated to be economically farmed, or is otherwise suitable for such classification.

### Land Permanently Inundated With Water

Land permanently inundated with water is land that is reasonably expected to be under water through the CRP-1 period.

### \*--Limited Resource Producer

Limited resource producer must meet the criteria for both of the following:

- a producer whose direct or indirect gross farm sales do not exceed the amount identified in the Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Self Determination Tool
- a producer whose total household income was at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4.--\*

### Local FSA Office

Local FSA office means the FSA County Office serving the area in which the FSA records are located for the farm or ranch.

### Offer

Offer means, unless the context indicates otherwise, if required by DAFP, the per-acre rental payment requested by the owner or operator in such owner's or operator's request to participant in CRP.

### Participant

Participant means an owner or operator who has entered into CRP-1.

### Perennial Crop

Perennial crop means a crop that is produced from the same root structure for 2 or more years.

**Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)****Permanent Vegetative Cover**

Permanent vegetative cover means a perennial stand of approved combinations of certain grasses, legumes, forbs, shrubs and trees for the contract period.

**Permanent Wildlife Habitat**

Permanent wildlife habitat means a vegetative cover with the specific purpose of providing habitat, food, or cover for wildlife and protecting other environmental concerns for the contract period.

**Practice**

Practice means a conservation, wildlife habitat, or water quality measure with appropriate operations and management as agreed to in the conservation plan to accomplish the desired program objectives according to CRP and FOTG standards and specifications as a part of a conservation management system.

**Prairie Strip**

Prairie strip means a strip of diverse, dense, herbaceous, predominately native perennial vegetation designed and positioned on the landscape to most effectively address soil erosion and water quality by intercepting surface and subsurface water flow to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface and subsurface water quality while providing food and cover for wildlife.

**Primary Nesting Season**

Primary nesting season means the nesting season for birds in the local area that are economically significant, in significant decline, or conserved according to Federal or State law.

**Riparian Buffer**

Riparian buffer means a strip or area of vegetation immediately adjacent and parallel to an eligible water body of sufficient width the purpose of which is to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake and other processes, thereby reducing pollution and protecting surface water and subsurface water quality, which are also intended to provide shade to reduce water temperature for improved habitat for aquatic organisms and supply large woody debris for aquatic organisms and habitat for wildlife.

## Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)

### Saline Seep

A saline seep is an induced temporal (discharge) site with hydro-geologically connected recharge areas that contribute to high concentrations of soluble salts on or near the soil surface, impairing productivity. Discharge areas **must** have a soil electrical conductivity greater than 4 mmhos/cm at 25 degrees Celsius. Other characteristics include:

- ground water usually 4,000 micromhos or greater
- sodium absorption ratio ranges from 0 to 12
- soil pH less than 9
- high water table with electrical conductivity greater than mmhos/cm within 8 feet of the surface some or all of the time (often within 3 feet of the surface).

### Shrubland

Shrubland means land where the dominant plant species are shrubs, which are plants that are persistent, have woody stems, and a relatively low growth habit.

### Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a \*--group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Groups include the following:--\*

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians or Asian Americans
- Blacks or African Americans
- \*--Hispanics or Hispanic Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Women.--\*

### Soil Amendment

Soil amendment means any fertilizer, lime, or gypsum added to the soil to improve its physical or chemical properties. All amendments must be applied according NRCS standards and specifications.

### Soil Loss Tolerance (T)

Soil loss tolerance (T) means the maximum average annual erosion rate specified in FOTG that will not adversely impact the long-term productivity of the soil.

## Definitions of Terms Used in This Handbook (Continued)

### State

State means State agencies, departments, districts, count or city governments, municipalities or any other State or local government of the State.

### State Technical Committee

State Technical Committee means a committee established to provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA.

### \*--Subfactor F2a Veteran Farmer or Rancher

Subfactor F2a veteran farmer or rancher means a farmer who has served in the Armed Forces (as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(10)) and who is a beginning farmer or rancher.--\*

### Sustainable Grazing and Crop Production Methods

Sustainable grazing and crop production methods is an integrated system of plant and animal production practices that have a site-specific application that would:

- meet man's food and fiber
- enhance the environment and the natural resource base
- use nonrenewable resources efficiently
- sustain the economic viability of the operation.

### Technical Assistance

Technical assistance means assistance in regard to determining the eligibility of land and practices, implementing and certifying practices, ensuring CRP contract performance, and providing annual rental rate surveys. The technical assistance provided in connection with CRP to owners or operators, as approved by CCC, includes but is not limited to:

- technical expertise, information and tools necessary for the conservation of natural resources on land
- technical services provided directly to farmers, ranchers and other eligible entities, such as conservation planning, technical consultation, and assistance with design and implementation of conservation practices
- technical infrastructure, including activities, processes, tools and agency functions needed to support delivery of technical services, such as technical standards, resource inventories, training, data, technology, monitoring, and effects analyses.


Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status

A Example of CRP-23

The following is an example of CRP-23.

Note: The producer is not required to notify the County Office in writing; however, the County

\*--Office will notate the producer's response in the CRP folder. See paragraph 341.

 <p>United States Department of Agriculture</p>	<p>Farm Production and Conservation</p>	<p>Farm Service Agency</p>	<p>State/county name or organizational unit Mail stop code and/or room number P.O. Box or Street Address City, State, ZIP Code</p>
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**NOTICE REGARDING ACCEPTABLE CRP OFFERS**

Date: (MM-DD-YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: \_\_\_\_\_

This notice is to inform you that your offer on tract \_\_\_\_\_ under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been determined acceptable by FSA.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Technical Service Provider (TSP) must develop a conservation plan, approved by the Conservation District, and signed by all signatories on the CRP contract offer to participate in the CRP. So that we may continue to process your offer, you should continue to work with NRCS or TSP to obtain the required plan on the acreage which is subject to the offer. Your offer cannot be approved by the County Committee without an approved conservation plan.

Practices to be carried out under CRP may be started with the understanding that cost-share payments will **not** be made if the practice is not included in the approved conservation plan.

You have 15 days from the date of this letter to notify this office of whether you want your offer approved to participate in the CRP so that NRCS or TSP may begin plan development. If I do not hear from you within the 15-day period, we will reject your offer.

The same acreage cannot be enrolled under CRP and Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC). The total of the CRP and ARC/PLC acres on a farm cannot exceed the total eligible land for the program on the farm. The owner of the land offered for CRP may be required to reduce all or a portion of ARC/PLC acreage before CRP-1 will be approved. Please contact the \_\_\_\_\_ County FSA Office for more information.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

County Executive Director

**CRP-23** (04-24-23)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

## Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)

### B Using CRP-23

\*--Because general, continuous, and grassland signup offers are not processed in the same manner and certain provisions do not apply to all offer types, County Offices **must** ensure that the--\* correct information is provided in CRP-23.

CRP-23 **must** be:

- reproduced locally, including form number and date
- prepared in duplicate
- mailed to producers **before** CRP-1 is approved.

\*--County Offices must:--\*

- for general signup offers:
  - use CRP-23 to notify producers that:
    - their CRP offer has been determined acceptable by the National Office
    - \*--they have 15 calendar days, unless a different timeframe is authorized by DAFP,--\* from the date of the letter to notify the County Office whether they want the offer approved provided all eligibility requirements are met
    - they **must** work with the technical agency to develop a conservation plan
    - the same acreage cannot be enrolled under ARC/PLC and CRP

**Note:** See subparagraph 401 B.

- mail original CRP-23 to producer and file copy with the offer
- adapt CRP-23 to fit the situation
- for continuous signup offers:
  - use CRP-23 to notify producers that:
    - their CRP offer has been determined acceptable by COC
    - they **must** work with the technical agency to develop a conservation plan

## Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)

**B Using CRP-23 (Continued)**

- the same acreage cannot be enrolled under CRP and ARC/PLC


**Note:** See subparagraph 401 B.

- the offer will be void if CRP-1 is not approved within 6 months of the date the producer signs CRP-2C
  - all crops **must** be removed from the acreage before CRP-1 effective date
  - if applicable, producer will be notified when CRP-1 is completed and ready for producer's signature; see paragraph 214
  - starting the practice before CRP-1 approval is at the producer's own risk
  - a paid-for measurement service is required, if applicable
  - mail original CRP-23 to producer and file copy with the offer
  - adapt CRP-23 to fit the situation
  - \*--for grassland signup offers:
    - use CRP-23 to notify producers that:
      - their CRP offer has been determined acceptable by the National Office
      - they have 15 calendar days, unless a different timeframe is authorized by DAFP, from the date of the letter to notify the County Office whether they want the offer approved provided all eligibility requirements are met
      - they **must** work with the technical agency to develop a conservation plan
      - the same acreage cannot be enrolled under ARC/PLC and CRP
- Note:** See subparagraph 401 B.
- mail original CRP-23 to producer and file copy with the offer
  - adapt CRP-23 to fit the situation.--\*

Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)

C Example of CRP-24

The following is an example of CRP-24.

	United States	Farm Production	Farm	State/county name or organizational unit
	Department of	and	Service	Mail stop code and/or room number
Agriculture	Conservation	Agency	P.O. Box or Street Address	City, State, ZIP Code

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**NOTICE OF CONTRACT APPROVAL**

Date (MM-DD-YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: \_\_\_\_\_

Your offer to place land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been approved  
 \_\_\_\_\_ County Committee.

Enclosed are your signed copies of the CRP contract and attachments. The effective  
 date of the CRP contract is \_\_\_\_\_.

Form FSA-848 is provided for those conservation practices that are to be established in  
 accordance with the approved conservation plan as part of your contract. When the practices are  
 completed, you must provide this office a report of performance by signing the FSA-848B and  
 include all receipts affiliated with practice establishment so cost-share payment can be made.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
 County Executive Director

Enclosures

**CRP-24** (10-22-15)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender



**Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)**

**D Using CRP-24**

**\*--County Offices must:--\***

- use CRP-24 to notify producers that their offer to place land in CRP has been approved and the effective date of the contract
- adapt CRP-24 to fit the situation
- reproduce CRP-24 locally


**Note:** Include the form number and date on the reproduction.

- prepare CRP-24 in duplicate.
  - Mail original to producer.
  - File a copy with CRP-1.

Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)

E Example of CRP-25

This is an example of CRP-25.

	United States	Farm Production	Farm	State/county name or organizational unit
	Department of	and	Service	Mail stop code and/or room number
Agriculture	Conservation	Agency	P.O. Box or Street Address	City, State, ZIP Code

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**NOTICE OF CRP WAIVER OF OWNERSHIP**

Date: (MM-DD-YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: \_\_\_\_\_

It has been determined that a brief involuntary loss of ownership, because of foreclosure action initiated by a lending institution of voluntary loss instead of foreclosure, does not necessarily make a producer ineligible to participate in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). If a producer is purchasing a farm that the producer originally owned, the producer may participate in CRP if all other eligibility requirements are met.

Documentation submitted shows that you were the original owner and that you now have the opportunity to repurchase the farm.

Based on this information, it has been determined that the land is not being purchased for the purpose of placing it into CRP. You must complete purchase of the farm before you will be eligible to submit an offer or enrollment. If an acceptable offer is submitted and you agree, in writing, that the contract shall not be assumed by a successor in interest, you are eligible to participate in CRP.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive Director

**CRP-25** (10-22-15)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)**

**F Using CRP-25**

**\*--County Offices must:--\***

- use CRP-25 to notify producers who had a brief involuntary loss of ownership, because of foreclosure, that they may participate because all other eligibility requirements are met
- adapt CRP-25 to fit the situation
- reproduce CRP-25 locally

**Note:** Include the form number and date on the reproduction.


- prepare CRP-25 in duplicate.
  - Mail original to producer.
  - File a copy with the offer.

Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)

G Example of CRP-26

\*--This is an example of CRP-26. County Offices must adapt CRP-26 to fit the situation according to 1-APP.

