

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

Notice CRP-809

For: State and County Offices

CRP Continuous Signup 50 Procedures Beginning October 1, 2016

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

The 2014 Farm Bill requires that beginning FY 2017, no more than 24 million acres can be enrolled in CRP. Current enrollment in CRP is approximately 23.9 million acres. Contracts totaling about 1.6 million acres are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2016. About 500,000 acres were determined acceptable for general signup 49 and CRP grasslands signup 200.

FSA enforced the scheduled approval deadline for CRP contracts of September 16, 2016, to ensure that we had accurate data about CRP in light of the statutory acreage enrollment cap, and to make policy decisions about how to address FY17 contracts.

Contracts approved by the COC or CED on or before the September 16 deadline were permitted to be loaded into COLS through September 20, 2016. On September 20, 2016, COLS function for COC approval was disabled for all signups except general signup 49 and CRP grasslands signup 200. From September 16, 2016, through September 30, 2016, only contracts for general signup 49 and CRP grasslands signup 200 that had COC or CED approval on or before the September 16 deadline could be approved and loaded into COLS.

B Purpose

This notice provides policy concerning:

- continuous signup 50
- CRP contract approval procedure for all continuous signup types, beginning October 1, 2016.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 15, 2017	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices

2 Continuous Signup 50 Activities

A Continuous Signup 50 Begins

Continuous signup 50 begins October 1, 2016. County Offices shall continue to accept all continuous signup offers for enrollment in CRP through the COLS process.

B Continuous Signup 50 (Non-CREP)

Producers submitting CRP offers during signup 50 for any **non-CREP** continuous signup offer type (SAFE, HELI, Continuous Regular, etc.) have the following options:

- Option 1 - Producers may request a contract effective date deferral of **October 1, 2017 (FY18)**. These offers may be:

- submitted to NRCS for planning
- approved by COC or CED upon plan completion.

Note: The CRP-1 approval must be loaded into COLS as soon as functionality is enabled. Future instructions will be provided.

- Option 2 - Producers may request contracts with an effective date **during FY17**. These offers will be:

- accepted on a non-competitive first come, first serve basis
- placed in a batch process to ensure that program enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap
- approved based on a notification by the National Office on a monthly basis, pending availability of acres.

Notes: County Offices shall not submit these offers to NRCS for conservation planning until notified by the national office.

- If acres do not become available during FY 2017, contracts on the wait-list will be offered an October 1, 2017, effective date. Producers may inform the County Office at the time of offer that they agree to a FY18 contract if their offer is not selected during the FY17 batch process.

Note: If the producer's offer is not selected during the FY17 batch process, County Offices must pen and ink the change of program year from 2017 to 2018 on the CRP-2C, item 2. Producers must initial and date the change. This function is not available in COLS at this time; however, COLS instructions will be provided at a later date.

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2 Continuous Signup 50 Activities (Continued)

C Continuous Signup 50 (CREP)

Continuous signup 50 CREP offers shall continue to be accepted and approved according to normal procedure according to 2-CRP.

D Contract Revisions

County Offices shall continue to process CRP contract revisions in CCMS.

3 Action

A County Office Action

County Offices shall read and follow the provisions of this notice.

B State Office Action

State Offices shall ensure that County Offices follow instructions in this notice.