

Operation and Maintenance Requirements for CRP

Iowa Fact Sheet



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Des Moines, Iowa

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- After a final status review, all CRP maintenance activity, such as mowing, burning, and spraying will be conducted outside the primary nesting or brood rearing season (May 15 – August 1) There is an exception for spot treatment, if all of the following are met:
 - If untreated, the undesirable species would adversely impact the approved cover.
 - The County Committee, in consultation with the NRCS, determines such activity is needed to maintain approved cover.
 - Spot treatment is limited to the affected areas of the field.

Cover Establishment

Participants will establish practices according to the conservation plan along with the following guidance:

- A nurse crop, if used, will be mowed or chopped before grain formation, and before excess crop residues would damage new seeding.
- New plantings should be mowed several times during the first, and possibly the second year, to ensure establishment of the permanent cover – no permission needed.
- After permanent cover has been established, spot mowing, spraying, or burning during the primary nesting season must be approved by the County Committee in advance.

Cover Maintenance

Participants will maintain practices according to the conservation plan and the following operation and maintenance responsibilities:

- Maintain adequate approved vegetative cover to control erosion for the life of the CRP Contact.
- Comply with State noxious weed laws.
- Control undesirable vegetation, weeds (including noxious), insects, rodents, etc that pose a threat to existing cover or impact other landowners in the area.

Cover Management

CRP cover management (Mid Contract Management, MCM) is required to be completed on all contracts beginning with the 26th signup. These activities will be included in the conservation plan. The Mid Contract Management on CRP Iowa Job Sheet and Options for CRP Mid Contract Management Iowa Fact Sheet provide further guidance on Mid Contract Management.



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