Note: This is only an example.

 <p><b>United States Department of Agriculture</b></p>	<p>Farm Production and Conservation</p>	<p>Farm Service Agency</p>	<p>State/county name or organizational unit Mail stop code and/or room number P.O. Box or Street Address City, State, ZIP Code</p>
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**NOTICE OF UNACCEPTABLE OFFER**

Date: (MM-DD-YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your offer to place land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Your offer on tract number \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the \_\_\_\_\_ (signup type) CRP was not accepted because:

- Environmental Benefits Too Low
- Grassland Ranking Score Too Low
- Land Determined Ineligible
- Payment Rate Offered Exceeded the Maximum Payment Rate
- County Cropland Limitation Has Been Reached
- Existing Restrictive Easement
- 1-Year Ownership/Operatorship Eligibility Not Met
- Ineligible Cropping History
- Landowner/Tenant Provision Not Met
- Other
- Offer exceeds maximum available acreage allocation for the practice.

If you feel that all the facts have not been considered in your case, you may: \_\_\_\_\_

You need to provide factual information and reasons why you believe this determination is not correct.

Although your offer was not accepted, you may be eligible for the continuous sign-up of high priority conservation practices such as filterstrips, riparian buffers, grass waterways, shelter-belts, field wind breaks, living snow fences, contour grass strips, salt tolerant vegetation, or shallow water areas for wildlife. I have enclosed a copy of a FSA continuous signup fact sheet. Please contact our office if you are interested.

It may be possible that your offer may be modified to increase the likelihood of acceptance in a future signup by:

- increasing the environmental benefits score for general signup or
- increasing the grassland ranking score for grassland signup.

*\*(Insert appeal rights to COC according to 1-APP)*

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive Director

Enclosures

**CRP-26** (06-05-23)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)

**H Using CRP-26**

\*--County Offices must:

- use CRP-26 to notify producers their CRP offer was unacceptable

**Note:** When using CRP-26 to notify producers that their continuous signup offer was not acceptable, County Offices must modify CRP-26 by removing the language regarding:

- continuous signup
- increasing the environment benefits
- increasing the grassland ranking factor.

- fill in the tract number and signup type for the land offered--\*
- check appropriate box on CRP-26
- modify CRP-26 to provide appropriate appeal rights under 1-APP

**Note:** Modifications include:

- number of days to appeal or request mediation
- appeal rights to COC only; to COC, STC, or NAD; or the right to request mediation.

- reproduce CRP-26 locally

**Note:** Include the form number and the date on the reproduction.

- prepare CRP-26 in duplicate, and distribute as follows:
  - mail the original to the producer
  - file a copy with the offer
- include continuous CRP signup fact sheet when notifying producers that their offer under a \*--general or grassland signup was not acceptable.--\*

Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)

H Using CRP-26 (Continued)

\*--County Offices must adapt CRP-26 to fit the situation.

**Examples:** Following are examples of adapting CRP-26 to different situations:

- including the producer's EBI score for general CRP or ranking score for grassland CRP and the national cutoff score--\*

**Note:** Offers in counties that have met the 25-percent cropland limitation may have an effective cutoff score that is different than the national average EBI cutoff score.


- explaining why the acreage or producer was determined ineligible
- including the maximum payment rate and the producer's offered amount.

\* \* \*

Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)

I Example of CRP-35

This is an example of CRP-35.

	United States Department of Agriculture	Farm Production and Conservation	State/county name or organizational unit Mail stop code and/or room number P.O. Box or Street Address City, State, ZIP Code
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**NOTICE OF OFFER RECONSIDERATION**

Date: *(MM-DD-YYYY)* \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: \_\_\_\_\_

A change in the technical determination recently provided to the Farm Service Agency by the Natural Resources Conservation Service or Technical Service Provider (TSP) regarding your Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) offer warrants the reconsideration of your offer for a CRP contract.

The change that was provided for your offer may make it acceptable to FSA. After it is re-evaluated by the National FSA Office, you will be notified as soon as possible of the final acceptance or rejection determination of your offer.

I regret any inconvenience that this may have caused you.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
 County Executive Director

**CRP-35** (01-10-22)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)**

**J Using CRP-35**

\*--County Offices must:--\*

- use CRP-35 to notify producers that their CRP offer has been changed because of a change in the technical determination by NRCS or TSP
- adapt CRP-35 to fit the situation
- reproduce CRP-35 locally

**Note:** Include the form number and date on the reproduction.


- prepare CRP-35 in duplicate.
  - Mail original to producer.
  - File a copy with the offer.



Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)

K Example of CRP-36

This is an example of CRP-36.

 <p><b>United States Department of Agriculture</b></p>	<p>Farm Production and Conservation</p>	<p>State/county name or organizational unit Mail stop code and/or room number P.O. Box or Street Address City, State, ZIP Code</p>
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**NOTICE REGARDING LATE-FILED OFFER**

Date: *(MM-DD-YYYY)* \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: \_\_\_\_\_

The \_\_\_\_\_ County FSA Office will not consider your offer under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Offers under the CRP must be received by the County FSA Office no later than close of business that last day of signup, which was \_\_\_\_\_. Your offer was received in the County FSA Office on \_\_\_\_\_.

If you do not agree with this determination, you may request reconsideration, appeal, or both, in writing to the County Committee at the above address within 30 days of this letter.

If you have any other questions about the program, please call this office or contact your County FSA Committee member.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date *(MM-DD-YYYY)*

**CRP-36** (01-10-22)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Letters Notifying Producers of Offer and Eligibility Status (Continued)**

**L Using CRP-36**

**\*--County Offices must:--\***

- use CRP-36 to notify producers that their CRP offer was **not** received in a timely manner
- adapt CRP-36 to fit the situation, according to 1-APP
- reproduce CRP-36 locally

**Note:** Include the form number and date on the reproduction.

- prepare CRP-36 in duplicate.
  - Mail original to producer.
  - File a copy with the offer.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 832, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)

## CP15B Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips) on Terraces

### A Purpose

This practice is to establish vegetative cover on terraces to enhance water quality and reduce soil erosion. This practice is only applicable on terraces that are no longer under practice lifespan to ensure that the long-term functions of the terrace are maintained.

**Notes:** This practice is **not** to develop or establish wildlife habitat. Wildlife concerns may be considered when making determinations about seed varieties.

**Important:** This practice is only available on existing terraces that are no longer under the practice lifespan or other agreement to maintain the terrace practice.

NRCS or TSP must determine the documentation needed to support the need for CP15B consistent with FOTG standards. Documentation **must** be in the case file that the practice is needed and feasible.

**Example:** A terrace was installed under ACP in 1985. The practice lifespan was 10 years. The terrace is not in a vegetative cover and is functional. NRCS or TSP determines grass seeding is needed and feasible to enhance water quality and reduce soil erosion. This terrace is eligible to be enrolled in CRP as CP15B.

This practice is eligible for SIP or PIP.

### B Program Policy

Apply this practice on eligible cropland that is suitably located on a terrace, which is not planted to a vegetative cover, is no longer under the practice lifespan, but seeding is needed and feasible consistent with the purposes of the practice. The area to be included is the actual terrace itself and an adequate buffer. Cropland must meet the requirements in subparagraph 181 A. See subparagraph C for size requirements of the buffer area.

\*--Contour grass strips established on terraces must be installed to the minimum design standard--\* to ensure long-term viability of the terraces to reduce erosion and enhance water quality.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 832, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

**CP15B Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips) on Terraces (Continued)**

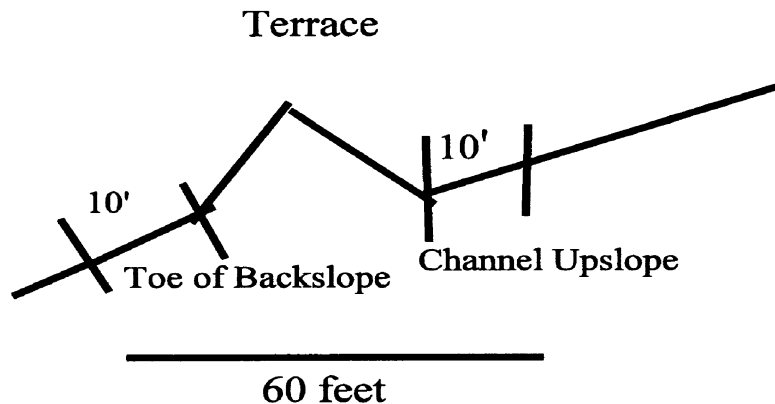
**C Size Requirements**

\*--Minimum size standard for a contour buffer strip established on a terrace must be the--\* minimum size necessary to protect the terraces. It may require a buffer not to exceed 10 feet on the upslope and downslope portion of the terrace. The maximum width of CP15B **must** not exceed 60 feet, including the buffer areas.

The practice must be designed to control soil erosion consistent with NRCS FOTG.

The following diagrams provide examples of the maximum width for CP15B.

**Example 1 Grassed-Back Terrace**



**Note:** The area of CP15B **must** not exceed 60 feet from the toe of the backslope side of the terrace to the channel upslope, including the 10-foot buffer area on either side of the terrace.

**(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)**

**CP23 Wetland Restoration (Continued)**

**L Program Development**

Follow this subparagraph to develop the county program.

- County programs must provide the requirements that are conditions for C/S.
- STC may establish these requirements.

**M Technical Responsibility**

Technical responsibility for this practice is assigned to NRCS or TSP. For areas to be established to trees, FS or State Forestry Agency must have technical responsibility. The State Forester has responsibility for determining whether selection of a cottonwood species component is silviculturally and ecologically appropriate.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)

## CP23A Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain

### A Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to restore the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been devoted to agricultural use. The level of restoration of the wetland ecosystem will be determined by the producer in consultation with NRCS or TSP.

### B Program Policy

Apply this practice to eligible wetlands and associated acreage that are suitably located and adapted to the restoration of wetland functions and values. The restoration of wetland hydrology is only required to the extent specified by the producer.

\*--This practice must be applied to either of the following:--\*

- located outside the 100-year floodplain
- playa lakes.

Eligible cropland must meet the requirements in subparagraph 181 A.

**Note:** Cottonwoods may be planted to enhance the viability of other hardwood trees (oaks, etc.).

Selection of cottonwood as a component must be silviculturally and ecologically appropriate for the long-term health and production of the stand. Hydrologic and soil characteristics must be appropriate for the planting of cottonwood species.

### C Size Requirements

The amount of adjacent upland acreage to be enrolled will be determined by NRCS. The amount of adjacent upland acres:

- is limited to the minimum number of acres required to provide a protective buffer to the cropped wetland and to enhance wildlife habitat
- may be less than the 4 to 1 ratio
- must not exceed the 4 to 1 ratio.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)

**CP24 Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover as Cross Wind Trap Strips (Continued)**

**J Management Activity**

A management activity is required for each practice, if needed. See paragraph 428.

\*--C/S is not authorized for management activities.--\*

**K Program Development**

Follow this subparagraph to develop the county program.

- County programs must provide the requirements that are conditions for C/S.
- STC may establish these requirements.

**L Technical Responsibility**

Technical responsibility for this practice is assigned to NRCS or TSP.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
**National CRP Practices (Continued)**

**CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat**

**A Purpose**

The purpose of this practice is to restore the functions and values of critically endangered, endangered, and threatened habitats. The extent of the restoration is determined by the specifications developed at the State level.

**Note:** All State specifications **must** be reviewed and approved by DAFP.

Habitats eligible for restoration include:

- Critically endangered, endangered, and threatened ecosystems listed in Appendix B of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Biological Service, Biological Report 28, “Endangered Ecosystems of the United States: A Preliminary Assessment of Loss and Degradation.”

**Note:** See subparagraph M.

- Other specifically identified habitats within a State with documented losses of greater than 70 percent since European settlement.

