

For: County Offices

CRP General Signup 26 Questions and Answers #2

Approved by: State Executive Director



1 Overview

A Purpose

This notice provides a second set of questions and answers in Exhibit 1 concerning CRP General Signup 26.

2 CRP Questions and Answers

A Exhibit 1 Questions and Answers

Exhibit 1 provides a second set of questions and answers that have originated from county office calls concerning CRP General Signup 26. This information shall be utilized in conjunction with other General Signup 26 notices and handbook 2-CRP (Rev. 4) to conduct General Signup 26.

B Handbook References

All paragraph references in Exhibit 1 are contained in 2-CRP (Rev. 4).

Disposal Date:
December 1, 2003

Distribution:
County Offices

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP 26 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q1 The software would not let an acreage of less than 1.0 acre be entered on “Screen 3” when entering practice information. How can a small acreage of less than 1.0 be entered?
- A To allow an entry of an acreage less than 1.0 acre, enter as 0.#. *Example: enter “.7” as “0.7”.*
- Q2 I was entering a type C offer that included .7 acres of new land. When entering the “new land” eligibility determination on the sub-screen of “Screen 4,” the software would not let me enter the .7 acres for new land in the acres column. A message displayed indicating I was trying to enter more acres than allowed. On the status bar, the software indicated “new land” at .6999999 acres. What is wrong?
- A This is a software problem that is being corrected and will be broadcast as soon as possible. Offers that run into this situation will have to be reloaded when the software fix is received and installed. Maintain a list of any offers that are affected for later entry.
- Q3 I entered an offer that includes practices with different lifespans. When I print the CRP-1 and CRP-2, only the CRP-2 will print. Why doesn’t the CRP-1 print?
- A For offers that include practices with different lifespans, a separate contract must be created for the acres included for each different lifespan. Example: An offer that includes 2 practices with 10-year lifespans and 1 practice with a 15-year lifespan will require 2 contracts. The AGSS offer software will not do this, so you will have to create the contracts manually. Blank CRP-1’s to print are available on the intranet at <http://165.221.16.90/dam/ffasforms/currentforms.asp> (enter CRP1 in the form search criteria and click “submit.”)
- Q4 When we transmit the offer file, a report is generated (Report ID: EPCA63-R001) that lists several error messages. What is the purpose of this report?
- A This report is for informational purposes only and is designed to help determine discrepancies between information in the offers and farm and tract information in the S/36 farm and producer records. The report is being updated to eliminate error messages when the offer software does not include an operator name and address.

The following validations are reported:

1. Administrating State & County Code of Offer is not of the FSA State and County Codes being serviced by the Service Center.
2. Farm number in the Offer is not on Legacy Farm File in an active status.
3. Tract number in the Offer is not on Legacy Tract File in an active status.
4. Physical location of land in the Offer differs from the physical location on the Legacy Tract File.
5. Operator ID in the Offer is not on the Legacy Name & Address File in an active status.
6. Operator ID in the Offer is not associated to the Offer tract as an operator in the legacy system.
7. Owner ID in the Offer is not on the Legacy Name & Address File in an active status.
8. Owner ID in the Offer is not associated to the tract that the Offer is for as an owner.

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP 26 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)

- Q5 I put in an offer and everything seemed to go well until I clicked 'Done' on the "Last Screen." I received a message AGS-26-- Syntax error followed by data that seems to be indicating a problem with the name and address. I used SCIMS to obtain the data. I cannot complete the offer, what causes this?
- A This is a software problem. The software is not recognizing or allowing certain characters to be used in the Name and Address information on Screen 1. Until a software fix can be sent out, take any special characters (such as ',#,&,/,or -) out of the name and address fields and see if that allows the offer to be completed.
- Q6 A producer had land in CRP in 1996 and 1997. It was in bluestem in 1998. In 1999, there was a drought, and from that time through 2000, 2001, and 2002, the bluestem was almost destroyed and native grasses took over. The producer said he had 50% bluestem, but it was spotty. Can this land be eligible or is it set in stone that he would have had to come in and re-establish bluestem or other grasses even though 50% of the land has grown up in native grass? (97 A)
- A If the land expired in 1997, and the grass was not "planted" in 1996-2001, it is not eligible. In this case, the land is not eligible.
- Q7 A producer wants to offer land for CRP; however, he is going to lease this land for hunting. Are there any rules for this?
- A A producer may lease for hunting but cannot manicure the land for hunting. The rules state no economic benefit can occur – which means the game cannot be sold. (238 A and 267 A)
- Q8 A producer has a 9-30-03 expiring CRP contract with a monoculture cover. He plans to destroy 51% and re-establish to native grasses. He wants to utilize the managed haying provision this fall to help remove some of the forage before re-establishing to native next spring. Is this possible?
- A Yes; however, once the conversion of the cover begins, the acreage cannot be grazed or hayed under managed provisions until 12 months after the new grass is established on the 51%.
- Q9 A producer did emergency grazing in 2002. Can they do managed grazing or haying on the same acreage in 2003?
- A Yes, we are considering 2003 as the beginning year for managed haying and grazing. What happened in the past is not looked at. The one out of every three years will start with 2003 in which emergency haying and grazing will then effect the acreage.
- Q10 How soon can grass covers under CP-10 use the managed haying/grazing option since a cover is already established?
- A Immediately after acceptance into the program and within the allowed managed hay and graze timeframe and rules.

