

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

Agricultural Resource Conservation Program 2-CRP (Revision 5)	Amendment 23
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Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



Amendment Transmittal

A Reasons for Amendment

Paragraphs 554 and 630 have been amended to provide an exception to allow the same land to be enrolled in CREP and ACEP-ALE (FRPP) at the same time.

Exhibit 11 been amended to add that increasing conservation benefits associated with organic farming operations is also considered a purpose of CP5A, CP16A, CP21, CP33, and CP42.

Page Control Chart		
TC	Text	Exhibit
	16-17, 16-18 18-3, 18-4	11, pages 25, 26 pages 29, 30 pages 57, 58 pages 61, 62 pages 73, 74 pages 81, 82 pages 165-168 pages 171, 172 pages 257, 258 pages 261, 262

553 Revising CRP-1 Because of Inheritance (Continued)

C When the Recipient Has No Prior Interest in CRP-1

When a CRP participant inherits CRP acreage, and the recipient had no share in the contract before inheritance, use the following table for guidance.

IF the recipient's revised payment total for all CRP-1's is...	THEN...
less than \$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revise the inherited CRP-1 to remove the deceased participant and add the recipient • payments will be processed in the normal manner according to 1-CRP.
greater than \$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • revise the inherited CRP-1 to remove the deceased participant, and add the recipient according to 1-CRP • revise through pay limit system using the inheritance adjustment. See 3-PL (Rev. 1).

554 Transferring Land From CRP to ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, HFRP, or EWP Floodplain Easement

A Transferring Existing CRP-1's

Land that is subject to an existing CRP-1 may be accepted into ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, HFRP, or EWP Floodplain Easement at the discretion of NRCS.

When issuing CRP annual rental payments, the amount shall be prorated from October 1 to the filing date of the easement for ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, HFRP, or EWP Floodplain Easement.

Notes: Do not cancel CRP-1 until all ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, HFRP, or EWP Floodplain Easement documents are approved and filed. See the CCMS User Guide to cancel CRP-1.

Refunds of C/S payments shall not be required when terminating CRP to enroll in ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, HFRP, or EWP Floodplain Easement. Refund of CRP-SIP and CRP-PIP is required.

Land terminated from CRP is no longer included in the 25 percent cropland limitation or 10 percent easement limitation.

Important: The same land cannot be enrolled in CRP and ACEP-ALE (FRPP) at the same time.

***--Exception:** The same land may be enrolled in CREP and ACEP-ALE (FRPP) at the same time.--*

B Transferring Portion of CRP Acreage

If only a portion of the land subject to CRP-1 is accepted into ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, HFRP, or EWP Floodplain Easement, terminate only that portion of CRP-1 that is affected by enrollment into ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, HFRP, or EWP Floodplain Easement as follows.

Step	Action
1	Revise CRP-1 into separate contracts using suffix number according to 1-CRP.
2	After revising CRP-1, terminate CRP-1 for the acres transferring to ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, HFRP, or EWP Floodplain Easement.

628 Using CRP Acres as Turn Rows**A Using CRP Acres as Turn Rows or Crossing Areas**

Limited use of field margins and areas within a field enrolled in CRP is authorized during the *--primary nesting season for birds in the local area that are economically significant, in significant decline, or conserved according to Federal or State law only if this activity is--* conducted as part of the planting, cultivating, or harvesting of a crop in an adjoining field. Use of this acreage shall be:

- limited to turning or crossing areas
- minimal, as determined by STC.

Note: Areas within a field include, but are not limited to:

- waterways
- contour grass strips
- terraces.

CRP acreage shall not be used as a lane or road under any circumstances.

629 Water as Cover**A Water as Eligible Cover**

CRP-1 may be continued on land that is under water because of natural causes or as a result of a flood control structure if the participant agrees to all of the following:

- replace the permanent vegetative cover on CRP acres if the water recedes
- not use the impounded water for irrigation water for producing agricultural commodities
- obtain a modified conservation plan from NRCS or TSP that includes the eligible uses that can be made of the acres under water.

Ponds are eligible cover on CRP if they are installed according to subparagraph 429 A.

630 Policy When Easement Placed on CRP Land**A When Easements Are Placed on CRP Land**

Land enrolled in CRP that is not encumbered by a CRP useful life easement and is subsequently encumbered by other conservation easements, except for ACEP-WRE or EWP Floodplain Easements, may continue to earn CRP payments under CRP-1 if the:

- participant continues to comply with CRP provisions
- Agency certifies, in writing, that the:
 - Agency was aware of the existence of CRP-1 at the time the participant agreed to encumber the land
 - participant will be able to comply with CRP provisions.