**Notes:** Documentation of 70 percent or greater loss **must** be provided for all habitats not listed in subparagraph M.

All habitats not listed in subparagraph L **must** be approved by DAFP.

**B Program Policy**

Apply this practice to eligible cropland where a specified habitat can be restored and maintained, as determined by NRCS technical specifications, in a cost-effective manner through enrollment in CRP.

**Notes:** NRCS technical restoration specifications will be developed in consultation with the State Technical Committee.

Technical expertise from other Federal and State agencies and/or private organizations is encouraged to assist with habitat establishment and long-term management of the restored habitats.

State NRCS Offices must submit **all** specifications developed to NRCS National Headquarters for review. To be an eligible practice, specifications **must** be approved by DAFP before implementation.



(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
**National CRP Practices (Continued)**

**CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat (Continued)**

**G Planting Timespan**

Planting of the approved cover must be completed within 12 months of the effective date of CRP-1. See paragraph 426 for exceptions.

**H Environmental Concerns**

Restoration of critically endangered, endangered, and threatened habitats is the primary consideration when making determinations about types of plantings, spacing, and other practice specifications. Consider preserving and improving the surrounding environment when making determinations about seed varieties and other practice specifications.

**I Practice Maintenance**

The practice must be maintained without additional C/S for the CRP-1 period. C/S must be refunded if:

- producer destroys the cover during the CRP-1 period
- restoration fails to meet the goals of the practice during the practice lifespan, unless caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control
- cover fails, unless caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

**J Management Activity**

A management activity is required for each practice, if needed. See paragraph 428.

\* \* \*

**K Program Development**

State-specific specifications will be developed for this practice and **must** be reviewed and approved by DAFP.

**County Offices are not authorized to modify established specifications or develop county practices for CP25.**

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

**CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat (Continued)**

**L Technical Responsibility**

Technical responsibility for this practice is assigned to NRCS or TSP.

**M Approved Critically Endangered and Endangered Ecosystems**

**Critically Endangered (>98 Percent Decline) Ecosystems**

Old-growth and other virgin stands in the eastern deciduous forest biome.

Spruce-fir (*Picea rubens-Abies fraseri*) forest in the southern Appalachians.

Red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) and white pine (*Pinus strobus*) forests (mature and old-growth) in Michigan.

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) forests and savannas in the southeastern coastal plain.

Slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) rockland habitat in South Florida.

Loblolly pine-shortleaf pine (*Pinus taeda-Pinus echinata*) hardwood forests in the West Gulf Coastal Plain.

*Arundinaria gigantea* canebrakes in the Southeast.

Tallgrass prairie east of the Missouri River and on mesic sites across range.

Bluegrass savanna-woodland and prairies in Kentucky.

Black Belt prairies in Alabama and Mississippi and in the Jackson Prairie in Mississippi.

Ungrazed dry prairie in Florida.

Oak (*Quercus* spp.) savanna in the Midwest.

Wet and mesic coastal prairies in Louisiana.

Lakeplain wet prairie in Michigan.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat (Continued)

M Approved Critically Endangered and Endangered Ecosystems (Continued)

Threatened (70 - 84 Percent Decline)

Nationwide riparian forests (other than in already listed regions), including southern bottomland hardwood forests.

Xeric habitats (scrub, scrubby flatwoods, sandhills) on the Lake Wales Ridge, Florida.

Tropical hardwood hammocks on the central Florida keys.

Northern hardwood forest, aspen (*Populus* spp.) parkland, and jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) forests in Minnesota.

Saline prairie, western upland longleaf pine forest, live oak-pine-magnolia (*Quercus virginiana*-*Pinus* spp.-*Magnolia* spp.) forest, western xeric sandhill woodland, slash pine-pond baldcypress-hardwood (*Pinus elliottii*-*Taxodium ascendens*) forest, wet and mesic spruce-pine (*P. glabra*)-hardwood flatwoods, wet mixed hardwood-loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) flatwoods, and flatwoods ponds in Louisiana.

Alvar grassland, calcareous pavement barrens, dwarf pine ridges, mountain spruce-fir forest, inland Atlantic whitecedar swamp, freshwater tidal swamp, inland salt marsh, patterned peatland, perched bog, pitch pine-blueberry (*Pinus rigida*-*Vaccinium* spp.) peat swamp, coastal plain poor fens, rich graminoid fen, rich slopping fen, and riverside ice meadow in New York.

Maritime-like forests in the Clearwater Basin of Idaho.

Woodland and chaparral on Santa Catalina Island.

Southern tamarack (*Larix laricina*) swamp in Michigan.

Wetlands (all kinds) in Arkansas, Connecticut, Kentucky, and Maryland.

Marshes in the Puget Sound region, Washington.

Cienegas (marshes) in Arizona.

Coastal wetlands in California.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)

**CP27 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \***

**A Purpose**

The purpose of this practice is to restore the functions and values of wetlands that have been devoted to agricultural use. Hydrology and vegetation **must** be restored to the maximum extent possible, as determined by USDA.

**B Program Policy**

Apply this practice to eligible wetlands that are suitably located and adapted to the restoration of wetland functions and values. The restoration of the wetland hydrology and vegetation is required to the maximum extent possible.

\*--Eligible cropland must meet the requirements in subparagraph 240 A, and COC or CED determines both of the following:--\*

- cropland meets cropping history requirements
- an associated buffer (CP28) is offered.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP27 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* (Continued)

**C Size Requirements**

The maximum acceptable size of any one CP27 is 40 acres. Wetlands greater than 40 acres in size are not eligible for enrollment in CRP under FWP.

**Note:** The total of all wetlands may exceed 40 acres.

**Example:** A producer offers a 41-acre wetland. Because the total wetland is greater than 40 acres in size, the entire 40-acre wetland is ineligible for enrollment in CRP under FWP.

**D Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice must:

- only be enrolled under FWP
- only be enrolled with an eligible associated buffer (CP28)
- meet the cropping history requirements
- be included in the approved conservation plan
- be maintained for the life of CRP-1
- restore the functional capability and values of the wetland.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP27 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* (Continued)

E C/S Policy

The following shows C/S policies for this practice.

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
earthmoving	to construct dams, levees, dugouts, or dikes needed to develop or restore the hydrology of the site	authorized using technical practice codes 327, 338, 340, 394, 512, 550, 587, 612, 638, 644, 645, 657, 658, and 659.
eligible seed and seeding	for soils that are developed under a wetland ecosystem and substantiated as needed by COC for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishing permanent native grass</li> <li>• establishing permanent introduced grasses, forbs, and legumes, trees, and native shrub species, where determined necessary to restore the functions and values of the wetland</li> <li>• planting annuals as a nurse crop to prevent erosion while permanent cover is becoming established</li> </ul>	
seedbed preparation	substantiated as needed by COC, not including clearing rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded	authorized.
breaking tile	restore natural water flow	
structures, such as pipe, chutes, and outlets	to regulate flow necessary to install an effective practice, as determined by NRCS	
temporary cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• required in the practice specifications</li> <li>• needed until the required seeds or plant stock is available</li> <li>• needed because the normal planting period for the permanent cover crop has passed</li> <li>• that a soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow establishment of the permanent cover immediately</li> </ul>	

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP27 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* (Continued)

E C/S Policy (Continued)

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
herbicides, pesticides, and insecticides	specified as necessary in the approved conservation plan to establish the cover, but not for use as part of the maintenance of the cover	authorized.
soil amendments or nutrient	substantiated as needed by COC to establish the approved cover	
tree shelters, netting, plastic tubes, or other animal control devices	approved by STC for the area and substantiated as needed by technician and COC to prevent damage from wildlife browsing  <b>Note:</b> STC <b>must</b> designate areas where using such measures is warranted and cost-effective to protect seedlings.	authorized not to exceed an average cost, as determined by STC.
fencing or roads		not authorized.
clearing rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded		
clean tilling of firebreaks, fuelbreaks, or firelines		
tree or grass species	establishment for ornamental purposes	
herbicides, pesticides, and insecticides	to maintain cover	
soil amendments or nutrient	to maintain cover or enhance production	

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
**National CRP Practices (Continued)**

**CP27 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* (Continued)**

**F Practice Requirements**

In addition to the practice standards in NRCS FOTG, the following requirements apply.

- The seeded area must not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of CRP-1.

**Exceptions:** Emergency and non-emergency haying/grazing if authorized and included in the conservation plan. See Part 19.

- Limit C/S to the minimum work and materials necessary to develop or restore the wetland hydrology, and establish an adequate cover to improve environmental benefits.
- The wetland must be restored to the extent identified according to subparagraph B.
- Chemicals used in establishing the practice **must** be:
  - Federally, State, and locally registered
  - applied strictly according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests must be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding lands.
- The practice **must** be established and maintained according to the practice standards in FOTG.
- The hydrology of the wetland **must** be maintained according to the operation and maintenance requirements for the practice standard.

**G Planting Timespan**

Planting of the approved permanent cover must be completed within 12 months of the effective date of CRP-1. See paragraph 426 for exceptions.

**H Environmental Concerns**

Consideration of water quality, wildlife, and other environmental concerns are to be evaluated in the planning and establishment of this practice.



(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
**National CRP Practices (Continued)**

**CP27 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* (Continued)**

**I Practice Maintenance**

The practice must be maintained without additional C/S for the life of CRP-1 according to the practice standards in FOTG.

C/S will be refunded if any of the following apply:

- producer destroys the practice during the life of CRP-1
- producer fails to maintain the cover during the life of CRP-1
- the cover fails to provide adequate protection of water quality during the life of CRP-1, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

**J Management Activity**

This practice will have periodic management activities performed, according to the conservation plan, during the life of CRP-1, as determined by COC. See paragraph 428.

C/S is not authorized for management activities.

**K Program Development**

Follow this subparagraph to develop the county program.

- County programs must provide the requirements that are conditions for C/S.
- STC may establish these requirements.

**L Technical Responsibility**

Technical responsibility for this practice is assigned to NRCS or TSP, except in those areas established to trees, the Forest Service or State Forestry Agency will have the technical responsibility.

**M Associated Practice**

This practice is only authorized with the associated practice CP28, Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* Buffer, to ensure that the functions and values of the wetland are maintained for the length of the contract.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
**National CRP Practices (Continued)**

**CP28 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* Buffer**

**A Purpose**

The purpose of this practice is to provide a vegetative buffer around wetlands (CP27) to remove sediment, nutrients, and pollutants from impacting the wetland and to provide wildlife habitat for the associated wetland.

**B Program Policy**

Apply this practice to eligible cropland that is suitably located and adapted to the restoration of wetland functions and values.

Eligible cropland must meet the requirements in subparagraph 240 A, and both of the following **must** be met:

- cropland meets cropping history requirements
- the cropland offered is adjacent to an eligible wetland (CP27).

**Note:** CP28 is not eligible to be enrolled without CP27.

**C Size Requirements**

The maximum size of any associated buffer (CP28) enrolled in CRP under FWP is 4 times the size of the wetland. STC's may determine a buffer ratio less than 4:1, consistent with program purposes and with State Technical Committee concurrence.

**Note:** The total acreage of each associated buffer must **not** exceed the size limitation.

**Example:** A producer offers a 3-acre eligible wetland (CP27) for enrollment in CRP under FWP. NRCS or TSP determines that the associated buffer (CP28) necessary to protect the wetland is 6 acres (2 to 1 ratio). CP27 and CP28 are both eligible for enrollment in CRP under FWP provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

**D Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice must:

- be enrolled under FWP
- be enrolled with the associated CP27 practice
- be required by the approved conservation plan
- meet the cropping history requirements
- improve environmental benefits to an acceptable level
- be maintained for the life of CRP-1

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
**National CRP Practices (Continued)**

**CP28 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* Buffer (Continued)**

**D Eligibility (Continued)**

- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring
- maintain and enhance the functions and values of the wetland system.

