



## **CRP General Signup 49**

### **Overview**

CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers and landowners use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource conserving covers to control soil erosion, improve water and air quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 to 15 years.

### **General CRP Signup Available NOW!**

General CRP Signup #49 is available now through February 26, 2015. General CRP Signup is a competitive enrollment opportunity. Both landowners and/or operators (tenants) may offer land for enrollment and participate in CRP if eligibility requirements are met, as determined by FSA.

After February 26<sup>th</sup>, all submitted offers are scored and ranked using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). See below for more information on EBI.

Producers offering to enroll land during General CRP SU 49 are encouraged to make a competitive offer by considering the EBI points awarded for various types of covers. Accepted contracts for CRP sign-up 49 will begin on Oct. 1, 2016.

### **Environmental Benefits Index**

The Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) is a ranking tool used during the General CRP signup process. EBI rankings are unique for each tract of land offered into CRP. FSA assigns each offer a point score based on the offer's relative environmental factors. Each offer competes with all other offers. FSA determines offer acceptability based on the ranking results.

Producers can increase the EBI score by offering to enroll the most environmentally sensitive acres and by agreeing to plant diverse stands of native species.

Get the [FACTS HERE!](#)

### **What Practices Are Available?**

<b>Conservation Practice</b>	<b>Description</b>
CP1	Introduced Grass Planting
CP2	Native Grass Planting
CP3	Tree Planting
CP3A	Hardwood Tree Planting
CP4D	Permanent Wildlife Habitat
CP42	Pollinator Habitat.

### **Where Do I Sign-Up?**

Contact your local [FSA Service Center](#) to find out more about General CRP SU 49.



Virginia – December 2015

## CP1 – Introduced Grass Planting



### Purpose

This practice is to establish new or maintain existing vegetative cover of introduced (non-native) grasses that will enhance environmental benefits. Introduced grasses and legumes can provide nesting cover for wildlife. Legumes also provide food resources for young birds. The grass species selected affect the wildlife species that utilize the planting.

### Where Practice Applies

Apply this practice on eligible cropland fields that meet cropping history requirements for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

### CRP Enrollment Process

General CRP signup (SU) 49 is a competitive enrollment opportunity available between December 1, 2015 – February 26, 2016. Both landowners and/or operators (tenants) may offer land for enrollment and participate in CRP if eligibility requirements are met, as determined by FSA.

After the close of General CRP SU 49 all offers are scored and ranked using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Producers offering to enroll land during General CRP SU 49 are encouraged to make a competitive offer by considering the EBI points awarded for various types of covers. The following table describes the EBI point value (N1a subfactor) for various options available for CP1 – Introduced Grass Establishment.

(Refer to the General CRP SU 49 and Environmental Benefits Index [fact sheets](#) for more information.)

Planting...	Points...
<u>2</u> to <u>3</u> introduced grass species.	<b>10</b>
At least <b>4</b> species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at least <u>3</u> grass species, and</li> <li>at least <u>1</u> forb or legume suitable for wildlife in the area.</li> </ul>	<b>40</b>

Examples of species that may be recommended for CP1 establishment include:

Grasses	Legumes
Orchardgrass	Ladino Clover
Redtop	Korean or Kobe Lespedeza
Timothy	Partridge Pea

**Note: Fescue and Bermuda grass are considered aggressive plants with little wildlife value and are NOT considered acceptable for CRP use.**

For more information and guidance on species, establishment, and maintenance during the signup period, [contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) or refer to the planting recommendations in the [Plant Establishment Guide \(PEG\)](#), forage tab, or the [Conservation Cover \(327\) Job Sheet](#)

Producers who submit acceptable offers during General CRP SU 49 will receive onsite technical assistance from (NRCS). Guidance and recommendations for establishment, maintenance, and management will be documented in a Conservation Plan (CPO).

### Enhancement Options

Producers may earn additional EBI points (N1b subfactor) by electing one of the following enhancements for the benefit of wildlife:

Enhancement Option...	Points...
Conversion of at least 51% of a primarily monoculture stand to a mixture of native species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.	<b>20</b>
Establishment of pollinator habitat.*	<b>20</b>
Annual or permanent food plot.*	<b>5</b>

\*Size requirements apply

If planting a pollinator mix, a minimum of 2 grasses and 9 flowering forbs shall be planted in the pollinator habitat area.

### **Establishment and Cost-Share**

Once a producer receives an approved CPO and CRP contract, participants will establish the cover in accordance with the CPO within 12 months. Cost-share reimbursement (50%) may be authorized for the minimum components necessary to establish an adequate cover, based on the CPO, such as:

- Seedbed preparation,
- Eligible seed and minerals,
- Seeding activities, including labor,
- Herbicides/Insecticides,
- Permanent water source for wildlife,
- Temporary cover.

