

For: County Offices

Availability of Practice CP33, Habitat for Upland Birds

Approved by: State Executive Director



1 Overview

A Background

Notice CRP-479 announced the availability of practice CP33, as of October 1, 2004, provided the state monitoring plan is in place. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has developed an Oklahoma monitoring plan for the practice. FSA will handle the monitoring protocol of the practice. Therefore, continuous signup practice CP33 is available effective October 1, 2004, for producers to make offers.

B Purpose

This notice provides policy on practice CP33:

- requirements
- required management practices and schedules
- acreage allocation requests before approving a participant

2 Practice CP33 Requirements

A Vegetative Cover

The habitat buffer must be established to a mixed stand (minimum of five species) of at least three native grasses and at least one shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for upland birds with emphasis on Northern Bobwhite quail. If shrubs are planted as part of the vegetative cover, the shrub component cannot exceed 10% coverage of the buffer. Shrub species shall be selected from the chart in NRCS Technical Note Biology OK-31 provided in OK Notice CRP-579.

Counties shall utilize the components of practice CP2 in handbook 2-CRP, OK Exhibit 15, OK Notice CRP-571, and OK Notice CRP-579 to compose the vegetative component of this practice when conversing with producers.

Disposal Date:

11-01-05

Distribution:

County Offices

10-06-04

2 Practice CP33 Requirements (continued)

B Required Management Activities

Handbook 2-CRP, paragraph 239, requires all participants with contracts effective beginning with signup 26 to perform management activities as a part of their approved conservation plan. The required management activity will be incorporated in the conservation plan in addition to normal establishment and maintenance requirements. The following provides the required management for practice CP33.

Management Activity	Timing	Frequency
Mow, burn, light disk, or harrow	February 1 – April 1	Year 7 of the contract
Option – In addition to the above, planting of shrubs on ≤ 10% of the buffer acreage	December 1 – April 1	Year 3 of the contract

C Practice Standard

The NRCS Practice Standard 645, Wildlife Upland Habitat Management, will be used to develop and reference in the conservation plan.

D 25 Percent Cropland Limitation

Practice CP33 is not available for producers located in counties where the 25% cropland limit has been reached or exceeded (2-CRP, paragraph 69).

3 Acreage Monitoring

A Monitoring Plan

Producers shall be informed that the acreage approved for CP33 will be monitored from time to time to establish the impact of the practice on upland bird populations.

A forthcoming notice will address the specifications of the monitoring plan developed by ODWC. County office personnel will conduct the monitoring aspect of the practice. The ODWC will train county personnel on monitoring procedures.

B Producer Questionnaire

Exhibit 1 provides a producer questionnaire to establish a baseline for monitoring the program. The questionnaire must be completed by the producer prior to CRP-1 approval. The questionnaire shall be retained in the contract file. Producers' answers to these questions will not affect their eligibility for this practice.

4 Acreage Allocation

A Allocation Request

The state has been allotted 9,500 acres for practice CP33. BEFORE approving contracts for CP33, a request for allocation must be made to the STO Conservation Section to ensure acres are available for the contract. The STO will respond as to whether or not allocation acreage is available to approve the contract. Allocation request approvals will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

5 Publicity

A Publicizing Practice CP33

Practice CP33 shall be publicized by all available means on a continuous basis.

**Practice CP33
Upland Bird Baseline Inventory
Producer Questionnaire**

Producer Name: _____

Farm Number: _____

Tract Number: _____

Acres for CP33: _____

Please complete the questionnaire below to assist in determining the impact of upland bird populations by placing practice CP33, Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds, on your farm. Answers do not impact eligibility for the practice.

Do you currently have any of the following upland birds on the acreage to be placed in CRP practice CP33? If so, estimate the numbers.							
Specie	Specie on the property (Y/N)	Numbers	FSA Monitoring				
			1	2	3	4	5
Quail		Coveys					
Pheasant							
Lesser Prairie Chicken							
Greater Prairie Chicken							
Turkey							
Is there native rangeland or fallow fields next to the cropland that practice CP33 is being applied?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	FSA Field Comments: _____ _____ _____				
Is this practice going to be installed on all of your cropland fields?						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Producer Signature

Date