

For: State and County Offices

Restarting CRP's Continuous, CREP, FWP, and SAFE Signups

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Notice CRP-724 required County Offices to discontinue accepting new offers and approving new contracts for all signup types after September 30, 2012. The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 provided an extension of the CRP authority through September 30, 2013.

Additionally, Notice CRP-724 disallowed revisions, corrections, and modifications in existing CRP-1's, CPO's, and C/S agreements where approval would result in an additional obligation of funds.

Notice CRP-733 notified States and Counties that Kansas City was mailing letters to producers with contracts scheduled to expire September 30, 2013. Producers with expiring CRP's Continuous, CREP, FWP, and SAFE contracts were included in this mailing, and the text of these letters as provided in Notice CRP-733, Exhibits 1 and 2, included statements about re-enrolling the expiring land into CRP.

B Purpose

This notice:

- provides direction and authority for County Offices and COC's to begin accepting new offers and approving new contracts under CRP's Continuous, CREP, FWP, and SAFE signups
- re-authorizes revisions, corrections, and modifications for existing CRP-1's that require an increase in additional obligation of funds as provided for in 2-CRP.

Disposal Date	Distribution
October 1, 2013	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and all State CREP Partners

Notice CRP-738

1 Overview (Continued)

C Accepting Continuous CRP Signup 44 Offers

Beginning May 13, 2013, County Offices are authorized to begin accepting new offers, and COC's or CED's may approve new contracts under all CRP Continuous, CREP, FWP, and SAFE signup types according to 2-CRP. The authority for accepting Signup 44 offers expires September 30, 2013.

For CRP continuous signup the authority to enroll includes offer acceptance and contract approval for all conservation initiatives offered under the continuous signup, including the following:

- Highly Erodible Land Initiative
- Longleaf Pine Initiative
- Wetland Restoration Initiative
- Upland Bird Habitat Buffer Initiative
- Duck Nesting Habitat Initiative
- Pollinator Initiative.

2 Continuous, CREP, FWP, and SAFE Signup Rental Rates and Software

A SRR's

SRR's for nonirrigated cropland, adjusted through the processes outlined in Notices CRP-730, CRP-732, and CRP-734, are being loaded by the National Office and will be available in the Soils Data Management System (SDMS) to use with all applicable offers and contracts beginning with this signup restart.

Marginal Pastureland Rental Rates (MPLRR's) and specialized CREP rental rates remain unchanged in SDMS and shall also be available for applicable new Continuous, CREP, FWP, and SAFE offers and contracts.

Before accepting new offers under Continuous Signup 44, County Offices shall, beginning May 9, 2013, print the Posting Reports for their county from SDMS and post for public display according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 104 A.

SDMS can be accessed through option 5 of the State and County Office CEPD Information Center web site at <http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/ffas/dafp/cepdsto.htm>.

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2 Continuous, CREP, FWP, and SAFE Signup Rental Rates and Software (Continued)

B Signup Support Software

County Offices shall use the following software for accepting all new Continuous, CREP, FWP, and SAFE offers:

- The Tool for Environmental Resource Results Assessment (TERRA)
- Conservation Online System (COLS)
- Web Cost-Share Software System.

Notes: CREP offers will be processed in COLS using the “New Offer” option until TERRA is better integrated to handle unique CREP soils calculations and variable incentive rates. TERRA should still be used to delineate the offered acres and gather soils data. The user will then manually enter data from the printed TERRA scenarios report into COLS using the “New Offer” option. For all other signup types, TERRA output files can be electronically loaded into COLS.

Beginning with this restart, CRP offers for all signup types will be loaded through COLS.

3 Revisions, Corrections, and Modifications for Existing CRP-1's

A Policy Change Previously Required by Notice CRP-724

CRP-724 disallowed the following changes in cases where approval would result in an additional obligation of funds:

- revisions provided for in 2-CRP, paragraph 546
- corrections provided for in 2-CRP, subparagraph 546 B
- modifications to CRP-1's approved by COB September 30, 2012, as provided for in 2-CRP, paragraph 429.

B Reauthorization for Existing CRP-1's

Effective upon the date of this notice, COC's and CED's are authorized to make all routine revisions, corrections and modifications to CRP-1's, CPO's and C/S agreements as provided in 2-CRP, including cases that will result in an additional obligation of funds.

Notice CRP-738

4 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices shall:

- forward copies of this notice to all State CREP partners, the State NRCS office and State forestry office
- make preparation for CRP continuous signup a high priority when setting workload priorities and scheduling office activities
- follow the provisions of this notice
- ensure that County Offices follow the provisions of this notice.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- make preparation for CRP continuous signup a high priority when setting workload priorities and scheduling office activities
- follow the provisions of this notice.