The average cost of establishing CP1 is approximately \$150-\$200 per acre.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Participants must maintain the planting throughout the contract term (10-15 years).

Grasslands require maintenance and management to keep them from undergoing succession. Periodic disturbances such as prescribed burning, mowing, and/or herbicide should occur about every 5 years at a minimum, however, based on site conditions, the CPO may recommend disturbing approximately 1/3 of the enrolled acreage every year. Disturbances should be performed in late winter/early spring to leave cover standing all winter for wildlife.

Maintenance activities will not occur during the Virginia primary nesting season of April 15 through August 15. This is in order to protect ground-nesting wildlife. *Exception:* If maintenance activities are needed during the April 15 – August 15 time frame, the FSA County Committee must approve the maintenance activity prior to the activity occurring, and it may only be on a spot basis. Operation and maintenance requirements will be detailed in the CPO.

The following are requirements for this practice.

- The seeded area shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of CRP-1.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be federally, state, and locally registered, and applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal or state policies and requirements.
- The practice shall have mid-contract management activities performed, according to the CPO.

**Mowing for generic weed control or for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.**

### **Mid-Contract Management**

To ensure that the CRP conservation cover provides plant diversity, wildlife value and protection of soil and water resources for the length of the contract period, mid-contract management (MCM) practices are required to be performed and will be detailed in the CPO. Because MCM practices for CRP are site specific the required activities, and timing of the activities, will be determined during the CPO development by the landowner/participant and the NRCS conservation planner. An example of MCM for CP1 may be reseeding certain species during the contract term in order to maintain desired species composition.

### **Annual Rental Payments**

Producers receive annual rental payments on the acreage that is enrolled CRP based on the rental rate offered by the producer during the signup process. Annual rental payments are distributed in October for the prior year of enrollment. The average rental rate for General CRP in Virginia is around \$50/acre.

### **Unauthorized Uses and Noncompliance**

COC shall consider a producer to be out of compliance with the CRP contract if a violation of the terms and conditions of CRP-1 has occurred, such as:

- the approved cover is harvested or grazed or other commercial use has been made of the forage,
- an unauthorized crop, such as an agricultural commodity, is planted on acreage under CRP-1,
- producer conducted an activity on CRP acres without authorization, such as mowing, spraying, and/or burning of CRP during the primary nesting season,
- undesirable weeds, plants, insects, or pests are not controlled on the designated acreage,
- the approved cover has not been maintained according to the conservation plan
- a satisfactory cover or a required practice has not been established or re-established within the time prescribed
- the producer has not complied with landlord and tenant provisions, or, there has been a scheme or device that tends to defeat the program or a false claim has been filed.

### **Where Do I Sign-Up?**

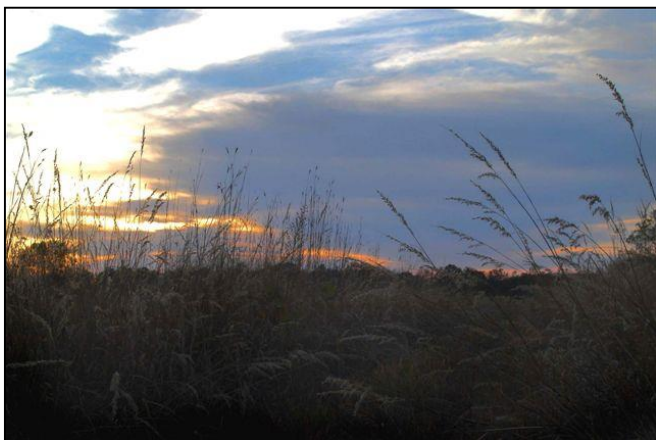
Contact your local [FSA Service Center](#) to find out more about General CRP SU 49.





Virginia – December 2015

## CP2 - Native Grass Planting



### Purpose

This practice is to establish new or maintain existing vegetative cover of native grasses on eligible cropland that will enhance environmental benefit by reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, and creating or enhancing wildlife habitat.

### Where Practice Applies

Apply this practice on cropland fields that meet cropping history eligibility requirements for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

### CRP Enrollment Process

General CRP signup (SU) is a competitive enrollment opportunity. Both landowners and/or operators (tenants) may offer land for enrollment and participate in CRP if eligibility requirements are met, as determined by FSA.

After the close of General SU 49 all offers are scored and ranked using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Producers offering to enroll land during General CRP SU 49 are encouraged to make a competitive offer by considering the EBI points awarded for various types of covers. The following table describes the EBI point value (N1a subfactor) for various options available for CP2 – Native Grass Establishment.

(Refer to the General CRP SU 49 and Environmental Benefits Index [fact sheets](#) for more information.)