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP 26 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)

- Q11 A CRP field is being submitted with a pond in the field. According to 2-CRP, Rev. 4, subparagraph 97 A, page 5-32: acreage permanently under water, including acreage currently enrolled in CRP, is ineligible to be offered for enrollment in CRP. That means the pond is ineligible correct?
- A That is correct.
- Q12 Is expiring CRP 2003 or 2004 land, that has trees growing and is physically incapable of being farmed, eligible to enter into signup 26?
- A Yes, because it is expiring CRP, unless the acreage is permanently under water. This type of offer, if accepted, will be required to remove undesirable trees, if accepted, under required maintenance provisions.
- Q13 A CRP bluestem field is expiring 9-30-03 and will be resubmitted. The producer wants to convert 51% to native. He wants to hay the bluestem. Can he do that?
- A The bluestem could be hayed under managed haying provisions prior to contract expiration of 9/30/03 or after 9/30/03 if it is before the producer begins preparing the land for conversion to the native. Once the conversion starts, the land could not be hayed until 12 months after the new grass is established.
- Q14 A producer has a September 30, 2003, expiring CRP contract that has been re-offered for enrollment in Signup 26. If the producer's offer is accepted, can the acreage, a CP10, be managed hayed or grazed this summer 2003 with the old contract and in 2004 with the new contract?
- A Yes, since we are changing contracts, the new contract would be viewed as the managed haying and grazing provisions starting in 2004.
- Q15 I noticed that when I enter a CP12, wildlife food plot acreage, that my N1a point score is affected. Is this correct?
- A Yes. The CP12 practice acreage receives zero points and is included in the weighted average of practice points. The five points awarded under N1b may or may not compensate for this loss of points. The situation was discussed with WDC who verified the software calculations are correct.
- Q16 I have a tract of land that crosses the county line. The field on the tract the producer is offering is split by the county line. Fifty-one percent of the acreage is physically located in my county, and I have loaded my state and county code as the physical location. However, on the three predominant soils, one of the three is in the other county. How do I get the AGSS to accommodate this situation and calculate a correct EI and soil rental rate?
- A You will need to contact the State Office to assist in this situation.

CRP GENERAL SIGNUP 26 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (continued)

Q17 If I am putting wheat to grass (CP2), do I get the N1b 20 points for conversion of a monoculture to a native species?

A No. Wheat is an annual CRP and not a monoculture grass. The N1b refers to the conversion of a monoculture grass to a native grass species. Monoculture grass refers to a one specie stand of grass such as bermuda, fescue, weeping lovegrass, and old world bluestem.

Q18 In the Technical Note Biology OK-30, it states, under CP10, that sampling of the field must be done before signing the CRP-1. Are we to go out on each CP10 to see what grasses are there before the CRP-1 is signed?

A No. At this point disregard this note in the Biology Note. Counties were instructed that producers would self certify the grasses on established stands. If they were accepted, and the diversity of grass was not there, the producer would be required to (1) terminate the contract or (2) establish the cover with the number of grasses, forbs, and legumes scored on the contract.

Q19 Can I put more than one practice on an offered field for CRP?

A Yes, a producer may have a mixture of practices on a CRP offered field. The N1a score will be based on the weighted average of the acreage and practices. Example of 100 acre field offered:

20 acres	CP1	10 pt. cover =	200 points
25 acres	CP2	50 pt. cover =	1,250
25 acres	CP3A	50 pt. cover =	1,250
25 acres	CP10	30 pt. cover =	750
5 acres	CP12	0 pt. cover =	0
			$3,450 \div 100 = 35$ point N1a cover

Q20 If CRP acreage is being reoffered, is the acreage automatically accepted in the CRP program?

A No. The reoffered acreage is automatically eligible to compete with the other eligible offers.

Q21 Exhibit 19 of 2 CRP (Rev. 4) states for the N1c wildlife priority zone to assign 30 points, the offered acreage is within an approved area, and the cover is consistent with the wildlife habitat. The statement indicates that possibly all the acreage must be in the zone or maybe only a portion of the acreage must be in the zone to receive the 30 points. At training, we were told that 51 percent of the acreage must reside in the zone to get the 30 points if the correct cover was established or present. Please clarify.

A The AGSS User Guide allows that the 51% rule shall be used in all cases to determine where land resides. Therefore, 51% of the offered acreage must reside in the wildlife priority zone and have the correct cover to receive the 30 points.

The 51% rule applies anytime you are determining the land location.