**E C/S Policy**

The following table provides C/S policies for this practice.

<b>IF the component is...</b>	<b>AND the justification is...</b>	<b>THEN C/S is...</b>
eligible seed	for soils that are developed under a grassland ecosystem that will not be covered by water anytime during a normal growing season and substantiated as needed by COC for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishing permanent native grass species</li> <li>• establishing permanent introduced grasses, legumes, and native shrub species, where determined necessary to improve wildlife habitat</li> <li>• planting annuals as a nurse crop to prevent erosion while permanent cover is becoming established</li> </ul>	authorized using technical practice codes 314, 315, 327, 382, 386, 390, 391, 393, 410, 516, 574, 614, 642, and 645.
eligible seeding	for soils that are developed under a woodland ecosystem, except in areas that will be covered by water during no less than 60 calendar days of the normal growing season, and substantiated as needed by COC for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishing hard mast-producing hardwoods adapted for living in wet conditions that will provide multi-purpose forest and wildlife benefits</li> <li>• establishing permanent introduced grasses, legumes, and native shrub species, where determined necessary to improve wildlife habitat</li> <li>• planting annual grasses, legumes, perennial native grass species, and softwoods, not to exceed 50 percent of the total number of trees planted, to serve as a nurse crop to prevent erosion while permanent cover is becoming established</li> </ul>	
seedbed preparation	substantiated as needed by COC, not including clearing rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded	

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP28 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* Buffer (Continued)

E C/S Policy (Continued)

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
temporary cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• required in the practice specifications</li> <li>• needed until the required seeds or plant stock is available</li> <li>• needed because the normal planting period for the permanent cover crop has passed</li> <li>• that a soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow establishment of the permanent cover immediately</li> </ul>	authorized.
herbicides, pesticides, and insecticides	specified as necessary in the approved conservation plan to establish the cover, but not for use as part of the maintenance of the cover	
soil amendments or nutrient	substantiated as needed by COC to establish the approved cover	
grading, leveling, and filling	to control concentrated flow and site preparation  <b>Important:</b> Grading, leveling, and filling does not include shaping or manipulation of the streambank.	
tree shelters, netting, plastic tubes, or other animal control devices	approved by STC for the area and substantiated as needed by technician and COC to prevent damage from wildlife browsing  <b>Note:</b> STC <b>must</b> designate areas where using such measures is warranted and cost-effective to protect seedlings.	authorized not to exceed an average cost, as determined by STC.
herbicide, pesticides, and insecticides	to maintain vegetative cover	not authorized.
clearing rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded		
streambank stabilization		
soil amendments or nutrient	to maintain cover or enhance production	

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)

**CP28 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* Buffer (Continued)**

**F Practice Requirements**

In addition to the practice standards in NRCS FOTG, the following requirements apply.

- The seeded area must not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of CRP-1.

**Exceptions:** Emergency and non-emergency haying/grazing if authorized and included in the conservation plan. See Part 19.

- Limit C/S to the minimum work and materials necessary to establish an adequate cover to improve environmental benefits.
- Practice must reduce nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants that are being delivered to the associated wetland CP27, and CP41.
- Chemicals used in establishing the practice **must** be:
  - Federally, State, and locally registered
  - applied strictly according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests must be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding lands.
- The practice **must** be established and maintained according to the practice standards in FOTG.

**G Planting Timespan**

Planting of the approved permanent cover must be completed within 12 months of the effective date of CRP-1. See paragraph 426 for exceptions.

**H Environmental Concerns**

Consideration of water quality, wildlife, and other environmental concerns are to be evaluated in the planning and establishment of this practice.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)

**CP28 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* Buffer (Continued)**

**I Practice Maintenance**

The practice must be maintained without additional C/S for the life of CRP-1 according to the practice standards in FOTG.

C/S must be refunded if any of the following apply:

- producer destroys the practice during the life of CRP-1
- producer fails to maintain the cover during the life of CRP-1
- the cover fails to provide adequate protection of water quality during the life of CRP-1, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

**J Management Activity**

A management activity is required for each practice, if needed. See paragraph 428.

C/S is not authorized for management activities.

**K Program Development**

Follow this subparagraph to develop the county program.

- County programs must provide the requirements that are conditions for C/S.
- STC may establish these requirements.

**L Technical Responsibility**

Technical responsibility for this practice is assigned to NRCS or TSP.

**M Associated Practice**

This practice is only authorized with the associated practice CP27, FWP Constructed Wetland, and CP41, FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland, to ensure that the functions and values of the wetland are maintained for the length of the contract.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (Continued)

D Eligibility

To be eligible for C/S, this practice must:

- primarily improve, enhance, or create quail and upland bird habitat to an acceptable level
- prevent degradation of quail and upland bird habitat from recurring after establishment
- be maintained for the CRP-1 period
- be included in the approved conservation plan
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring after establishment.

E C/S Policy

The following contains C/S policies for this practice.

If the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
temporary cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that a soil condition will not allow establishing a natural successional cover within 1 growing season</li> <li>• needed until selected seed or plant stock is available</li> <li>• needed because normal planting period for the species has passed</li> </ul>	authorized using technical practice codes 314, 315, 327, 338, 386, 390, *-394, 550, 595, -* 645, and 647.
grading, leveling, and filling	to control concentrated flow and site preparation  <b>Important:</b> Grading, leveling, and filling does <b>not</b> include shaping or manipulation of a stream bank.	
site preparation	specified in the approved conservation plan	

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (Continued)

E C/S Policy (Continued)

If the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
eligible seed or plant stock, including shrubs/trees. C/S for shrubs/trees up to 10 percent of the approved practice  <b>Important:</b> Native species are encouraged.	specified in the approved conservation plan, best suited for the targeted species	authorized using technical practice codes 314, 315, 327, 338, 386, 390, 394, 550, 595, 645, and 647.
buffer boundary marker	specified in the approved conservation plan	
grading, leveling, and filling	to control concentrated flow	
clean tilling	specified in the approved conservation	
herbicide	to maintain vegetative cover	not authorized.
insecticide		
clearing rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded		
stream bank stabilization	to enhance production	
soil amendments or nutrient		



(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP37 Duck Nesting Habitat (Continued)

E C/S Policy

The following provides C/S policies for this practice.

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
earthmoving	to construct dams, levees, dugouts, or dikes needed to develop or restore the hydrology of the site	authorized using technical practices codes 314, 315, 327, 338, 340, 394, 512, 550, 587, 612, 644, 645, 647, 657, 658, and 659.
eligible seeding for grassland ecosystem	for soils that are developed under a grassland ecosystem that will not be covered by water anytime during a normal growing season and substantiated as needed by COC for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishment of permanent native grass species</li> <li>• establishment of permanent introduced grasses and legumes and native shrub species, where determined necessary to improve wildlife habitat</li> <li>• planting annuals as a nurse crop to prevent erosion while permanent cover is becoming established</li> </ul>	
seedbed preparation	substantiated as needed by COC, not including clearing rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded	

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP37 Duck Nesting Habitat (Continued)

E C/S Policy (Continued)

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...	
breaking tile	restore natural water flow	authorized using technical practices codes 314, 315, 327, 338, 340, 394, 512, 550, 587, 612, 644, 645, 647, 657, 658, and 659.	
structures, such as pipe, chutes, and outlets	to regulate flow necessary to install an effective practice, as determined by NRCS or TSP		
temporary cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• required in the practice specifications</li> <li>• needed until the required seeds or plant stock is available</li> <li>• needed because the normal planting period for the permanent cover crop has passed</li> <li>• that a soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow establishment of the permanent cover immediately</li> </ul>		
seeding firebreaks, fuelbreaks, or firelanes	to establish and maintain the cover according to State requirements		
herbicides, pesticides, and insecticides	specified as necessary in the approved conservation plan to establish the cover, but not for use as part of the maintenance of the cover		
soil amendments or nutrient	substantiated as needed by COC to establish the approved cover		
fencing or roads			not authorized.
clearing rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded			
clean tilling of firebreaks, fuelbreaks, or firelanes			
grass species	establishment for ornamental purposes		
herbicides, pesticides, and insecticides	to maintain cover		
soil amendments or nutrient	to maintain cover or enhance production		

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)

## CP41 FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland

### A Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to restore the functions and values of wetlands that have been subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland. Hydrology and vegetation **must** be restored to the maximum extent possible, as determined by USDA.

### B Program Policy

Apply this practice to eligible cropland that is suitably located in the Prairie Pothole CPA and adapted to the restoration of wetland functions and values. The restoration of the wetland hydrology and vegetation is required to the maximum extent possible.

For cropland to be eligible to be enrolled in CRP under FWP and be devoted to CP41, all of the following **must** be met:

- cropland meets cropping history requirements of paragraph 246
- the cropland was subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland
- an associated buffer (CP28) is offered.

### C Size Requirements

The maximum acceptable size of any one CP41 is 20 contiguous acres. Wetlands greater than 20 acres in size are not eligible for enrollment in CRP under FWP as practice CP41. The total of all wetlands on the tract is limited to 40 acres. Associated buffers (CP28) are required for each CP41 enrolled. The minimum acceptable width of the associated buffer (CP28) is 30 feet. The maximum buffer size may not exceed up to 4 times the size of the eligible wetland. See CP28 Farmable Wetlands \* \* \* Buffer, for the practice requirements for the associated buffer.

**Examples:** A producer offers a 21-acre wetland. Because the total wetland is greater than 20 acres in size, the entire 21-acre wetland is ineligible for enrollment in CRP under FWP as CP41.

A producer offers a 10-acre wetland, a 14-acre wetland and a 16-acre wetland for enrollment as CP41. Because no wetland is greater than 20 acres in size and the total of all wetlands is 40 acres, all wetlands may be enrolled as CP41. A buffer, not to exceed a 4:1 ratio, must also be enrolled.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

**CP41 FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland (Continued)**

**D Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice shall:

- only be enrolled under FWP
- only be enrolled with an eligible associated buffer (CP28)
- meet the cropping history requirements
- be included in the approved conservation plan
- be maintained for the life of CRP-1
- restore the functional capability and values of the wetland.

**E C/S Policy**

The following shows C/S policies for this practice.

<b>IF the component is...</b>	<b>AND the justification is...</b>	<b>THEN C/S is...</b>
earthmoving	to construct dams, levees, dugouts, or dikes needed to develop or restore the hydrology of the site	authorized using technical practice codes 327, 338, 340, 394, 512, 550, 587, 612, 638, 644, 645, 657, 658, and 659.
eligible seed and seeding	for soils that are developed under a wetland ecosystem and substantiated as needed by COC for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishing permanent native grass species</li> <li>• establishing permanent introduced grasses, forbs, and legumes, trees, and native shrub species, where determined necessary to restore the functions and values of the wetland</li> <li>• planting annuals as a nurse crop to prevent erosion while permanent cover is becoming established</li> </ul>	

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)

**CP43 Prairie Strips (Continued)**

**B Program Policy (Continued)**

- prairie strips parallel and adjacent to grass waterways may only be crossed with machinery during normal farming operations and not used as travel lanes

**Note:** In no case will prairie strips be used as travel lanes.

- prairie strips shall not be used for storage of crops or equipment.

**C Size Requirements**

Prairie strips requirements:

- the minimum acceptable width of a prairie strip is 30 feet
- the maximum width of a prairie strip is up to an average width of 120 feet, if needed to accomplish the purpose of the practice
- prairie strips may not exceed 25 percent of the cropland area per tract
- the width of an individual prairie strip may vary to accomplish the purpose of the practice and/or accommodate farming operations.

**D Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice must:

- be required by the approved conservation plan
- meet the cropland eligibility requirements in subparagraph 181 A
- improve environmental benefits to an acceptable level
- meet the purpose of the practice
- be maintained for the CRP-1 period
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP43 Prairie Strips (Continued)

E C/S Policy

The following shows C/S policies for this practice.