Planting...	Points...
At least <b>3</b> species: • <u>2</u> native grass species • at least <u>1</u> forb, or legume species beneficial to wildlife.	<b>20</b>
At least <b>4</b> species: • <u>3</u> introduced grass species • at least <u>1</u> forb, or legume beneficial to wildlife.	<b>50</b>

Examples of species that may be recommended for CP2 establishment include:

Grasses	Forb/Legumes
Big Bluestem	Partridge Pea
Little Bluestem	Maximillian Sunflower
Indian Grass	Black Eyed Susan
Switchgrass	Red Chokeberry
Eastern Gamagrass	Indigobush

For more information and guidance on species, establishment, and maintenance during the signup period, [contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) or refer to the planting recommendations in the [Plant Establishment Guide \(PEG\)](#), wildlife tab, or the [Conservation Cover \(327\) Job Sheet](#)

Producers who submit acceptable offers during General CRP SU 49 will receive onsite technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Guidance and recommendations for establishment, maintenance, and management will be documented in a Conservation Plan (CPO).

### Enhancement Options

Producers may earn additional EBI points (N1b subfactor) by electing one of the following enhancements for the benefit of wildlife:

Enhancement Option...	Points...
Conversion of at least 51% of a primarily monoculture stand to a mixture of native species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.	<b>20</b>
Establishment of pollinator habitat.*	<b>20</b>
Annual or permanent food plot.*	<b>5</b>

\*Size requirements apply.

If planting a pollinator mix, a minimum of 2 grasses and 9 flowering forbs shall be planted in the pollinator habitat area.

### **Establishment and Cost-Share**

Once a producer receives an approved CPO and CRP contract, participants will establish the cover in accordance with the CPO within 12 months. Cost-share reimbursement (50%) may be authorized for the minimum components necessary to establish an adequate cover, based on the CPO, such as:

- Seedbed preparation,
- Eligible seed and minerals,
- Seeding activities, including labor,
- Herbicides/Insecticides,
- Permanent water source for wildlife,
- Temporary cover.

The average cost of establishing CP2 is approximately \$150-\$200/acre.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Participants must maintain the planting throughout the contract term (10-15 years).

Grasslands require maintenance and management to keep them from undergoing succession. Periodic disturbances such as prescribed burning, mowing, and/or herbicide should occur about every 5 years at a minimum, however, based on site conditions, the CPO may recommend disturbing approximately 1/3 of the enrolled acreage every year. Disturbances should be performed in late winter/early spring to leave cover standing all winter for wildlife.

Maintenance activities will not occur during the Virginia primary nesting season of April 15 through August 15. This is in order to protect ground-nesting wildlife. *Exception:* If maintenance activities are needed during the April 15 – August 15 time frame, the FSA County Committee must approve the maintenance activity prior to the activity occurring, and it may only be on a spot basis. Operation and maintenance requirements will be detailed in the CPO.

The following are requirements for this practice:

- The seeded area shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of CRP-1.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be federally, state, and locally registered, and applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal or state policies and requirements.

- The practice shall have mid-contract management activities performed, according to the CPO.

**Mowing for generic weed control or for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.**

### **Mid-Contract Management**

To ensure that the CRP conservation cover provides plant diversity, wildlife value and protection of soil and water resources for the length of the contract period, mid-contract management (MCM) practices are required to be performed and will be detailed in the CPO. Because MCM practices for CRP are site specific the required activities, and timing of the activities, will be determined during the CPO development by the landowner/participant and the NRCS conservation planner. An example of MCM for CP2 may be prescribed burning in order to maintain desired species composition.

### **Annual Rental Payments**

Producers receive annual rental payments on the acreage that is enrolled in CRP based on the rental rate offered by the producer during the signup process. Annual rental payments are distributed in October for the prior year of enrollment. The average rental rate for General CRP in Virginia is around \$50/acre.

### **Unauthorized Uses and Noncompliance**

FSA shall consider a producer to be out of compliance with the CRP contract (CRP-1) if a violation of the terms and conditions of CRP-1 has occurred, such as:

- the approved cover is harvested or grazed or other commercial use has been made of the forage,
- an unauthorized crop, such as an agricultural commodity, is planted on acreage under CRP-1,
- producer conducted an activity on CRP acres without authorization, such as mowing, spraying, and/or burning of CRP during the primary nesting or brood rearing season,
- undesirable weeds, plants, insects, or pests are not controlled on the CRP acreage,
- the approved CRP cover has not been established or maintained according to the conservation plan,
- the producer has not complied with landlord and tenant provisions, or there has been a scheme or device that tends to defeat the program or a false claim has been filed./

### **Where Do I Sign-Up?**

Contact your local [FSA Service Center](#) to find out more about General CRP SU 49.



