

**For:** State and County Offices

**2014 Conservation Payments**

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

*Bradley Karmen*

**1 Overview**

**A Background**

According to 2-CRP, subparagraph:

- 462 B, CRP annual rental payments shall be made, when authorized after October 1, for each effective year
- 801 A, retired or retiring owners and operators who qualify under TIP may be eligible to receive annual rental payments for up to two additional years
- 264 B, EFCRP annual payments are scheduled to be issued starting one year after the anniversary of the effective date of the contract.

**B Purpose**

This notice:

- advises State and County Offices that Conservation Systems will be shut down on September 26, 2014 for FY rollover and to prepare for the annual batch payment process
- provides State and County Offices with the upcoming schedule for payment processing for CRP, TIP, and EFCRP
- reminds State and County Offices that payment reports are now accessible through the Common Payment Reports System.

**Disposal Date**

December 1, 2014

10-2-14

**Distribution**

State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

**Notice CRP-777**

**2 CRP Schedule**

**A 2014 CRP Contract Revisions**

Annual rental payments for CRP 2014 will be available for signature on October 9, 2014. This allows additional time for users to approve CRP contracts with a status of “Revise in Process”. Notice CRP-776 provides instructions for completing revisions due to acreage changes from tenths to hundredths. Delaying the CRP payment run gives the County Offices the requisite time needed to complete these revisions so CRP annual payments are issued properly.

**B Conservation Software Schedule**

The following is the projected software schedule for CRP, EFCRP, and TIP.

<b>Projected Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
September 26, 2014	Shut down the following conservation applications for rollover and to prepare for annual batch payment processing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCAP (Biomass Crop Assistance Program)</li> <li>• COLS (Conservation Online System)</li> <li>• CSS (Cost Share Software)</li> <li>• Conservation Payments</li> <li>• Conservation Contract Maintenance System</li> <li>• EFCRP (Emergency Forestry CRP)</li> <li>• GRP (Grassland Reserve Program)</li> <li>• CFLS (Conservation Funds Ledger System)</li> </ul>
October 1, 2014	COLS, CCMS, BCAP, EFCRP, GRP, and Cost-Share web applications will be brought back online. <b>IMPORTANT:</b> This will allow users additional time to approve CRP contracts with a status of “Revise in Process” in CCMS. EFCRP payments processed for contracts with an October 1 anniversary date.
October 2, 2014	TIP payments processed and available in NPS for certification and signature. EFCRP payments available in NPS for certification and signature.
October 8, 2014	CCMS shut down at 2:00 PM CST to begin the batch payment process. CRP annual rental payment batch processing begins.
October 9, 2014	As payments process through to NPS, users can begin certification and signature of payments in NPS. All conservation applications back online after payment processing is completed.

## Notice CRP-777

### 3 Action

#### A State Office Action

Ensure the County Offices are aware of the content of this notice.

#### B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- use the prepayment report to resolve any outstanding reduction issues before the batch payment run on October 8, 2014
  - begin certifying and signing:
    - TIP and EFCRP payments in NPS on or about October 2, 2014.
- CRP annual rental payments in NPS on or about October 9, 2014
- use the nonpayment/reduction report to resolve issues that prevented or reduced payments after the batch payment run
- use the “Make NPS Payment” option in Conservation Payments once the issue causing the payment failure is corrected, if applicable.