UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
700 W Capitol Avenue, Room 3416
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

AR Notice CRP-18

For: County Offices

Continuous CRP Practice CP23, Wetland Restoration

Approved by: State Executive Director
for

Antonio M. Franco

1 Overview

A Background

In March 2003, the State Office received training on implementing the 2002 Act regarding policy and procedural changes to the Conservation Reserve Program, CRP. These changes included an Administrative decision to move practice CP23, Wetland Restoration from an eligible General signup practice to an eligible Continuous CRP practice.

National Notice CRP-454 provided revised national policy for practice CP23. Changes to the policy included a nationwide acreage limit not to exceed 500,000 acres for enrollment under the CP23 for offers accepted and contracts approved after receipt of the October 16 Notice.

B Purpose

In order to maintain the nationwide acreage limit listed above, States were allotted specific acreage limits for enrollment in practice CP23. States are required to monitor acres offered to prevent enrollment from exceeding their allocation. Exhibit 1 of Notice CRP-454 allows Arkansas to enroll up to 20,000 acres in practice CP23.

The purpose of this Notice is to provide County offices with procedures for reporting Continuous CRP practice offers for CP23 to the State Office.

Important: All offers for CP23 received after October 16, 2003 must be submitted to and approved by the State Office before the CRP-1 can be approved by the COC.

Disposal	Distribution
May 1, 2004	All County Offices

2 CP23 Policy Reminders

A Eligible Land

National Notice CRP-454 defines total cropland for wetland restoration. Included in the definition is a requirement for a minimum of 51 percent hydric soils for the offer (nonbuffer) acres. Buffers are allowed under contract in combination with acres enrolled, if required to protect and enhance the practice, and if they do not exceed a 3 to 1 ration of buffer to wetland.

A Conservation Plan of Operations for practice CP23 must state the acreage on which hydrology is being restored before the CRP-1 can be approved.

B Incentives

Practice CP23 has a one-time incentive payment equal to 25 percent of the cost of restoring the hydrology of the site according to 2-CRP, paragraph 372 and Exhibit 9.

Note: Other incentives, including SIP and PIP do **not** apply to CP23.

3 County Office Action Using Exhibit 1

A County Office Action

County Offices shall complete items in Exhibit 1 of this notice and fax the signed and dated form to the STO – Conservation Division, for any Continuous CRP offers not approved by the COC before October 16, 2003.

Include a copy of the CRP-1 for each CP23 offer to be approved when faxing Exhibit 1 to the STO. Do **NOT** approve offers until acres have been approved by the STO.

Retain a copy of the STO approved Exhibit 1in the CRP file.

ARKANSAS
REQUEST FOR APPROVING CCRP OFFERS FOR PRACTICE CP23

_____County FSA Committee

Producer	Farm Number	Tract Number	CRP Contract Length (10 yrs to 15 yrs)	Acres	Total Acres

Attached is a copy of the CRP-1 for each participant to be approved.

_____ _____
County Executive Director/COC Date

_____ _____
Approved by AR State Office Date