Virginia – December 2015

## CP3 – Tree Planting



### Purpose

This practice is to establish new or maintain existing stand of trees in a timber planting that will enhance environmental benefits.

### Where Practice Applies

Apply this practice on cropland fields that meet cropping history eligibility requirements and are suitable for growing new or maintaining existing trees.

### CRP Enrollment Process

General CRP signup (SU) is a competitive enrollment opportunity. Both landowners and/or operators (tenants) may offer land for enrollment and participate in CRP if eligibility requirements are met, as determined by FSA.

After the close of General SU 49 all offers are scored and ranked using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Producers offering to enroll land during General CRP SU 49 are encouraged to make a competitive offer by considering the EBI points awarded for various types of covers. The following table describes the EBI point value (N1a subfactor) for various options available for CP3 – Tree Establishment.

(Refer to the General CRP SU 49 and Environmental Benefits Index [fact sheets](#) for more information.)

Planting...	Points...										
Solid stand of pines at <i>more</i> than 550 trees per acre.	10										
Pines <i>less</i> than 500 trees per acre with 10-20% openings managed for wildlife cover.	50										
<b>Note:</b> Openings will be a minimum of 50' wide. Below are examples of species that may be recommended for establishment in the openings:											
<table><tr><th>Grasses</th><th>Legumes</th></tr><tr><td>Orchardgrass</td><td>Ladino Clover</td></tr><tr><td>Switchgrass</td><td>Korean or Kobe</td></tr><tr><td>Big Bluestem</td><td>Lespedeza</td></tr><tr><td>Indiangrass</td><td>Partridge Pea</td></tr></table>	Grasses	Legumes	Orchardgrass	Ladino Clover	Switchgrass	Korean or Kobe	Big Bluestem	Lespedeza	Indiangrass	Partridge Pea	
Grasses	Legumes										
Orchardgrass	Ladino Clover										
Switchgrass	Korean or Kobe										
Big Bluestem	Lespedeza										
Indiangrass	Partridge Pea										

**Note:** Openings are not to be less than a minimum of 2 acres or a maximum of 5 acres in size for fields 20 acres and larger.

For more information and guidance on species, establishment, and maintenance during the signup period, [contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) or refer to the planting recommendations in the [Plant Establishment Guide \(PEG\)](#), trees and wildlife tabs, or the [Tree/Shrub Establishment \(612\) Job Sheet](#).

Producers who submit acceptable offers during General CRP SU 49 will receive onsite technical assistance from the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Guidance and recommendations for establishment, maintenance, and management will be developed by the local DOF forester and documented in a Forest Management Plan and Conservation Plan (CPO).

### Enhancement Options

Producers may earn additional EBI points (N1b subfactor) by electing one of the following enhancements for the benefit of wildlife:



Enhancement Option...	Points...
Conversion of at least 51% of a primarily monoculture stand to a mixture of native species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.	20
Establishment of pollinator habitat.*	20
Annual or permanent food plot.*	5

\*Size requirements apply.

If planting a pollinator mix, a minimum of 2 grasses and 9 flowering forbs shall be planted in the pollinator habitat area.

### **Establishment and Cost-Share**

Once a producer receives an approved CPO and CRP contract, participants will establish the cover in accordance with the CPO within 12 months. Cost-share reimbursement (50%) may be authorized for the minimum components necessary to establish an adequate cover, based on the CPO, such as:

- Site preparation, tree seedlings, and planting,
- Firebreaks/fuelbreaks,
- Seedbed preparation, seed, minerals and nutrients needed to establish opening for wildlife habitat,
- Herbicides/insecticides,
- Thinning,
- Temporary cover.

The average cost of establishing CP3 is approximately \$530 per acre.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Participants must maintain the planting throughout the contract term (10-15 years).

Maintenance activities will not occur during the Virginia primary nesting season of April 15 through August 15. This is in order to protect ground-nesting wildlife. *Exception:* If maintenance activities are needed during the April 15 – August 15 time frame, the FSA County Committee must approve the maintenance activity prior to the activity occurring, and it may only be on a spot basis. Operation and maintenance requirements will be detailed in the CPO.

The following are requirements for this practice.

- The seeded area shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of CRP-1.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be federally, state, and locally registered, and applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal or state policies and requirements.
- The practice shall have mid-contract management activities performed, according to the CPO.

**Mowing for generic weed control or for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.**

### **Mid-Contract Management**

To ensure that the CRP conservation cover provides plant diversity, wildlife value and protection of soil and water resources for the length of the contract period, mid-contract management (MCM) practices are required to be performed and will be detailed in the CPO. Because MCM practices for CRP are site specific the required activities, and timing of the activities, will be determined during the CPO development by the landowner/participant and the NRCS conservation planner. An example of MCM for CP3 may be thinning or prescribed burning in order to maintain desired species composition and forest health.

