



United States Department of Agriculture

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# Agricultural Act of 2014

# CRP Update

- Agricultural Act of 2014 reduces CRP acres from 32 million to 24 million by 2018.
  - Current Enrollment – 25.6 million acres
  - 2 Million Acres – Grasslands
  - Nebraska Enrollment
    - 2007 – 1,341,250 acres
    - Today – 848,043 acres – Lowest since 1988



# CRP Update

- Continuous CRP Signup ended on September 30, 2013
- CRP reauthorized by Agricultural Act of 2014
- Continuous CRP Signup restarts on ???



# CRP Update

## CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing Qualifications:

- 40 percent or greater loss of normal precipitation for the 4 most recent months, plus the days of the current month or
- “D2 Drought Severe” on U.S. Drought Monitor

Must be outside the primary nesting season of May 1 through July 15.

# CRP Update

## CRP Routine Grazing and Managed Harvesting (Managed Haying/Grazing):

- Grazing – 1 out every 3 years
  - Dates – April 1 through April 30 or July 15 through September 15
- Haying – 1 out of every 5 years
  - Dates – July 15 through August 31



# CRP Update

Reauthorized the Transitional Incentive Program (TIP) to transition expiring CRP from retiring farmer/rancher to beginning farmer/rancher or socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer/rancher. TIP now includes eligibility for military veterans.

Retiring farmer/rancher likely entitled to 2 additional CRP rental payments. Land must be returned to sustainable grazing or crop production.



# CRP Update

In FY2015, CRP participants will be given the opportunity for an “early out” from their CRP contracts on certain practices.

The rental payment portion of the Grassland Reserve Program enrollment has been incorporated into CRP.

# Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

- ECP's objective is to provide C/S assistance to agricultural producers who have suffered severe damage to their farmland because of natural disaster.
  - Covers damage on both cropland and pastureland.
  - Pays up to 75 percent cost share.



# ECP Update

## 2011 Missouri River Floods

- Paid out over \$9 million to rehab flood damaged land

## 2012 Fires

- Allocated \$4,678,583 for fence repair in North Central Nebraska, Pine Ridge, and Keith County. Work is still being completed.



# ECP Update

## 2013 Drought

- Allocated \$1,103,999 in South Central Nebraska for livestock wells, pipelines, tanks, etc.

2013 Flood – Keith County – Colorado floods

2014 Drought – Approved in Franklin and Harlan Counties

Pray for abundant rain but not too much.



# Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

EFRP established to provide financial (cost share) and technical assistance to owners of non-industrial private forest land damaged by natural disaster to carry out emergency measures to restore damaged forests and rehabilitate forest resources.



# CRP Management Activities

Required for all CRP beginning with Signup 26 in 2003 to ensure plant diversity and wildlife benefits while ensuring protection of the soil and water resources.

- Developed by CRP management development team
- Recommendations are presented to NRCS State Technical Committee for review.
- Recommendations are provided to FSA State Committee for consideration and final determination.



# Nebraska CRP Management Activities

## Current Options – General Signup Practices

- Tillage and Interseeding
- Prescribed Burning
- Chemical Herbaceous Vegetation Control
- High Intensity/Short-Duration Grazing.  
Not applicable to CP25. Requires 25% rental reduction.

# Nebraska CRP Management Activities – Proposed Changes

Proposed Changes include:

- Allow tillage, prescribed burning, chemicals, grazing, or haying without interseeding on diverse wildlife habitat plantings.
- Require interseeding (where prudent) with tillage, prescribed burn, chemical herbaceous vegetation control, grazing or haying on **NON** diverse wildlife habitat (predominately grass).

**Note:** Any haying or grazing requires a payment reduction.

# What is Diverse Wildlife Habitat?

## Seed Mixtures Requirements:

- Should provide between 10 to 15 PLS/sq. ft. Erosive sites may require higher seeding rates up to 25 PLS/sq. ft. in localized areas.
  - OR
- Grasses should not exceed 50% of the total mixture based on seeds per square foot.
  - OR
- Minimize the use of sod-forming grasses in the mixture (i.e. less than 25% of the mix).

Parameters of what existing cover is considered diverse need to be developed.



# Required Intervals?

## Current Intervals:

- Required once on new 10 year enrollment.
- Required twice on reenrollments or new contracts with 15 year length.

When could management be delayed?

IF site contains at least 15% bare ground and 15% canopy cover annual broadleaf plants is desired OR, any combination of 25% or greater is acceptable.



# Nebraska CRP Management Activities

Current Options – Continuous Signup Practices – Wetlands

- Tillage
- Prescribed Burning
- Chemical Herbaceous Vegetation Control
- Haying/Grazing Not Permitted

Proposed Changes – None except to allow haying and grazing to count as management if and when it is permitted by CRP guidelines



# Nebraska CRP Management Activities

Current Options – Continuous Signup Practices  
– Wetlands Buffers

- Tillage and Interseeding
- Prescribed Burning
- Chemical Herbaceous Vegetative Control

Proposed Changes – None except to allow haying and grazing to count as management if and when it is permitted by CRP guidelines



# Nebraska CRP Management Activities

Current Options – Continuous Signup Practices – Filter Strips, Contour Grass Strips, Cross Wind Traps, Etc.

- Interseeding without Tillage
- Prescribed Burn
- Tillage and Interseeding

Proposed Changes – Allow incidental grazing with the gleaning of crop residue as management activity. Not applicable to Cross Wind Traps (CP24)

-Also create a menu of maintenance and management options that are suitable to these practices that can be selected (similar to how tree practices are treated)



# Nebraska CRP Management Activities

## Current Options – Continuous Signup Practices – Tree Plantings/Forestry

- Management Activities recommended but not required during first CRP contract
- Reenrollments require site visit by forester or NRCS staff with proper technical knowledge to determine needs such as thinning, pruning, etc.

Proposed Changes - None



# Nebraska CRP Management Activities

Current Options – Continuous Signup Practices  
– Miscellaneous

- CP8A , Grass Waterways, No management required. Proper maintenance required.
- CP18 B/C, Salt tolerant vegetation, follow general CRP signup practice requirements.

Proposed Changes - None

# Nebraska CRP Management Activities

## Current Options – Continuous Signup Practices – Miscellaneous

- CP33 Quail Buffers, Tillage only outside of first 50 ft. Shredding or clipping in first year.
- CP38E SAFE, Follow general CRP signup practice requirements.
- CP42 Pollinator Habitat, Interseeding to maintain at least the required 9 species.

Proposed Changes, None