Notes: Land encumbered by certain conservation easements, such as those placed by FWS and FLP Debt for Nature, is ineligible for subsequent enrollment and contract extension in CRP.

See paragraph 554 for transferring land from CRP to ACEP-ALE, ACEP-WRE, HFRP, and EWP Floodplain Easements.

The same land cannot be enrolled in CRP and ACEP-ALE (FRPP) at the same time.

***--Exception:** The same land may be enrolled in CREP and ACEP-ALE (FRPP) at the same time.--*

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Noneasement (Continued)

H Practice Maintenance

The practice shall be maintained without additional C/S for the CRP-1 period. C/S shall be refunded if:

- producer destroys the cover during the CRP-1 period
- cover fails to provide enhancement of environmental benefits during the practice lifespan, unless caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

I Management Activity

This practice shall have periodic management activities performed, according to the conservation plan, during the life of CRP-1, as determined by COC. See paragraph 428.

C/S is authorized for management activities.

J Program Development

County programs shall provide for any specifications and requirements that are conditions for C/S. Technical specifications may be incorporated by reference.

K Technical Responsibility

Technical responsibility for this practice shall be assigned to NRCS or TSP.

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP5A Field Windbreak Establishment, Noneasement****A Purpose**

This practice is to establish windbreaks to improve the environmental benefits on a farm or ranch to:

- reduce cropland erosion below soil loss tolerance
- enhance the wildlife habitat on the designated area
- *--increase conservation benefits associated with organic farming operations.--*

B Program Policy

Apply this practice to eligible cropland needing protection against serious wind erosion and to enhance the wildlife habitat on the designated area.

C Size Requirement

Field windbreaks shall be installed to the design standard in FOTG, established to reduce cropland erosion regardless of the purpose of the field windbreak. The maximum width of a field windbreak shall not exceed the design standard established to reduce cropland erosion.

D Eligibility

To be eligible for C/S, this cover practice shall:

- improve environmental benefits to less than the soil loss tolerance
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring after establishment
- be maintained for the CRP-1 period
- be included in the approved conservation plan.

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP5A Field Windbreak Establishment, Noneasement (Continued)****H Environmental Concerns**

Consideration of wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity, and other environmental concerns, *--including impacts to organic farming operations, are to be evaluated in the planning and--* establishment of the protective measure.

I Practice Maintenance

The practice shall be maintained for the CRP-1 period. C/S shall be refunded if:

- producer destroys the cover during the CRP-1 period
- cover fails to improve environmental benefits during the practice lifespan unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

J Management Activity

This practice shall have periodic management activities performed, according to the conservation plan, during the life of CRP-1, as determined by COC. See paragraph 428.

C/S is authorized for management activities.

K Program Development

Follow this subparagraph to develop State/county program.

- Consider wildlife and environmental protection when designing this practice.
- State/county practice shall identify the eligible species and provide any requirements, such as spacing, minimum planting per acre, site preparation, etc., that are conditions for C/S. Technical specifications may be incorporated by reference.

L Technical Responsibility

Technical responsibility for this practice shall be assigned to NRCS or TSP.

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP8A Grass Waterways, Noneasement****A Purpose**

This practice is to:

- convey runoff from terraces, diversions, or other water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding
- improve water quality.

B Program Policy

Apply this practice to establish grass waterways on eligible cropland.

Exception: Outlet structures may be installed on ineligible land provided:

- the practice can only function by including the ineligible land that is adjacent to the location of the practice
- no eligible land is available
- the ineligible land is not enrolled
- the entire practice, eligible and ineligible land, must be included in the conservation plan.

Cost share is authorized for the outlet structure.

C Size Requirements

Grass waterways shall always be installed to meet the minimum criteria to convey water off a field. A grass waterway may be constructed to a width up to 2 times the minimum design standard if requested by the producer to meet the producer's objectives, not to exceed a width of 100 feet.

Note: A grass waterway shall not exceed a maximum width of 100 feet.

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP15B Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips) on Terraces (Continued)****G Planting Timespan**

Planting or sowing of the approved cover shall be completed within 12 months of the effective date of CRP-1. See paragraph 426 for exceptions.

H Environmental Concerns

Although the purpose of the practice is not to establish wildlife habitat, consider wildlife concerns when making determinations about seed varieties and other practice specifications.

I Practice Maintenance

The practice shall be maintained without additional C/S for the CRP-1 period. C/S shall be refunded if:

- producer destroys the cover during the CRP-1 period
- cover fails to provide enhancement of environmental benefits during the practice lifespan unless caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

J Management Activity

This practice shall have periodic management activities performed, according to the conservation plan, during the life of CRP-1, as determined by COC. See paragraph 428.