### **Annual Rental Payments**

Producers receive annual rental payments on the acreage that is enrolled CRP based on the rental rate offered by the producer during the signup process. Annual rental payments are distributed in October for the prior year of enrollment. The average rental rate for General CRP in Virginia is around \$50/acre.

### **Unauthorized Uses and Noncompliance**

COC shall consider a producer to be out of compliance with the CRP contract if a violation of the terms and conditions of CRP-1 has occurred, such as:

- the approved cover is harvested or grazed or other commercial use has been made of the cover,
- an unauthorized crop, such as an agricultural commodity, is planted on acreage under CRP-1,
- producer conducted an activity on CRP acres without authorization, including unauthorized treatment, such as mowing, spraying, and/or burning of CRP during the primary nesting or brood rearing season,
- undesirable weeds, plants, insects, or pests, as determined by COC, are not controlled on the designated acreage,
- the approved cover has not been maintained according to the conservation plan,
- a satisfactory cover or a required practice has not been established or re-established within the time prescribed,
- the producer has not complied with landlord and tenant provisions, or, there has been a scheme or device that tends to defeat the program or a false claim has been filed.

### **Where Do I Sign-Up?**

Contact your local [FSA Service Center](#) to find out more about General CRP SU 49.





Virginia – December 2015

## CP3A – Hardwood Tree Planting



### Purpose

This practice is to establish new or maintain existing stand of predominantly hardwood trees that will enhance environmental benefits. Stands may include up to 50% pine trees to provide wildlife habitat diversity and multipurpose forest benefits.

### Where Practice Applies

Apply this practice on cropland fields that meet cropping history eligibility requirements and are suitable for growing new or maintaining existing trees.

### CRP Enrollment Process

General CRP signup (SU) is a competitive enrollment opportunity. Both landowners and/or operators (tenants) may offer land for enrollment and participate in CRP if eligibility requirements are met, as determined by FSA.

After the close of General SU 49 all offers are scored and ranked using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Producers offering to enroll land during General CRP SU 49 are encouraged to make a competitive offer by considering the EBI points awarded for various types of covers. The following table describes the EBI point value (N1a subfactor) for various options available for CP3A – Hardwood Tree Establishment.

(Refer to the General CRP SU 49 and Environmental Benefits Index [fact sheets](#) for more information.)

Planting...	Species, such as...	Points...
A stand of nonmast producing hardwood species @ 300 trees per acre.	American Elm, Cottonwood, Green Ash, White Ash, Red Maple, Sycamore, Tulip Poplar, Locust, Bald Cypress	10
A single hard mast producing species @ 300 trees per acre.	Plantings include a single species of Oaks, Hickories, Beech, Walnut	20
A mixed stand of 2 hardwood species @ 300 trees per acre best suited for wildlife in the area.	Oaks, Hickories, Beech, Walnut, Persimmon, Black Gum, Pawpaw, Cherry	30
A mixed stand of hardwood species (≥3) best suited for wildlife in the area @ 300 trees per acre.	Oaks, Hickories, Beech, Walnut, Persimmon, Black Gum, Pawpaw, Cherry	50
Longleaf pine @ 550 or less trees per acre.	Longleaf Pine	50

For more information and guidance on species, establishment, and maintenance during the signup period, [contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) or refer to the planting recommendations in the [Plant Establishment Guide \(PEG\)](#), trees tab, or the [Tree/Shrub Establishment \(612\) Job Sheet](#).

Producers who submit acceptable offers during General CRP SU 49 will receive onsite technical assistance from the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Guidance and recommendations for establishment, maintenance, and management will be developed by the local DOF forester and documented in a Forest Management Plan and Conservation Plan (CPO).

### Enhancement Options

Producers may earn additional EBI points (N1b

subfactor) by electing one of the following enhancements for the benefit of wildlife:

Enhancement Option...	Points...
Conversion of at least 51% of a primarily monoculture stand to a mixture of native species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.	20
Establishment of pollinator habitat.*	20
Annual or permanent food plot.*	5

\*Size requirements apply.

If planting a pollinator mix, a minimum of 2 grasses and 9 flowering forbs shall be planted in the pollinator habitat area.

### **Establishment and Cost-Share**

Once a producer receives an approved CPO and CRP contract, participants will establish the cover in accordance with the CPO within 24 months. Cost-share reimbursement (50%) may be authorized for the minimum components necessary to establish an adequate cover, based on the CPO, such as:

- Site preparation, tree seedlings, and planting,
- Firebreaks/fuelbreaks,
- Herbicides/insecticides,
- Tree shelters/netting,
- Thinning,
- Temporary cover.

The average cost of establishing CP3A is approximately \$530 per acre.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Participants must maintain the planting throughout the contract term (10-15 years).