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
soil amendments	substantiated as needed by COC  <b>Note:</b> The requirements for this practice, including eligible seed mixtures, nutrients, and soil amendments <b>must</b> be specified in the conservation plan as designed by the conservation planner.	authorized using technical practice codes 315, 327, 332, 386, 390, 393, 394, 472, 643, 645, and 647.
eligible seed		
seedbed preparation		
seeding		
herbicides	specified as necessary in the approved conservation plan	not authorized.
insecticides		
temporary cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• required in the practice specifications</li> <li>• needed until required seed or plant stock is available</li> <li>• needed because normal planting period for the species has passed</li> <li>• that a soil condition, such as chemical residue, will not allow establishment of cover immediately</li> </ul>	
boundary markers	specified in the approved conservation plan	
herbicides	to maintain vegetative cover	
insecticides		
earthmoving	to establish the prairie strip	
clearing rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded		
fencing		
soil amendments	to enhance production	

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
National CRP Practices (Continued)

**CP87 Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes (CP87 Eligible To Be Offered for SU200 and SU201 Only)**

**A Program Policy**

Apply CP87 to maintain existing permanent introduced grasses and legumes on eligible grassland CRP. Beginning with grassland CRP SU202, CP87 is **no** longer available for new offers.

For offers submitted before SU202, this practice code is used to identify land:

- under CRP-1, if a permanent introduced grasses and legumes eligible for the applicable signup is already established
- not under CRP-1, with a permanent introduced grasses and legumes that was already established for the applicable signup period.

C/S is authorized for offers accepted before SU202:

- water developments as a component of CP87
- fencing as a component of CP87
- access control as a component of CP87.

Technical practice codes 314, 315, 338, 378, 382, 472, 516, 561, 574, 575, 595, and 614 may be used with CP87.

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

**CP88 Permanent Grasses and Legumes**

**A Purpose**

The purpose of this practice is to maintain existing vegetative cover of either introduced or native grasses and legumes on eligible grassland.

**B Program Policy**

Apply this practice to maintain existing permanent introduced or native grasses and legumes on eligible grassland CRP. NRCS or TSP determines, based on a site visit, that the grassland is suitable to be hayed or grazed according to the conservation plan.

**C Size Requirements**

There are no size requirements for CP88.

**D Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice must:

- promote common grazing related activities
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring
- be included and required in the approved conservation plan
- be maintained for the life of CRP-1
- prevent breaking of native sod.

**E C/S Policy**

The following shows C/S policies for this practice.

<b>IF the component is...</b>	<b>AND the justification is...</b>	<b>THEN C/S is...</b>
permanent fence (internal)	internal fencing needed to facilitate a livestock grazing system  <b>Important:</b> A single strand electric fence is not a permanent fence for grassland CRP.	authorized using technical practice codes 338, 378, 382, *--383, 394,--* 472, 516, 533, 561, 574, 575, 595, and 614.



(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
 National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP88 Permanent Grasses and Legumes (Continued)

E C/S Policy (Continued)

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
ponds, wells, spring developments, pipelines, and water facilities	substantiated as needed by COC for the purpose of providing a water source for livestock  <b>Note:</b> COC must only approve the minimum number of water sources needed.	authorized.
access control	needed to control access to an area to maintain the quantity and quality of natural resources, or seasonal or permanent livestock exclusion  <b>Example:</b> Gates between rotational grazing paddocks.	
fuel break	to control and reduce the risk of the spread of fire by treating, removing, or modifying vegetation, debris, and detritus	
trails and walkways	to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide or improve access to forage, water, working/handling facilities, and/or shelter</li> <li>• improve grazing efficiency and distribution</li> <li>• protect ecologically sensitive, erosive, and/or potentially erosive sites</li> </ul>	
prescribed burning	to improve plant production quantity and/or quality by managing fuel loads to achieve desired conditions	
corrals, feedlots, ornamental fences, holding pens, and cattle guards, boundary fence		<b>not</b> authorized.

F Practice Requirements

The following are requirements for this practice.

- Limit C/S to the minimum level of treatment necessary to support common grazing practices.
- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be:
  - Federally, State, and locally registered

(Par. 31, 34, 66, 171, 181, 184, 211, 237, 262, 270, 366, 426, 428, 429, 490, 511, 512, 932, Ex. 26)  
**National CRP Practices (Continued)**

**CP88 Permanent Grasses and Legumes (Continued)**

**F Practice Requirements (Continued)**

- applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests must be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- Haying, mowing, or harvesting for seed production must be subject to appropriate restrictions for species identified by STC focus areas.

**G Practice Management**

If the producer destroys the practice during the life of CRP-1 or failure is caused by the producer, if COC terminates, the producer must refund all annual rental payments, C/S payments, interest, and liquidated damages according to paragraph 574.

**H Environmental Concerns**

Consider wildlife and other environmental concerns, especially federally threatened or endangered species and critical habitat, when establishing protective measures.

**I Practice Maintenance**

The practice must be maintained without additional C/S for the life of CRP-1. C/S must be refunded according to paragraph 571 if either of the following applies:

- producer destroys the practice during the life of CRP-1
- failure is **not** caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

**J Management Activity**

The practice has no required management activities as required in paragraph 428.

**K Program Development**

Follow this subparagraph to develop the county program.

- County programs must provide the requirements that are conditions for C/S.
- STC may establish these requirements.

**J Technical Responsibility**

Technical responsibility for this practice is assigned to NRCS or TSP.

**CRP Signup Periods**

The following provides the number and dates of CRP signup periods by program year.

<b>Signup Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program Year</b>
1	3-3-86 through 3-14-86	1986
2	5-5-86 through 5-16-86	1986 and 1987
3	8-4-86 through 8-15-86	1986 and 1987
4	2-9-87 through 2-27-87	1987 and 1988
5	7-20-87 through 7-31-87	1987 and 1988
6	2-1-88 through 2-19-88	1988 and 1989
7	7-18-88 through 8-31-88	1988 and 1989
8	2-6-89 through 2-24-89	1989 and 1990
9	7-17-89 through 8-4-89	1989 and 1990
10	3-4-91 through 3-15-91	1991
11	7-8-91 through 7-19-91	1992
12	6-15-92 through 6-26-92	1993
13	9-11-95 through 9-22-95	1996 and 1997
14 *	9-3-96 through 9-30-97	1997 and 1998
15	3-3-97 through 3-28-97	1998 and 1999 <u>1/</u>
16	10-14-97 through 11-14-97	1998 and 1999 <u>2/ 3/</u>
17 *	10-1-97 through 9-30-98	1998 and 1999
18	10-26-98 through 12-11-98	2000
19 *	10-1-98 through 9-30-99	1999 and 2000
20	1-18-2000 through 2-11-2000	2001
21 *	10-1-99 through 4-6-2000	2000 and 2001
22 *	4-6-2000 through 9-30-2000	2000 and 2001
23 *	10-1-2000 through 9-30-2001	2001 and 2002
24 *	10-1-2001 through 9-30-2002	2002 and 2003
25 *	10-1-2002 through 9-30-2003	2003 and 2004
26	5-5-2003 through 6-13-2003	2004 and 2005
27 *	5-5-2003 through 9-30-2003	2003 and 2004
28 *	10-1-2003 through 9-30-2004	2004 and 2005
29	8-30-2004 through 9-24-2004	2006 and 2007

\* Denotes continuous signup numbers.

1/ Acreage currently enrolled in CRP that expires September 30, 1997, is eligible to be offered for enrollment only with a program year of 1998. See paragraph 151.

2/ Acreage currently enrolled in CRP that expires September 30, 1998, is eligible to be offered for enrollment only with a program year of 1999. See paragraph 151.

3/ Acreage previously enrolled in CRP that expired September 30, 1997, is eligible to be offered for enrollment with a program year of 1998 or 1999. See paragraph 402.

**CRP Signup Periods (Continued)**

<b>Signup Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program Year</b>
30 *	10-1-2004 through 9-30-2005	2005 and 2006
31 *	10-1-2005 through 9-30-2006	2006 and 2007
32 **	2-1-2006 through 12-31-2006	2008 through 2011
33	3-27-2006 through 4-28-2006	2007
34 *	7-17-2006 through 10-20-2006	2007 and 2008
35 *	10-1-2006 through 9-30-2007	2007 and 2008
36 *	10-1-2007 through 9-30-2008	2008 and 2009
37 *	10-1-2008 through 9-30-2009	2009 and 2010
38 *	10-1-2009 through 9-30-2010	2010 and 2011
39	8-2-2010 through 8-27-2010	2011
40 *	10-1-2010 through 9-30-2011	2011 and 2012
41	3-14-2011 through 4-15-2011	2012
42 *	10-1-2011 through 9-30-2012	2012 and 2013
43	3-12-2012 through 4-6-2012	2013
44 *	5-13-2013 through 9-30-2013	2013 and 2014
45	5-20-2013 through 6-14-2013	2014
46 *	10-1-2013 through 9-30-2014	2014 and 2015
47 *	10-1-2014 through 9-30-2015	2015 and 2016
48 *	10-1-2015 through 9-30-2016	2016 and 2017
49	12-1-2015 through 2-26-2016	2017
50 *	10-1-2016 through 9-30-2017	2017 and 2018
51 *	10-1-2017 through 9-30-2018	2018 and 2019
52 *	6-3-2019 through 8-23-2019	2020
53 *	12-9-2019 through 9-30-2020	2020 and 2021
54	12-9-2019 through 2-28-2020	2021
200	9-1-2015 through 6-1-2018	2016, 2017, or 2018
201	6-4-2018 through 9-30-2018	2019
202	3-16-2020 through 5-15-2020	2021
*--55 * --*	10-1-2020 through 9-30-2021	2021 and 2022
56	1-4-2021 through 7-23-2021	2022
203	7-12-2021 through 8-20-2021	2022
*--57 * --*	10-1-2021 through 9-30-2022	2022 and 2023
58	1-31-2022 through 4-11-2022	2023
204	4-4-2022 through 5-13-2022	2023
*--59 *	10-1-2022 through 9-30-2023	2023 and 2024
60	2-27-2023 through 4-7-2023	2024
205	4-17-2023 through 5-26-2023	2024--*

\* Denotes continuous signup numbers.

\*\* Denotes REX.

**Note:** See paragraph 171 for continuous signup number, dates, and program year information.

## Grassland CRP Ranking Factors

### 1 Overview

#### A Ranking Process and Factor Scoring

The national grassland ranking process and offer size will be used to rank and prioritize offers for enrollment into grassland CRP based on available acres under statutory acreage cap.

Producers **must** be provided a fact sheet describing the grassland CRP ranking factors. FSA ~~will~~ will review the fact sheet with producers to ensure that producers are aware of the scoring process used for grassland CRP ranking. Producers will sign CRP-2G to certify that they ~~they~~ were informed of grassland CRP ranking factors and opportunities to enhance their score.

County Offices will review grassland CRP ranking factor scoring parameters with the producers and encourage the planting of new or maintaining of existing cover types and conservation measures, if appropriate, that will provide higher environmental benefits.

#### B Overview of the Grassland CRP Ranking Factors

The national grassland ranking factors include the following:

- F1, Current and Future Use
- F2, Beginning, Socially Disadvantaged, or Veteran Farmers or Ranchers
- F3, Maximizing Grassland Preservation
- F4, Vegetation Cover
- F5, Environmental Factors
- F6, Small Scale Livestock Initiative
- F7, Cost.

Grassland ranking factors provide a relative ranking of eligible land offered for grasslands CRP, as follows.

$$F1 + F2 + F3 + F4 + F5 + F6 + F7 = \text{National Grassland Ranking Factors Score}$$

**Grassland CRP Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**1 Overview (Continued)**

**C Overview of the Grassland CRP Ranking Factors**

The following table illustrates the national grassland ranking factors.

