

For: County Offices

CRP Cost Share and Practice Information for General Signup 26

Approved by: State Executive Director



1 Overview

A Background

The AGSS for general signup 26 requires an estimated cost-share amount by practice to be entered in the County Office Setup Table. Counties were informed, during state CRP training and in OK Notice CRP-547, that the State Office would provide cost-share estimates for each practice.

B Purpose

The purpose of this notice is to provide estimated cost-share amounts by practice for AGSS, EBI worksheet, worksheet for estimated cost share per acre by practice, and clarification of practice specifics.

2 AGSS Estimated Cost Share

A Estimated Practice Cost Share

The Exhibit 1 chart represents the estimated cost share for each general signup practice. The estimated cost share shall be entered in the "County Office Setup Table" of the AGSS when received. Exhibit 2 provides a breakdown of how the estimated cost shares were calculated.

The county office may find it necessary to adjust the estimated cost-share amounts when:

- based on local conditions, knowledge, and history, the county office is aware the rate needs increased or decreased.
- on an individual basis, the producer elects to "convert" an existing cover to a higher point CP2 native cover. The rate will need to be increased to reflect the additional conversion activity under practice CP2.
- on an individual basis, the producer elects "NO" cost share. The cost-share rate for the practice will need to be changed to "zero" to print a correct CRP-2 and CRP-1.

When adjusting cost-share amounts, calculations shall be based on the current cost-share component rates as stated in 2-CRP (Rev. 3) OK Exhibit 10.

The cost-share rate can be adjusted for an individual case in the AGSS and then adjusted back to the standard county rate for the practice using the "cost share" icon while loading the producer information.

Disposal Date:
December 1, 2003

Distribution:
County Offices

2 AGSS Estimated Cost Share (continued)

A Estimated Practice Cost Share (continued)

A producer may request cost share for water development (N1b) only. This would generally be applicable on offers with an existing grass cover. To accommodate this situation, the county office shall set the cost share flag to "Y" in the AGSS and the practice rate to zero. The CRP-2, Item 8, will reflect cost share requested on the offer. The CRP-1 and CRP-2 will not show a C/S estimate for the practice in this case; however, the offer will receive "zero" points under the N6b category and the producer, if accepted, will receive C/S for the guzzler. The county should replace the "zero" in Item 11E of the CRP-1 with the estimated cost share for the water development (guzzler). The producer and employee shall initial and date the change.

3 Practice Information

A Wildlife Guzzlers

The EBI N1b subfactor allows 20 points for wildlife water development. The election of a wildlife water development may be made only when there is not a dependable water source located on the offered acreage.

The water development for wildlife is limited to constructing a wildlife "guzzler." The current cost share for a wildlife guzzler is 50 percent of the cost not to exceed \$240 per guzzler.

B Conversion of a Monoculture

The EBI N1b subfactor provides the option to convert a monoculture cover to a native species cover that provides enhanced wildlife benefits. To obtain these 20 points, the producer would have to convert a minimum of 51 percent of the monoculture acres offered for CRP to a CP2 50-point cover.

C Existing Non-Qualifying Native Grasses

Based on the current definition of conserving use acres, for cropping requirement eligibility (four of the six years 1996 through 2001), it is anticipated a large number of existing grass stands on cropland will be offered for CRP.

The EBI for N1a, Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits, allows 40 points for a solid stand of 1 to 3 species of native grass or 50 points for a mixed stand of native grasses with a minimum of five species with at least one shrub, forb, or legume.

The Biology Technical Note OK-30 specifies the native grass that qualifies for the 40 or 50 point category must be those listed in the 550 Range Planting Practice Standard and represents 80% of the stand. Since old grass stands may potentially be offered for CRP (if eligible), there exists the possibility that a producer could offer an acreage with native grasses that do not qualify for CP10 native grass EBI points. Examples of grasses that would not qualify, but are considered native are: broomsedge bluestem, silver bluestem, perennial threeawn, and scribner panicum (list is not all-inclusive).

3 Practice Information (continued)**C Existing Non-Qualifying Native Grasses (continued)**

A producer could offer these grasses for CRP knowing the acreage must be converted to an eligible cover under practice CP1 or CP2 and elect cost share for the conversion. If a producer would offer an acreage with these grasses, indicating no cost share and the offer was accepted, the producer would have to convert the cover to a qualifying cover at the producer's own expense.

The CED shall work with the DC and the 550 Range Planting Specification to determine the acceptable native grass species for the areas of the county and train the staff concerning these eligible species.

It is recommended the county office have the producer list, in pen, the CP10 cover species on the CRP-2 (generated by AGSS) in Item 24, or utilize the worksheet in Exhibit 3 to identify the CP-10 cover.

D Practice Specification 512 and 550 Native Plants for CP2

The NRCS Biology Technical Note OK-30 references, under the CP2 criteria, the selection of native plants from the 512 Pasture and Hay Planting or from the 550 Range Planting Specification. The 512 Specification lists both "native" and "introduced" grass species. Practice CP2 can contain only native plant species. Therefore, only native grass, identified in the 512 Specification as native perennial warm season (NPW) or native perennial cool season (NPC), may be selected from CP2 plantings, if adaptable to the area.