Maintenance activities will not occur during the Virginia primary nesting season of April 15 through August 15. This is in order to protect ground-nesting wildlife.

*Exception:* If maintenance activities are needed during the April 15 – August 15 time frame, the FSA County Committee must approve the maintenance activity prior to the activity occurring, and it may only be on a spot basis. Operation and maintenance requirements will be detailed in the CPO.

The following are requirements for this practice:

- The seeded area shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of CRP-1.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.

- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be Federally, State, and locally registered, and applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
- The practice shall have periodic management activities performed, according to the CPO.

**Mowing for generic weed control or for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.**

### **Mid-Contract Management**

To ensure that the CRP conservation cover provides plant diversity, wildlife value and protection of soil and water resources for the length of the contract period, mid-contract management (MCM) practices are required to be performed and will be detailed in the CPO. Because MCM practices for CRP are site specific the required activities, and timing of the activities, will be determined during the CPO development by the landowner/participant and the NRCS conservation planner. An example of MCM for CP3A may be thinning or prescribed burning in order to maintain desired species composition and forest health.

### **Annual Rental Payments**

Producers receive annual rental payments on the acreage that is enrolled CRP based on the rental rate offered by the producer during the signup process. Annual rental payments are distributed in October for the prior year of enrollment. The average rental rate for General CRP in Virginia is around \$50/acre.

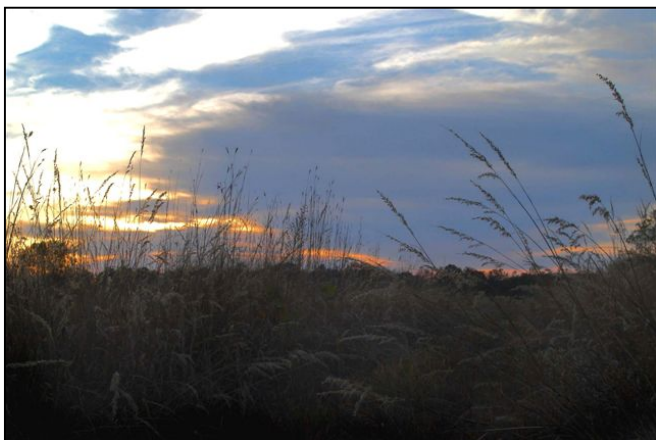
### **Unauthorized Uses and Noncompliance**

COC shall consider a producer to be out of compliance with the CRP contract if a violation of the terms and conditions of CRP-1 has occurred, such as:

- the approved cover is harvested or grazed or other commercial use has been made of the cover,
- an unauthorized crop, such as an agricultural commodity, is planted on acreage under CRP-1,
- producer conducted an activity on CRP acres without authorization, including unauthorized treatment, such as mowing, spraying, and/or burning of CRP during the primary nesting or brood rearing season,
- undesirable weeds, plants, insects, or pests, as determined by COC, are not controlled on the designated acreage,
- the approved cover has not been maintained according to the conservation plan
- a satisfactory cover or a required practice has not been established or re-established within the time prescribed
- the producer has not complied with landlord and tenant provisions, or, there has been a scheme or device that tends to defeat the program or a false claim has been filed.

Virginia – December 2015

## CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat



### Purpose

This practice is to establish new or maintain existing cover as a permanent wildlife habitat to enhance environmental benefits for the designated and surrounding areas.

### Where Practice Applies

Apply this practice on cropland fields that meet cropping history eligibility requirements for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

### CRP Enrollment Process

General CRP signup (SU) is a competitive enrollment opportunity. Both landowners and/or operators (tenants) may offer land for enrollment and participate in CRP if eligibility requirements are met, as determined by FSA.

After the close of General SU 49 all offers are scored and ranked using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Producers offering to enroll land during General CRP SU 49 are encouraged to make a competitive offer by considering the EBI points awarded for various types of covers. The following table describes the EBI point value (N1a subfactor) for various options available for CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat.

(Refer to the General CRP SU 49 and Environmental Benefits Index [fact sheets](#) for more information.)

Planting...	Points...
A mixed stand of native species including at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 grasses,</li> <li>• 2 forbs or legumes,</li> <li>• 1 shrub/tree.</li> </ul>	40
A mixed stand of native species including at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 grasses,</li> <li>• 2 forbs,</li> <li>• 1 legume,</li> <li>• 1 shrub/tree.</li> </ul>	50

Examples of species that may be recommended for CP4D establishment include:

Grasses	Forb/Legumes	Tree
Big Bluestem	Partridge Pea	Flowering Dogwood
Little Bluestem	Maximillian	Red/Black Chokeberry
Indian Grass	Sunflower	Red Mulberry
Switchgrass	Black Eyed	Black Cherry
Eastern	Susan	Sassafras
Gamagrass	Spurred	Oaks
Deer Tongue	Butterfly Pea	Hickory (varieties)
	Lanceleaf	Black Walnut
	Coreopsis	American Beech

For more information and guidance on species, establishment, and maintenance during the signup period, [contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) or refer to the planting recommendations in the [Plant Establishment Guide \(PEG\)](#), shrub and wildlife tabs, or the [Conservation Cover \(327\) Job Sheet](#)

Producers who submit acceptable offers during General CRP SU 49 will receive onsite technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Guidance and recommendations for establishment, maintenance, and management will be documented in a Conservation Plan (CPO).