C/S is authorized for management activities.

K Program Development

County practice language shall include the practice lifespan. County program language shall also provide details of any requirements, such as seedbed preparation, seeding dates, eligible seed, etc., that are conditions for C/S for the practice. STC may establish these requirements.

L Technical Responsibility

Technical responsibility for this practice shall be assigned to NRCS or TSP.

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP16A Shelterbelt Establishment, Noneasement****A Purpose**

This practice is to establish shelterbelts on a farm or ranch to:

- enhance the wildlife habitat on the designated area
- save energy
- protect farmsteads or livestock areas
- *-- increase conservation benefits associated with organic farming operations.--*

B Program Policy

Apply this practice to eligible cropland to protect farmsteads or livestock areas against serious wind and to save energy.

C Size Requirements

Shelterbelts shall be installed to design standards in FOTG, established to protect farmsteads or livestock areas regardless of the purpose of the shelterbelt. A shelterbelt may be applied up to a maximum width of up to 2 times the design standard for protecting farmsteads or livestock areas, if requested by the producer to accomplish the purpose of protecting farmsteads or livestock areas.

D Eligibility

To be eligible for C/S, this practice shall:

- improve environmental benefits to an acceptable level
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring after establishment
- be maintained for the CRP-1 period
- be included in the approved conservation plan.

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP16A Shelterbelt Establishment, Noneasement (Continued)*****--H Environmental Concerns**

Consideration of wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity, and other environmental concerns, including impacts to organic farming operations, are to be evaluated in the planning and establishment of the protective measure.--*

I Practice Maintenance

The practice shall be maintained for the CRP-1 period. C/S shall be refunded if:

- producer destroys the cover during the CRP-1 period
- cover fails to improve environmental benefits during the practice lifespan unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

J Management Activity

This practice shall have periodic management activities performed, according to the conservation plan, during the life of CRP-1, as determined by COC. See paragraph 428.

C/S is authorized for management activities.

K Program Development

The following should be considered when developing this practice.

- Consider wildlife and environmental protection when designing this practice.
- State/county practice shall identify the eligible species and provide any requirements, such as spacing, minimum planting per acre, site preparation, etc., that are conditions for C/S. Technical specifications may be incorporated by reference.

L Technical Responsibility

Technical responsibility for this practice shall be assigned to NRCS or TSP.

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP17A Living Snow Fences, Noneasement****A Purpose**

This practice is to establish living snow fences on a farm or ranch to:

- manage snow
- provide living screen
- enhance the wildlife habitat on the designated area.

B Program Policy

Apply this practice to eligible cropland to protect against drifting snow on:

- lanes
- roads
- railroads
- public facilities.

C Size Requirements

Living snow fences shall be installed to the design standard in FOTG, established for snow management regardless of the purpose of the living snow fence. The maximum width, including the snow catch area, of a field windbreak shall not exceed the design standard for snow management.

D Eligibility

To be eligible for C/S, this practice shall:

- improve environmental benefits to below the soil loss tolerance
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring after establishment
- be maintained for the CRP-1 period
- be included in the approved conservation plan.

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP18C Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover, Noneasement (Continued)

F Environmental Concerns

Consider wildlife and other environmental concerns when establishing the protective measure.

G Practice Maintenance

The practice shall be maintained without additional C/S for the useful life of the practice.

C/S shall be refunded if either of the following applies:

- the producer destroys the practice during the CRP-1 period
- the cover fails to improve the environmental benefits during the practice lifespan, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

H Management Activity

This practice shall have periodic management activities performed, according to the conservation plan, during the life of CRP-1, as determined by COC. See paragraph 428.

C/S is authorized for management activities.

I Program Development

Follow this subparagraph to develop the county program.

- County programs shall provide the requirements that are conditions for C/S.
- STC may establish these requirements.

J Technical Responsibility

Technical responsibility for this practice shall be assigned to NRCS or TSP.

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP21 Filter Strips

A Purpose

This practice is to:

- *--remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystem of the water body
- increase conservation benefits associated with organic farming operations.--*

B Program Policy

For cropland to be eligible to be enrolled in CRP to be devoted to CP21, both of the following **must** be met:

- COC determines both of the following:
 - all cropland eligibility requirements in subparagraph 181 A are met
 - the cropland offered is immediately adjacent and parallel to 1 of the following:
 - stream having perennial flow
 - seasonal stream

Important: USGS maps shall **not** be solely used to determine seasonal streams. A seasonal stream is a stream that contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt. Seasonal streams do **not** include:

- wetlands of any type
- land devoted to CP9
- terrace channels
- grass or sod waterways
- gullies
- narrow or wide wash
- roadside ditches
- well, spring, or seep
- marsh or swamp
- center pivot irrigation corners
- irrigation canals
- tail water recovery pit/system.