Basically, the grass species, identified in the 512 Specification as NPW or NPC, were derived from the 550 Specification.

E Converting or Enhancing Permanent Covers

A producer, with an existing native grass cover, may want to increase the EBI N1a point score by adding forbs and legumes to the established cover. The forbs and legumes are drilled directly into the existing cover without prior tillage. This is referred to as "enhancing" an existing grass stand and will be completed as a CP10 practice with cost share (if elected by the producer). The NRCS Job Sheet 550-2 provides the specifications to complete an "enhancement."

Producers may desire to completely change a permanent cover to a higher EBI N1a cover. The existing cover is destroyed by tillage and chemicals and replaced with the higher point score permanent cover. This is referred to as a stand "conversion" and is completed under practice CP1 or CP2. Conversions typically identify the replacement of a monoculture grass stand with a native grass cover.

F Signup Worksheet for AGSS System

Exhibit 3 provides an optional worksheet that may be utilized for signup. It is highly encouraged that producer information is loaded directly into the AGSS; however, in heavy workload periods, the worksheet may be utilized to obtain producer offer information by one employee and entered in the AGSS by another employee. The worksheet shall not be used to obtain information and have the producer make a return trip to sign the CRP 1 and 2. The AGSS was developed to enhance customer service. Therefore, producers should be able to make a CRP offer with one trip to the county office.

4 Required Management of CRP

A Policy

Producers, with contracts (general and continuous) effective signup 26 and later, are required to perform required management practices.

Producers, with contracts effective prior to signup 26, may voluntarily do management activities.

Cost share, at the rate of 50 percent of the eligible cost, will be paid on both required and volunteer contracts doing the management activity. Producers, who elected not to receive cost share for practice establishment, or in the case of a CP10, where no cost share activity was necessary, will receive cost share for the required management activity.

B Cost-Share Estimates for Required Management

CEDs were recently provided the required management activities for the CRP approved by the State Committee. Based on the specified activities, the chart in Exhibit 4 provides an estimated cost share for each practice for the total contract length. The county should use this information to converse with producers, emphasizing the cost-share amount is an estimate.

The required management activities will be incorporated into the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO) by NRCS/TSP for contracting. Based on an activity such as managed or emergency hay or grazing that may occur during the contract, a required management activity could possibly be removed, at the scheduled time, as determined by FSA/NRCS/TSP.

Estimated Cost Share by Practice

Practice	Description	Estimated Cost Share
CP1	Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes	\$51
CP2	Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses	\$62
CP3	Tree Planting (Pine)	\$51
CP3A	Hardwood Tree Planting	\$133
CP4B	Permanent Wildlife Habitat Corridors	\$98
CP4D	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	\$78
CP10	Vegetative Cover – (grass already established)	\$0
CP10	Vegetative Cover (grass already established) *Enhancement of Existing Native Grass with Forbs and Legumes	\$12
CP11	Vegetative Cover – (trees already established)	\$0
CP12	Wildlife Food Plot	\$0
CP25	Rare and Declining Habitat Restoration	\$70

Note: The cost-share rate for a practice may need to be changed for an individual offer based on

- cover conversion
- election of “no” cost share

Estimates may be adjusted for local conditions, knowledge, and history.

WORKSHEET FOR ESTIMATED COST SHARE PER ACRE BY PRACTICE

CP1 – Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes		
Tillage	5 trips x \$4.25/trip	\$21.25
Temporary Cover	1 planting x \$10.00 seed/tractor/drill	\$10.00
Spray	1 application x \$5.50 chemical/application	\$ 5.50
Grass Seed	1 planting x \$9.00/2# owb/acre	\$ 9.00
Tractor/Drill	1 cover planting x \$5.00/acre	\$ 5.00
Estimated Per Acre Cost Share (Rounded) - \$51.00		
CP2 – Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses		
Same as above except seed cost		
Grass Seed	1 planting x \$5.00/4# Native/acre	\$20.00
Estimated Per Acre Cost Share (Rounded) - \$62.00		
CP3 – Tree Planting (Pine)		
Tillage	3 trips x \$4.25/trip	\$12.75
Pine Planting (plantation)	550 trees/acre x .07/tree/labor/eqip.	\$38.50
Estimated Per Acre Cost Share (Rounded) - \$51.00		
CP3A – Hardwood Tree Planting (Native)		
Tillage	3 trips x \$4.25/trip	\$ 12.75
Tree Planting	300 trees/acre x .40/tree/labor/eqip.	\$120.00
Estimated Per Acre Cost Share (Rounded) - \$133.00		
CP4B – Permanent Wildlife Habitat (Corridors)		
Same base cost as CP2		\$62.00
Planting Trees/Shrubs	90 tree/shrub/acre x .40/tree/labor/eqip.	\$36.00
Estimated Per Acre Cost Share - \$98.00		
CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat		
Same base cost as CP2		\$62.00
Planting Trees/Shrubs	40 tree/shrub/acre x .40/tree/labor/eqip.	\$16.00
Estimated Per Acre Cost Share - \$78.00		
CP10 – Vegetative Cover (Grass Already Established)		
No cost share		\$0.00
Note: Conversion of a non-eligible native grass stand to an eligible native grass stand is completed under practice CP2. Conversion of an introduced grass cover to a native grass cover is completed under practice CP2.		
CP10 – Enhancement of Native Grass With Forbs and Legumes		
Burn/Mow	1 Removal x \$4.25/acre	\$4.25
Forbs and Legumes	1 planting x \$2.53/acre	\$2.53
Tractor/Drill	1 trip x \$5.00/acre	\$5.00
Estimated Per Acre Cost Share (Rounded) - \$12.00		
CP11 – Vegetative Cover – Trees Already Established		
No cost share		\$0.00
CP12 – Wildlife Food Plots		
No cost share		\$0.00
CP25 – Rare and Declining Habitat Restoration		
Same base cost as CP2		\$62.00
Additional Forbs/Legumes		\$ 8.00
Estimated Per Acre Cost Share - \$70.00		