### Enhancement Options

Producers may earn additional EBI points (N1b subfactor) by electing one of the following enhancements for the benefit of wildlife:

Enhancement Option...	Points...
Conversion of at least 51% of a primarily monoculture stand to a mixture of native species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.	<b>20</b>
Establishment of pollinator habitat.*	<b>20</b>
Annual or permanent food plot.*	<b>5</b>

\*Size requirements apply.

If planting a pollinator mix, a minimum of 2 grasses and 9 flowering forbs shall be planted in the pollinator habitat area.

### **Establishment and Cost-Share**

Once a producer receives an approved CPO and CRP contract, participants will establish the cover in accordance with the CPO within 12 months. Cost-share reimbursement (50%) may be authorized for the minimum components necessary to establish an adequate cover, based on the CPO, such as:

- Seedbed preparation,
- Eligible seed and minerals,
- Seeding activities, including labor,
- Herbicides/Insecticides,
- Permanent water source for wildlife,
- Temporary cover.

The average cost of establishing CP4D is approximately \$150-\$200/acre.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Participants must maintain the planting throughout the contract term (10-15 years).

Grasslands require maintenance and management to keep them from undergoing succession. Periodic disturbances such as prescribed burning, mowing, and/or herbicide should occur about every 5 years at a minimum, however, based on site conditions, the CPO may recommend disturbing approximately 1/3 of the enrolled acreage every year. Disturbances should be performed in late winter/early spring to leave cover standing all winter for wildlife.

Maintenance activities will not occur during the Virginia primary nesting season of April 15 through August 15. This is in order to protect ground-nesting wildlife. *Exception:* If maintenance activities are needed during the April 15 – August 15 time frame, the FSA County Committee must approve the maintenance activity prior to the activity occurring, and it may only be on a spot basis. Operation and maintenance requirements will be detailed in the CPO.

The following are requirements for this practice:

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

- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be federally, state, and locally registered, and applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal or state policies and requirements.
- The practice shall have mid-contract management activities performed, according to the CPO.

**Mowing for generic weed control or for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.**

### **Mid-Contract Management**

To ensure that the CRP conservation cover provides plant diversity, wildlife value and protection of soil and water resources for the length of the contract period, mid-contract management (MCM) practices are required to be performed and will be detailed in the CPO. Because MCM practices for CRP are site specific the required activities, and timing of the activities, will be determined during the CPO development by the landowner/participant and the NRCS conservation planner. An example of MCM for CP4D may be prescribed burning in order to maintain desired species composition.

### **Annual Rental Payments**

Producers receive annual rental payments on the acreage that is enrolled in CRP based on the rental rate offered by the producer during the signup process. Annual rental payments are distributed in October for the prior year of enrollment. The average rental rate for General CRP in Virginia is around \$50/acre.

### **Unauthorized Uses and Noncompliance**

FSA shall consider a producer to be out of compliance with the CRP contract (CRP-1) if a violation of the terms and conditions of CRP-1 has occurred, such as:

- the approved cover is harvested or grazed or other commercial use has been made of the forage,
- an unauthorized crop, such as an agricultural commodity, is planted on acreage under CRP-1,
- producer conducted an activity on CRP acres without authorization, such as mowing, spraying, and/or burning of CRP during the primary nesting or brood rearing season,
- undesirable weeds, plants, insects, or pests are not controlled on the CRP acreage,
- the approved CRP cover has not been established or maintained according to the conservation plan,
- the producer has not complied with landlord and tenant provisions, or there has been a scheme or device that tends to defeat the program or a false claim has been filed.

### **Where Do I Sign-Up?**

Contact your local [FSA Service Center](#) to find out more about General CRP SU 49.



Virginia – December 2015

## CP42 – Pollinator Habitat



### Purpose

This purpose of this practice is to establish habitat to support a diversity of pollinator species.

### Where Practice Applies

Apply this practice on cropland fields that meet cropping history eligibility, where pollinator habitat can be established and maintained in a cost-effective manner.