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Equation/Scoring Parameters</b>																		
F1	30	<p>Current use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•*--F1a if over 50 percent of offer is expiring CRP or expiring GRP within the current FY (0 to 20 points)--*</li> <li>• F1b if over 50 percent of offer is CP2 or CP10, CP25 cover (0 or 10 points).</li> </ul>																		
F2	10	At least 50 percent of the producers on an offer are beginning, socially disadvantaged, or veteran farmers or ranchers (0 or 10 points).																		
F3	35	<p>F3a if eligible land is at the greatest risk from the threat of conversion to uses other than grassland (0, 2.5, 5, 7.5, or 10 points).</p> <p>F3b if over 50 percent of offer is in the national threat of conversion GIS layer (0 or 20 points).</p> <p>F3c if the offer is for a 15-year contract (0 or 5 points).</p>																		
F4	30	<p>Vegetation cover (0 to 30 points). F4 based on a weighted average of the following criteria.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;"><b>Practice</b></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><b>Assigned Point Score</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monoculture stand.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Existing stand of 2 or more species of an introduced grass species.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Existing stand (minimum of 4 species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Permanent Native Grasses, Forbs, or Legumes</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monoculture stand.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Existing stand (minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Existing stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>Assigned Point Score</b>	<b>Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes</b>		Monoculture stand.	5	Existing stand of 2 or more species of an introduced grass species.	10	Existing stand (minimum of 4 species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.	20	<b>Permanent Native Grasses, Forbs, or Legumes</b>		Monoculture stand.	10	Existing stand (minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species.	20	Existing stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses.	30
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Assigned Point Score</b>																			
<b>Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes</b>																				
Monoculture stand.	5																			
Existing stand of 2 or more species of an introduced grass species.	10																			
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<b>Permanent Native Grasses, Forbs, or Legumes</b>																				
Monoculture stand.	10																			
Existing stand (minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species.	20																			
Existing stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses.	30																			

**\*--Grassland CRP Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**1 Overview (Continued)**

**C Overview of the Grassland CRP Ranking Factors (Continued)--\***

Factor	Maximum Points	Equation/Scoring Parameters
F5	*--45	Environmental factors (0 to 45 points): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F5a if over 50 percent of offer is in the current general CRP signup wildlife zone (0 or 15 points)</li> <li>• F5b if over 50 percent of the offer is in the State grassland CRP zone (0 or 15 points)</li> <li>• F5c if over 50 percent of the offer is in the Grassland CRP National Priority Zone (0 to 15 points).</li> </ul>
F6	10	If the producer certifies that they are eligible for the small scale livestock option on CRP-2G-1 (0 or 10 points).
F7	25	Cost factors (0 to 25) F7 not to exceed 25 points where:  * * * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F7 if the offer is less than the maximum payment rate (0 to 25 points).--*</li> </ul>

**2 National Ranking Factor F1 for Current Use**

**A Ranking Factor F1 Summary**

The following factor encourages continued usage of the land, and retains most of the environmental benefits of expiring CRP land.

0 to 30 points determined using subfactors in the formula:  $F1a + F1b = F1$

**B Subfactor F1a for Expiring CRP**

This factor encourages owners who continue to maintain and use land that is currently in CRP in an environmentally sustainable way. Keeping these acreages in grass covers will help preserve most of the environmental benefits established under general CRP.

**Grassland CRP Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**2 National Ranking Factor F1 for Current Use (Continued)**

**B Subfactor F1a for Expiring CRP (Continued)**

Assign 20 points if over 50 percent of the offered acreage is currently expiring CRP in the \*--last year of CRP-1 or is expiring GRP within the current FY. If the offer has less than--\* 50 percent of expiring acreage being offered, prorate the 20 points based on the percentage of the offer that is expiring CRP.

**Example:** If 40 percent of the offer is expiring CRP in the last year of CRP-1, then it would receive 16 points (20 x .80). The .80 was determined by dividing 40 by 50 = .80 rounded to the nearest tenth.

**C Subfactor F1b for Existing CRP Cover**

This factor provides additional points depending on the current CRP cover. Assign 10 points if over 50 percent of the offered acreages is currently CP2 or CP10, CP25 cover.

**\*--3 National Ranking Factor F2 for Beginning, Socially Disadvantaged, Veteran, and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers--\***

**A Overview**

For this factor, assign 10 points if at least 50 percent of the producers on the offer receiving a share meet 1 of the following definitions as determined by CCC-860.

**B Beginning Farmer or Rancher**

\*--Beginning farmer or rancher is defined in Exhibit 2.--\*

**C Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher**

Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher means a farmer or rancher who is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Groups include the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians or Asian-Americans
- Blacks or African Americans
- Hispanics or Hispanic Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Women.

**Note:** See the reverse side of CCC-860 for further information about legal entities.



**Grassland CRP Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**\*--3 National Ranking Factor F2 for Beginning, Socially Disadvantaged, Veteran, and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers (Continued)--\***

**D Subfactor F2a Veteran Farmer or Rancher**

Subfactor F2a veteran farmer or rancher means a farmer who has served in the Armed Forces (as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(10)) and who is a beginning farmer or rancher.

Otherwise, assign 0 points.

**\*--E Limited Resource Producer**

Limited resource producer must meet the criteria for both of the following:

- a producer whose direct or indirect gross farm sales do not exceed the amount identified in the Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Self Determination Tool
- a producer whose total household income was at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4.

A limited resource status can be determined using the Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher Self Determination Tool through NRCS at <https://lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

For entities requesting to be considered limited resource farmer or rancher, all members must be a limited resource farmer or rancher.--\*

**4 National Ranking Factor F3**

**A Ranking Factor F3 Summary**

The following factor encourages continued grassland usage of the land, in areas subject to threat of conversion.

0 to 35 points determined using subfactors in the formula:  $F3a + F3b + F3c = F3$

**B National Ranking Factor F3a for Land Under Threat of Conversion (County)**

For this factor, assign up to 10 points if over 50 percent of the offered acreage is in a county under threat of conversion as determined by DAFP. The offer will receive 0, 2.5, 5, 7.5, or 10 points.

**Grassland CRP Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**4 National Ranking Factor F3 (Continued)**

**C National Ranking Factor F3b for Land Under Threat of Conversion (GIS)**

For this factor, assign up to 20 points if over 50 percent of the offered acreage is within the national threat of conversion GIS layer (0 or 20 points) under threat of conversion as determined by DAFP. This factor provides additional points for land with less than 3 percent slopes, which are more likely to be converted to cropland or development.

**D National Ranking Factor F3c for Longer Contract Length**

For this factor, assign 5 points if the offer is for a 15-year contract (0 or 5 points).

**5 National Ranking Factor F4**

**A National Ranking Factor F4 for Vegetative Cover**

The F4 score is the sum of the weighted average scores using the following F4 table. To determine the F4 value, calculate the weighted average value for all practices using the F4 table. Round the result to the nearest whole number using the normal rules of rounding.

\*--Evaluate this factor based on the covers on the acres offered. FSA or TSP will only allow--\* covers that are suitable for the site designated for the offer.

<b>Practice</b>	<b>Assigned Point Score</b>
<b>Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes</b>	
Monoculture stand.	5
Existing stand of 2 or more species of an introduced grass species.	10
Existing stand of (minimum of 4 species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.	20
<b>Permanent Native Grasses, Forbs, or Legumes</b>	
Monoculture stand.	10
Existing stand of (minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species.	20
Existing stand of (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses.	30

**Grassland CRP Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**6 National Ranking Factor F5 for Environmental Factors**

**A Summary**

This factor is designed to help producers address acreages that are known to be in areas of designated candidate, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitat and to provide an incentive for environmentally sensitive areas.

For this factor, 0 to 45 points determined using subfactors in the formula:  $F5a + F5b + F5c = F5$ .

**B Subfactor F5a for Wildlife Priority Zones**

Grassland CRP will use the existing State wildlife priority zones identified for general CRP signup. For this factor, assign 15 points if over 50 percent of the offered acreage is within an approved State wildlife priority zone.

**C Subfactor F5b for Offers That Meet the State Priority Enrollment Criteria**

STC submitted geographic areas (whole counties) to address the specific conservation practices and the species of concern or specific habitat restoration; such as tall grass prairie, that would be addressed by grassland CRP practice and/or components to CD for approval.

For this factor, assign 15 points if over 50 percent of the offered acreage is in a State grassland CRP zone. Otherwise, assign 0 points.

**D Subfactor F5c for Offers Within the National Priority Zone**

The subfactor encourages continued usage of the land and to provide an incentive for environmental sensitive areas. If over 50 percent of the offer is in one of the national priority zones the offer will receive 15 points under the F5c factor.

**7 Small Scale Livestock Imitative Factor F6**

**A Summary**

For this factor, if the producer certifies that they are eligible for a small scale livestock option on CRP-2G-1, the offer will receive 10 points (0 or 10 points).

**8 National Ranking Factor F7 Cost – Offer Less Than the Maximum Payment Rate**

**A Summary**

\*--For this factor, 0 to 25 points determined using subfactors in the formula:  $F7a + F7b = F7$ .  
F7 cannot exceed 25 points.--\*

**Grassland CRP Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**8 National Ranking Factor F7 Cost – Offer Less Than the Maximum Payment Rate (Continued)**

**\*--B Subfactor F7a for Cost**

If the maximum grassland CRP rental rate for a county is less than or equal to \$15, the offer will get 15 points.

**C Subfactor F7b for Offer Less Than the Maximum Payment Rate**

Offers for which the rental rate per acre offered is below the maximum per acre payment rate are awarded points on a percentage basis. The formula to calculate the following--\* percentage maximum payment rate is:  $1 - (\text{rental rate per acre offered} / \text{maximum payment rate})$ . The total for F7 cannot exceed 25 points.

Points will be awarded for whole percent below the maximum payment rate, based on the following. Percentage values are truncated to a whole number.

Percent Below Maximum Payment Rate	F7 Points
1	2
2	4
3	6
4	8
5	10
6	12
7	14
8	16
9	18
10	20
11	21
12	22
13	23
14	24
>=15	25

**Example:** The maximum payment rate for an offer is \$50 per acre. The producer offers a per acre rental rate of \$45. The offer is 10 percent below the maximum payment rate. The offer is awarded 20 points.

## **EBI and National Ranking Factors**

### **1 EBI**

#### **A Background**

EBI has been used by USDA to prioritize and rank CRP offers since signup 10.

#### **B EBI Process and Factor Scoring**

The National EBI process will be used to rank and prioritize offers for enrollment into CRP for general signup offers.

\*--Producers must be provided a fact sheet describing EBI. FSA will review the fact sheet with producers to ensure that producers are aware of the scoring process used for EBI. Producers will sign CRP-2 certifying they were informed of EBI and opportunities to enhance their score.

FSA will review EBI scoring parameters with the producers and encourage the planting of new or maintaining of existing cover types and conservation measures, if appropriate, that will provide higher environmental benefits. FSA employees will notify producers that submitting--\* offers with annual rental payments less than the maximum payment rate will result in higher EBI scores.

#### **C Overview of the National EBI**

The National EBI includes 5 environmental ranking factors and a cost factor.

- N1, Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits
- N2, Water Quality Benefits From Reduced Erosion, Runoff and Leaching
- N3, On-Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion
- N4, Enduring Benefits
- N5, Air Quality Benefits
- N6, Cost.

EBI provides a relative ranking of estimated environmental benefits and cost for land offered for CRP.

$N1 + N2 + N3 + N4 + N5 + N6 = \text{National EBI Score.}$

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**1 EBI (Continued)**

**C Overview of the National EBI (Continued)**

The following table illustrates the National ranking factors.