OK Notice CRP-548
CRP Signup 26 EBI WORKSHEET

Exhibit 3

Producer: _____ Telephone: _____ Date: _____

Farm #: _____ Tract #: _____ Physical Location County: _____

Section: _____ Township: _____ Range: _____ Acres Offered: _____ HUC #: _____

N6b Cost: _____ Cost Share Requested: Yes _____ 0 points No _____ 10 points

Cropping History

Field No.	Current Crop	# Offered Acres	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001

N1a Cover: Practice: CP _____ Acres: _____ Points: _____
 Practice: CP _____ Acres: _____ Points: _____
 Practice: CP _____ Acres: _____ Points: _____

Offered Existing Grass Cover (CP10): CP10 cover: _____ Points: _____
 (list existing grass species)

(The field must contain 80% native species, as listed in the NRCS 550 Range Planting Specification, to qualify for points. Native species, such as broomsedge, bluestem, silver bluestem, scribner panicum, and perennial threawn (list not all inclusive are not listed in the 550 spec and do not qualify for points. If the grass or legume cover is not present at the above indicated point level, the acreage must be seeded to an equal or greater wildlife beneficial mixture without cost share.)

N1b Wildlife Enhancement: **Wildlife Water Development (Guzzler) :** _____ 20 points
 (may only be selected if a dependable water source is not located on the offered acreage)
 (Select One) **Conversion of at Least 51% of a Monoculture Cover to Native Mix:** _____ 20 points
Wildlife Food Plot: _____ 5 points
No Enhancement: _____ 0 points

Offer Type A (new acres) or
 Type B (expiring acres)
3 Predominant Soil Types **Acres**

Offer Type C (new acres and expiring acres)
3 Predominant Soil Types for whole offer (used to figure soil rental rate)
Soil Types **Acres**

AND
3 Predominant Soil Types for new acres only (used to figure EBI)

N6c Offer Less Than Maximum: Actual Offer Amount: _____ 0-15 points
 (1 point for each whole dollar less than the maximum payment rate not to exceed 15 points)

NEW OFFERED ACREAGE IS FOR PROGRAM YEAR (circle one) 2004 2005
 OFFERED EXPIRED 2003 CRP ACREAGE IS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2004
 OFFERED EXPIRED 2004 CRP ACREAGE IS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2005

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ARE REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE CONTRACT PERIOD AS OUTLINED IN THE CONSERVATION PLAN.

MANAGED HAYING AND GRAZING IS AVAILABLE DURING THE CONTRACT PERIOD WITH A REDUCTION IN ANNUAL PAYMENT RATE ON ACRES HAYED OR GRAZED.

Producer Initials _____ Date _____ Employee Initials: _____ Date _____

**Estimated Required Management Activity Cost Share
General Signup Practices**

Practice	Activity	Estimated Cost Share/Acre /1
CP1	3-mowing/1-nutrient app./2	\$24
CP2	2-mowings	\$9
CP3	To be developed	To be developed
CP3A	None	\$0
CP4B	See CP1 or CP2 based on cover	\$24 or \$9
CP4D	See CP1 or CP2 based on grass cover	\$24 or \$9
CP10	Introduced Covers - 4-mowings/1-nutrient app.	\$29
	Native Grass - 3-mowings	\$13
	Native Grass with Undesirable Species	
	- 3-mowings/1-mechanical removal	\$48
	- 3-mowings/1-chemical control	\$34
	- 3-mowings/1-cut and spray	\$53
CP11	To be developed	To be developed
CP25	2-mowings	\$9

1 Based on current cost-share rates

2 Maximum nutrient application of \$10.40/acre figured. Nutrient management is done according to soil test.