### CRP Enrollment Process

CP42 is available on a continuous for enrollment in CRP as well as during General CRP signup (SU). General CRP SU is a competitive enrollment opportunity. Both landowners and/or operators (tenants) may offer land for enrollment and participate in CRP if eligibility requirements are met, as determined by FSA.

After the close of General CRP SU all offers are scored and ranked using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Producers offering to enroll land during General CRP SU are encouraged to make a competitive offer by considering the EBI points awarded for various types of covers. Offering land to be devoted to CP42 during can make the offer more competitive and increase the chance of the offer being accepted.

The following table describes the EBI point value (N1a subfactor) for various options available for CP42 – Pollinator Habitat.

(Refer to the General CRP SU 49 and Environmental Benefits Index [fact sheets](#) for more information.)

Planting...	Points...
At least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 flowering forbs</li> <li>2 grasses</li> </ul>	<b>50</b>

Participants will establish at least one flowering species from each part of the growing season, spring, summer, and fall, in order to provide habitat for pollinators and color for the entire growing season. Examples of species that may be used in CP42 include:

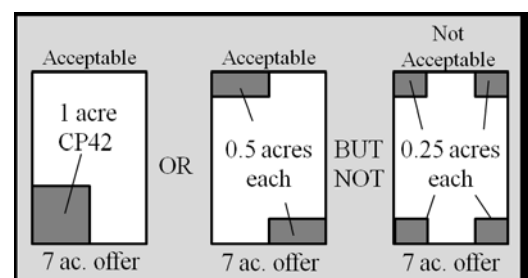
Grasses	Forb/Legumes
Little Bluestem	Partridge Pea      Aster
Indiangrass	Maximillian      Coneflower
Canada Wildrye	Sunflower      Coreopsis
Deertongue	Black Eyed Susan      Goldenrod
	Bearded Beggarticks      Milkweed
	Brown-eyed Susan

For more information and guidance on species, establishment, and maintenance during the signup period, [contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) or refer to the planting recommendations in the [Plant Establishment Guide \(PEG\)](#), wildlife tab, or the [Conservation Cover \(327\) Job Sheet](#)

Producers who submit acceptable offers during General CRP SU 49 will receive onsite technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Guidance and recommendations for establishment, maintenance, and management will be documented in a Conservation Plan (CPO).

### Enhancement Options

Producers may earn an additional 20 EBI points (N1b subfactor) by electing to enhance other vegetative CRP cover with CP42. If CP42 is used as an enhancement, at least 1 acre, or 10% of the total enrolled acreage, must be established in blocks no less than 0.5 acre:



### **Establishment and Cost-Share**

Once a producer receives an approved CPO and CRP contract, participants will establish the cover in accordance with the CPO within 12 months. Cost-share reimbursement (50%) may be authorized for the minimum components necessary to establish an adequate cover, based on the CPO, such as:

- Seedbed preparation,
- Eligible seed and minerals,
- Seeding activities, including labor, & boundary markers
- Herbicides/Insecticides,
- Firebreaks
- Temporary cover.

The average cost of establishing CP42 is approximately \$250/acre.

### **Operation and Maintenance**

Participants must maintain the planting throughout the contract term (10-15 years).

Pollinator habitat stands require maintenance and management to keep them from undergoing succession. Periodic disturbances such as prescribed burning, mowing, and/or herbicide should occur about every 5 years at a minimum, however, based on site conditions, a more frequent schedule may be established. Disturbances should be performed in late winter/early spring to leave cover standing all winter for wildlife.

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The following are requirements for this practice:

- The seeded area shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of CRP-1.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be federally, state, and locally registered, and applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal or state policies and requirements.
- The practice shall have mid-contract management activities performed, according to the CPO.

**Mowing for generic weed control or for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.**

### **Mid-Contract Management**

To ensure that the CRP conservation cover provides plant diversity, wildlife value and protection of soil and water resources for the length of the contract period, mid-contract management (MCM) practices are required to be performed and will be detailed in the CPO. Because MCM practices for CRP are site specific the required activities, and timing of the activities, will be determined during the CPO development by the landowner/participant and the NRCS conservation planner. An example of MCM for CP42 may be prescribed burning in order to maintain desired species composition.

### **Annual Rental Payments**

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- the approved cover is harvested or grazed or other commercial use has been made of the forage,
- an unauthorized crop, such as an agricultural commodity, is planted on acreage under CRP-1,
- producer conducted an activity on CRP acres without authorization, such as mowing, spraying, and/or burning of CRP during the primary nesting or brood rearing season,
- undesirable weeds, plants, insects, or pests are not controlled on the CRP acreage,
- the approved CRP cover has not been established or maintained according to the conservation plan,
- the producer has not complied with landlord and tenant provisions, or there has been a scheme or device that tends to defeat the program or a false claim has been filed./

### **Where Do I Sign-Up?**

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