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Equation/Scoring Parameters</b>
N1	100	Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (0 to 100 points) N1 = (N1a +N1b +N1c) where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N1a is the cover subfactor (0 to 50 points)</li> <li>• N1b is Wildlife enhancements (0, 5, or 20 points)</li> <li>• N1c is Wildlife priority zones (0 or 30 points).</li> </ul>
N2	100	Water Quality Benefits From Reduced Erosion, Runoff, and Leaching (0 to 100 points) N2 = (N2a +N2b +N2c) where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N2a is the water quality zones subfactor (0 or 30 points)</li> <li>• N2b is the groundwater quality subfactor (0 to 25 points)</li> <li>• N2c is the surface water quality subfactor (0 to 45 points).</li> </ul>
N3	100	*--On-Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion (10 to 100 points)--*
N4	50	Enduring benefits point range (0 to 50 points)
N5	45	Air Quality Benefits (3 to 45 points) N5 = N5a + N5b + N5c where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N5a is the wind erosion impacts subfactor (0 to 25 points)</li> <li>•*--N5b is the air quality zone (0 or 10 points)--*</li> <li>• N5c is carbon sequestration factor (3 to 10 points).</li> </ul>
N6	/1	N6 = N6a + N6b where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N6a is the cost factor</li> <li>• N6b is the offer is less than maximum payment rate (0 to 25 points).</li> </ul>

1/ Points assigned to cost factor will be determined after signup ends and all the offers are evaluated. This factor will be based on the rental rate offered and the maximum payment rate.

## EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)

### 2 National Ranking Factor N1 - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits

#### A Summary

0 to 100 points determined using subfactors in the formula:

$$N1a + N1b + N1c = N1$$

Wildlife species, both game and nongame, benefit most from the availability of appropriate wildlife habitat. CRP provides the opportunity to develop habitat that will benefit a variety of wildlife species.

**\*--Note:** Producers with existing cover will be informed that C/S may be available for cover--\* enhancement.

This factor encourages landowners to plant cover on contract acreage that will be beneficial to wildlife. Subfactor N1a assigns a score to the quality of the cover to be applied to the practice.

Existing CRP covers on acreage being offered for re-enrollment may be improved to provide better wildlife habitat and increase the N1a subfactor score for the offer. Subfactor N1a points are awarded based on the weighted average point score associated with the offered acreage by practice point score.

**\*--Note:** Expiring CRP land with trees loses its cropland status after the expiration of the contract except for 1- to 2-row shelterbelts. See 10-CM, subparagraph 17 B.--\*

Approved cover is expected to be seeded or planted within 12 months of the effective date of CRP-1. However, TSP may, in developing the conservation plan, permit an additional 12 months, not to exceed 24 continuous months, to seed the approved cover. This flexibility

**\*--will be permitted to allow the establishment of approved cover in a manner that will not adversely impact the natural resources of the site or surrounding area.**

For each practice, the conservation plan will include:--\*

- management activity or activities to maintain or enhance the plant community diversity and plant vigor, if determined needed by the FSA SED and NRCS State Conservationist
- a schedule of maintenance activities and various maintenance options.

## EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)

### 2 National Ranking Factor N1 - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (Continued)

#### B Subfactor N1a - Cover

Cover and practices beneficial to wildlife (0 to 50 points maximum).

The Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits Factor (N1a) will provide practice seeding mixes and management options that provide habitat for important and declining species of national, regional, State, or local significance in each State. NRCS State Biologist will work with the NRCS State Plant Materials Specialist, State Wildlife Agency and FWS to revise or develop seeding mixes and management recommendations for the above-mentioned species or groups of species.

Nonaggressive introduced species may be used for up to 2 species in the mixes. The number of seeding mixes developed is up to each State. Special seeding mixes and planting rates may be developed for arid areas and areas of limited native seed availability subject to approval by DAFP.

\*--Seeding mixes must, to the maximum extent practicable, be comprised of locally collected native "eco-type" (seed mixes native to local area) seed for native seedings.

On the land with existing/expiring CRP acreage, the offer will be ranked on the desired plant--\* community that the producer plans on establishing or maintaining for the site.

**Example 1:** A producer with an existing stand of a monoculture of crested wheatgrass would like to reenroll the entire stand. The producer would like to enhance the stand to 4 species of introduced grasses, including at least 1 forb or legume. The offer would be ranked as a 40-point CP1 stand.

\*--**Example 2:** A producer with an expiring CRP-1 that was originally planted to a monoculture of western wheatgrass (native grass) would like to reenroll into CRP. During the CRP-1 period of the last 10 years, a number of native grasses, forbs, and--\* legumes have naturally generated into the existing CRP cover stand. The producer believes that the site has evolved into a 50-point CP2 cover stand. The producer offers the site as a 50 points CP2 cover. The offer is ranked as a 50-point CP2 cover. During the conservation planning process, a site visit indicates that only 2 native grasses and 1 forb are in the cover. The producer is required to inter-seed into the stand to achieve the 50-point cover for which the offer was scored.



**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**2 National Ranking Factor N1 - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (Continued)**

**B Subfactor N1a - Cover (Continued)**

CP/Cover Matrix

\*--Evaluate this subfactor based on the covers expected to become established. FSA or TSP will--\* only allow those covers that are suitable for the site designated for the offer.

<b>Practice 1/</b>	<b>Assigned Point Score</b>
<b>CP1 Permanent introduced grasses and legumes</b>	
Existing monoculture (1 species) stand of an introduced grass.	0
Existing stand of 2 to 3 species or planting new stand of 2 to 3 species of an introduced grass species.	10
Existing stand or planting mixture (minimum of 4 species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.	40
<b>CP2 Permanent native grasses and legumes</b>	
Existing monoculture (1 species) stand of a native grass.	0
Existing stand (minimum 2 to 3 species) or planting new mixed stand (minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species and at least 1 forb, or legume species beneficial to wildlife.	20
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.	50
<b>CP3 Tree planting (general) 2/</b>	
Southern Pines (Softwoods) - Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 550 trees per acre).	10
Northern Conifers (Softwoods) - Solid stand of conifers/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 850 trees per acre).	
Western Pines (Softwoods) - Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 650 trees per acre).	

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**2 National Ranking Factor N1 - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (Continued)**

**B Subfactor N1a - Cover (Continued)**

<b>Practice 1/</b>	<b>Assigned Point Score</b>
CP3 Tree planting (general) 2/ (Continued)	
Southern Pines (Softwoods) - Pines/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 500 to 550 per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	50
Northern Conifers (Softwoods) - Conifers/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 750 to 850 trees per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	
Western Pines (Softwoods) - Western Pines (softwoods) - Pines/softwoods existing planted at a rate of 550 to 650 per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	
<p>Opening for Southern and Western Pines are not to be less than a minimum of 2 acres or a maximum of 5 acres in size for fields of 20 acres and larger.</p> <p>For smaller fields will be based upon percentage. Opening in Northern conifers will be one-half to 2 acres in size. Opening may include buffers on the interior of the field. Field edges (borders) may be used if they are irregular in shape and average 30 feet in width.</p> <p>Natural regeneration of native herbaceous or shrubby vegetation with required maintenance may be permitted within open areas if it is consistent with NRCS technical standards and concurred with by State FWS or U.S. FWS Officials.</p> <p>Open areas of native grasses and/or shrub planting best suited for wildlife in *--the area will be considered CP3 for EBI scoring and contract purposes.--*</p>	

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**2 National Ranking Factor N1 - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (Continued)**

**B Subfactor N1a - Cover (Continued)**

Practice	Assigned Point Score
CP12 Wildlife food plot <u>3/</u>	
Wildlife food plots are small non-C/S plantings in a larger area. Wildlife food plots will never be the predominant cover.	N/A
CP25 Rare and declining habitat restoration <u>4/</u>	
Existing stand or seeding or planting will be best suited for wildlife in the area.	50
Plant species selections will be based upon Ecological Site Description data.	
* * *	
CP42 Pollinator habitat	
Existing stand or planting (minimum of .5 acres) of a diverse mix of multiple species suited for pollinators	50

1/ Cover that is existing or will be established must accomplish the purpose of the practice.

2/ State Conservationist may revise FOTG on planting rate to be consistent with CRP.

3/ CP12 \* \* \* acreage is not included in the weighted average point score. For example, a 50-acre offer with a 45-acre CP25 planting and a 5-acre food plot calculates the weighted average using only the 45 acres of CP25 planting. \* \* \*

45 acres x 50 points (CP25 point score) = 2250 points  
2250 points divided by 45 acres = 50 points

4/ Technical practice standards for the selected habitat type must meet applicable standards and be approved by DAFP at least 30 calendar days before the beginning of signup.

\* \* \*

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**2 National Ranking Factor N1 - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (Continued)**

**C Subfactor N1b - Cover**

Subfactor N1b - Wildlife Improvement (0 to 20 points maximum).

Producers must be notified that, if accepted in CRP, food plots must be maintained for the term of CRP-1. Producers offering food plots must be notified of the planting and maintenance requirements before the offer is submitted.

Points are based on the following table. Maximum point score is 20 points. The factors are **not** additive.

Producers must be informed before signup that the acreage must be maintained for the life of the contract according to practice standards.

<b>*--Wildlife Enhancement Signup 60--*</b>		<b>Points</b>
Establishment of pollinator habitat CP42 * * * that remains in the location of CRP-1. The habitat size, shape, and composition must meet the following requirements.		20
<b>Size</b>		
<b>CRP Acreage Offered</b>	<b>Habitat Size Requirement</b>	
Less than 10 acres	At least 1 acre of pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least .5 acre.	
10 acres or greater	At least 10 percent of acreage offered in pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least .5 acre.	

EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)

2 National Ranking Factor N1 - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (Continued)

C Subfactor N1b - Cover (Continued)

*--Wildlife Enhancement Signup 60--*						Points
Annual or permanent food plot (CP12) that remains in the same location for the contract length or rotated food plot for which the location changes during CRP-1 length. CP12 food plots must be consistent with NRCS FOTG up to 10 percent of a field, not to exceed 5 acres per field.						5
<b>Example:</b> A producer would like to enroll 200 acres. Field 1 is 120 acres, Field 2 is 45 acres, and Field 3 is 35 acres.						
Field	Size	NRCS FOTG Limit	10 Percent Limit	5 Acres	Limited CP12 Acres	
1	120	12	12 acres	5	5.0	
2	45	4.5	4.5 acres	5	4.5	
3	35	3.5	3.5 acres	5	<u>3.5</u>	
						13.0
<b>Note:</b> CP12, the NRCS FOTG standard, is limited by the lessor of either 10 percent of the field size or 5 acres/field for the food plot. The 5 acres of food plot may be either one 5-acre food plot or 2 or more food plots where the cumulative total would be $\leq$ 5 acres.						

\* \* \*

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**2 National Ranking Factor N1 - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (Continued)**

**D Subfactor N1c - Wildlife Priority Zones**

Location where proposed land may contribute to restoration of habitat of Threatened or Endangered Species or contribute to the restoration of important and declining species of National, Regional, State, or Local Significance. Restoration of rare and declining native habitat (Long Leaf Pine, Tall Grass Prairie, etc.) may also be addressed. (0 or 30 points maximum)

Assign 30 points if at least 51 percent of the offered acreage is within an approved area and the weighted average N1a score is greater than or equal to 40 points.

\*--STC will submit geographic areas (whole counties or 8-, 10-, or 12-digit HUC) the specific--\* conservation practices and the species of concern or specific habitat restoration, such as tall grass prairie, that would be addressed by the habitat restoration.

Wildlife Priority Zones may be up to 25 percent of the State cropland acres.

**3 National Ranking Factor N2 - Water Quality Benefits From Reduced Erosion, Runoff, and Leaching**

**A Summary**

0 to 100 points determined by adding subfactors using the formula:  $N2 = N2a + N2b + N2c$

CRP can improve water quality by reducing:

- sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants from entering the Nation's water courses and aquifers
- downstream flood damage through the restoration of hydrology
- the leaching of nitrates and pesticides into groundwater.

## EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)

### 3 National Ranking Factor N2 - Water Quality Benefits From Reduced Erosion, Runoff, and Leaching (Continued)

#### A Summary (Continued)

Water quality benefits are dependent on the:

- extent to which erosion, runoff, and leaching are reduced
- population that may be affected
- location of the CRP acreage:
  - with respect to water resources
  - within priority water quality areas.

#### B Subfactor N2a - Water Quality Zones

Location where proposed land may contribute to groundwater or surface water quality impairment and to assist in meeting Federal, State, or local water quality laws. (0 or 30 points maximum)

Assign 30 points if at least 51 percent of the offered acreage is within zones recommended by the State Technical Committee and STC and approved by DAFP as high priority water resources.

\*--STC will:--\*

- consult with the State Technical Committee in developing recommendations
- take into consideration that a goal of EBI is to provide gradation of offers
- prioritize and approve only the highest priority water resources of the State.

\*--Only the highest priority zones will be approved.--\*

A minimum **of at least 51 percent** of the offered acreage must be within the designated area to be awarded points. Otherwise, assign 0 points. Water quality zones may be up to 25 percent of the State's cropland.

#### C Subfactor N2b - Groundwater Quality

Groundwater quality benefits score (0 to 25 points maximum).

The leach index characterizes the inherent potential for the movement of nutrients and pesticides for a specific soil. The index is based on soil properties, including particle size and organic matter.

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**3 National Ranking Factor N2 - Water Quality Benefits From Reduced Erosion, Runoff, and Leaching (Continued)**

**C Subfactor N2b - Groundwater Quality (Continued)**

The COLS software determines the weighted average leach index for the 3 predominant soils and looks up the appropriate county specific value. Table values are based on:

- leach index for acres offered
- county pesticide leaching potential
- county nitrogen leaching potential
- population obtaining drinking water from wells in each county.

**Example:** A 110-acre field is offered composed of 2 soil map units. 70 acres have a leach index of 1, and the remaining 40 acres have a leach index of 3. The average leach index is  $(70 \times 1) + (40 \times 3) \div 110 = 1.73$ , which is rounded to the nearest whole number 2. Based on the following sample table, if the acres were located in Barbour County, Alabama, a value of 12 would be entered for subfactor B.

	<b>*--Ground Water Subfactor for Signup 60--*</b>		
	<b>Leach Index</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
1001 - Autauga	6	13	20
1003 - Baldwin	8	12	16
1005 - Barbour	8	12	16
1007 - Bibb	8	12	20
1009 - Blount	2	8	14

**D Subfactor N2c - Surface Water Quality**

Surface water quality benefits score. (0 to 45 points maximum)

This subfactor evaluates the:

- potential amount of sediment that is delivered to water courses
- population within the watershed that would benefit most directly from improved surface water quality
- the stream density and estimated sediment loadings that occur because of agriculture.



**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**3 National Ranking Factor N2 - Water Quality Benefits From Reduced Erosion, Runoff, and Leaching (Continued)**

**D Subfactor N2c - Surface Water Quality (Continued)**

EPA studies have found that sediment is the primary water quality problem in the majority of rivers and streams.

\*--The COLS software will determine the weighted average water erosion for the 3 predominant soils for the offered acreage. Round water erosion to the nearest whole number using normal--\* rules of rounding. Use the appropriate table value for the watershed in which at least 51 percent of the acreage is physically located.

For example:

\*--

<b>Surface Water Subfactor - Water Erosion for Signup 60</b>					
<b>Watershed</b>	<b>&lt; 4</b>	<b>4 ≤ Water Erosion &lt; 7</b>	<b>7 ≤ Water Erosion &lt; 11</b>	<b>11 ≤ Water Erosion &lt; 23</b>	<b>Water Erosion ≥ 23</b>
01010001	1	7	14	18	22
01010002	7	14	18	22	29
01010003	14	18	25	31	37
01010004	18	25	31	39	43
01010005	22	29	37	43	45

--\*

**4 National Ranking Factor N3 - On-Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion**

**A Summary**

\*--On-Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion. (10 to 100 points maximum)--\*

The score for the weighted average EI for the 3 predominant soils on the land offered is determined by the greater of EI for:

- \*--sheet and rill erosion (based on RUSLE2)
- wind erosion (based on WEPS).--\*

**Note:** EI must be a whole number. Use normal rules of rounding.

Use the highest EI value (for the 3 predominate soils of the acreage offered) of either sheet and rill or wind erosion (do not add together). Use the table in subparagraph B to award points for the offer based on the highest EI value.

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**4 National Ranking Factor N3 – On-Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion (Continued)**

**B EI Table**

\*--EI (higher of wind or water EI). (10 to 100 points maximum)

<b>EI – Sheet and Rill or Wind</b>	<b>Points</b>
0	10
1	10
2	10
3	16
4	16
5	22
6	22
7	22
8	25
9	25
10	25--*
11	29
12	37
13	46
14	56
15	67
16	79
17	92
18	97
19	98
20	99
21 +	100

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**5 National Ranking Factor N4 – Enduring Benefits**

**A Summary**

Enduring Benefits Beyond CRP-1 Period. (0 to 50 points maximum)

The N4 evaluates the likelihood that the practice established will persist and be maintained beyond the life span of CRP-1 and will provide benefits beyond the contract period.

Land established with certain existing vegetation types, such as hardwood trees, softwood trees, or shrubs, is less likely to be returned to crop production after contract expiration. In addition, land re-established to a wetland ecosystem, or rare or declining habitat, is also less likely to return to crop production at the end of the contract period.

The N4 score is the sum of the weighted average scores using the following N4 table. To determine the N4 value, calculate the weighted average value for **all practices** using the N4 table. Round the result to the nearest whole number using the normal rules of rounding.

Use the following table to award N4 points. Score zero points if none of the following practices are offered.

**Note:** The practice selected must be appropriate for the site. Trees must not be selected on sites where trees are not a part of the ecosystem. For example: A tree stand must not be planted on a site where the climax vegetation for the site is range. The vegetation must be consistent with the ecosystem of the site.

**Important:** Food plots (CP12) are awarded 0 points.

<b>*--N4 Table - Signup 60--*</b>	<b>Points</b>
New hardwood tree (CP3A), longleaf pines, or Atlantic White Cedar plantings or CP25, where the plant community is existing or will be established to primarily trees.	50
Existing or enhanced stand of hardwood Trees, Longleaf pine, and/or Atlantic White Cedar (CP3A).	40
New pine/softwood tree (CP3).	30
CP25, where the plant community is existing or will be established to a primarily grass and/or shrub complex or CP42.	25
Existing pine/softwood tree (original contract signed as CP3).	20
All other conservation practices not listed (CP1, CP2, CP4D).	0

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**5 National Ranking Factor N4 - Enduring Benefits (Continued)**

**A Summary (Continued)**

Determine the weighted average value for enduring benefits using the appropriate value in the N4 table times the appropriate acres. Divide the sum by the total **acres on the offer**. Round the result to the nearest whole number using the normal rules of rounding. The result is the N4 score.

**Example:** A 100-acre office is comprised of 50 acres of new hardwood planting (CP3A) and 50 acres of existing pine trees (CP3).

The N4 score is:

50 acres of (CP3A) hardwoods (with a practice status of "N") X 50 points/acre =  
**2,500 points**

50 acres of (CP3) pine (with a practice status of existing) X 20 points/acres =  
**1,000 points**

**3,500 points**

3,500 points ÷ 100 acres = 35 points

N4 score = 35 points.

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**6 National Ranking Factor N5 - Air Quality Benefits From Reduced Wind Erosion**

**A Summary**

National Ranking Factor N5 - Air Quality Benefits From Reduced Wind Erosion

This factor evaluates air quality improvements from reducing airborne dust and particulate (PM 10) from cropland wind erosion that causes damage to nearby affected population concentrations. In addition, it provides points for the value of CRP land for Carbon Sequestration. (3 to 45 points maximum)

The formula is:  $N5 = N5a + N5b + N5c$ .

The air quality factor is comprised of 3 components. The first component (N5a) is based on the potential wind erosion, distance weighted population that may be impacted by wind erosion.

\* \* \*

The second component (N5b) evaluates areas:

- where agriculture significantly impacts air quality (nonattainment of air quality standards)
- that are located within 50 miles of Class 1 air quality areas (National Parks with high quality air standards).

The third component (N5c) provides points based on the relative ability to sequester carbon. This factor is based on the weighted average for the conservation practices using the N5c table.

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**6 National Ranking Factor N5 - Air Quality Benefits From Reduced Wind Erosion (Continued)**

**B Wind Erosion Impacts, Subfactor N5a**

This subfactor evaluates wind erosion impacts. (0 to 25 points maximum)

Determine the county in which the majority of the acreage offered is physically located.

\*--Determine the weighted wind erosion factor of the acreage offered. Using the revised county air quality table and the weighted wind erosion factor, the automated system will calculate the air quality points for factor N5a. These tables will **only** be used if the wind erosion equation is equal to or greater than 7. Otherwise, a value of 0 is awarded for N5a subfactor.

**Note:** The look-up tables reflect the potential wind erosion, the number of potential people--\* that may be impacted, and the distance population is from the source of wind erosion. Population near the source of the wind erosion is weighted significantly higher than downwind population sources. For example, the impacts of wind erosion on 1 person near the site would equal the impacts of 100 people that are located 100 miles from the site.

For example:

\*--

	<b>Air Quality Factor for Signup 60</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1-19</b>	<b>20-39</b>	<b>40-59</b>	<b>60 ≥</b>
Anders	0	7	9	12	15
Billings	0	9	12	15	18
Johnson	0	12	15	18	21
Weld	0	15	18	21	25

\*--

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**6 National Ranking Factor N5 - Air Quality Benefits From Reduced Wind Erosion (Continued)**

**C Air Quality Zones, Subfactor N5b**

(0 or 10 points maximum)

\*--The State Technical Committee working with State and EPA air quality representatives will recommend designated agricultural zones that contribute to the nonattainment of air quality standards to FSA. Air quality zones will be designated on an entire county or HUC basis. FSA will prepare a database of designated air quality zone. Air quality zones may be up to--\* 25 percent of the State's cropland and must be located with an approved air quality CPA.

The State Technical Committee may also recommend zones within 50 miles of a Class 1 air designated area in which agricultural crop production could impact air quality standards. Documentation, such as existing monitoring data that agriculture contributes to or has potential to violate existing air quality standards, is required.

\*--**Note:** The State Technical Committee will consult with the State air quality official for the--\* latest Class 1 designations.

The offer is awarded 10 points if both of the following conditions are met:

- at least 51 percent of the offer must be in the designated zones
- the weighted wind EI must be equal to or greater than 3.0.

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**6 National Ranking Factor N5 - Air Quality Benefits From Reduced Wind Erosion (Continued)**

**D Carbon Sequestration, Subfactor N5c**

**N5c Carbon Sequestration Factor (3 to 10 points maximum)**

This factor provides a relative index of the projected carbon sequestration benefits of CRP cover types over the expected life of the practice. This is a weighted average for all practices on the contract using the values in the table.

<b>*--N5c Carbon Sequestration Table for Signup 60--*</b>	
<b>Practice</b>	<b>Point</b>
CP3, CP3A, CP25 (primarily trees)	10
CP25 (primary grass complex), CP42	5
CP4D	4
CP1, CP2	3
CP12 (must be associated with practices according to Exhibit 11, page 43)	0

**7 National Ranking Factor N6 – Cost**

**A Summary**

The points will be determined using the formula:  $N6 = N6a + N6b$

The cost factor provides weight to assist in optimizing environmental benefits per dollar of CRP rental payments. Greater weight is provided to offers with lower costs.

**B Subfactor N6a - Cost**

The number of points will be determined after signup ends and will be based on the producer rental rate offer.

**Note:** Offers with lower per acre rental rates may increase the probability that the offer will be acceptable.