Note: See paragraph 181 for more information about seasonal and perennial streams.

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP21 Filter Strips (Continued)****F Practice Requirements (Continued)**

- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- The filter strip **must** be established and maintained according to the practice standards in FOTG.
- The practice shall have periodic management activities performed, according to the conservation plan, during the life of CRP-1, as determined by COC.

G Planting Timespan

Planting or sowing of the approved cover shall be completed within 12 months of the effective date of CRP-1. See paragraph 426 for exceptions.

H Environmental Concerns

Consideration of wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity, and other environmental concerns, *--including impacts to organic farming operations are to be evaluated in the planning and--* establishment of the protective measure.

I Practice Maintenance

This practice shall be maintained without additional C/S for the life of CRP-1 according to the practice standards in FOTG.

C/S shall be refunded if either of the following applies:

- the producer destroys the practice during the contract period
- the cover fails to provide adequate protection of water quality during the practice lifespan, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP21 Filter Strips (Continued)****J Management Activity**

This practice shall have periodic management activities performed, according to the conservation plan, during the life of CRP-1, as determined by COC. See paragraph 428.

C/S is authorized for management activities.

K Technical Responsibility

NRCS shall have technical responsibility for this practice.

CP22 Riparian Buffer**A Purposes**

The purposes of this practice are to:

- remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystem of the water body
- create shade to lower water temperature to improve habitat for aquatic organisms
- provide a source of detritus and large woody debris for aquatic organisms and habitat for wildlife.

B Program Policy

For **cropland** to be eligible to be enrolled in CRP to be devoted to CP22, **all** of the following **must** be met:

- COC determines both of the following:
 - all cropland eligibility requirements in subparagraph 181 A are met

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds

A Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to provide food and cover for quail and upland birds in cropland areas. Secondary benefits may include reducing soil erosion from wind and water, increasing

--soil and water quality, protecting and enhancing the on-farm ecosystem, and increasing conservation benefits associated with organic farming operations.--

Apply this practice around the field edges or pivot corners of eligible cropland that is suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of wildlife habitat for primarily quail and upland bird species. Upland habitat buffers will be allowed to re-vegetate by natural herbaceous succession, and/or will be established to adapted species of native, warm-season grass, legumes, wildflowers, forbs, and limited shrub and tree plantings, as specified according to an approved conservation plan. The conservation plan **must** be designed according to the NRCS FOTG.

*--**Note:** The CP33 buffer is eligible to be enrolled on 1 side of the field if enrolling CP33 on cropland adjacent to an organic farming operation. The entire perimeter of the field is not required.--*

B Total Acres Enrolled

Total acres enrolled shall not exceed 500,000 acres:

- nationwide
- for the practice.

Allocations of acreage by State shall **not** be exceeded.

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (Continued)

C Monitoring Plans

A monitoring and evaluation plan **must** be developed in consultation with the State Technical Committee, including FWS, State Fish and Game agencies, and other interested quail parties. The plan **must** provide the ability to establish baseline data on quail populations and estimate increased quail population and impact on other populations as a result of this practice, including the following:

- verification that suitable Northern Bobwhite quail cover is established
- verification that appropriate cover management practices are implemented on a timely basis
- States **must** control acreage within their allocation
- implementing a Statewide sampling process that will provide reliable estimates of the number of quail per acre (or some other appropriate measure):
 - before this practice is implemented (baseline)
 - resulting from the established CRP cover.

Monitoring and evaluation plans **must** be in place before signup for this practice may begin.

States are not authorized to enroll acres in this practice unless an approved monitoring plan is in place. A monitoring protocol developed by Dr. Wes Burger of Mississippi State University in collaboration with the Southeast Quail Working Group at the request of FSA is recommended. Other technically adequate plans are acceptable.

D Eligible Land

This practice is limited to the following:

- cropland otherwise eligible according to paragraph 151
- cropland around field edges or pivot corners suitable for quail and upland birds.

***--Note:** The CP33 buffer is eligible to be enrolled on 1 side of the field if enrolling CP33 on cropland adjacent to an organic farming operation. The entire perimeter of the field is not required.--*

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (Continued)

E Size Requirements

The minimum average width of a quail and upland bird habitat buffer is 30 feet, with a maximum average width of 120 feet. Buffers will be established to the extent needed to support the targeted species, general resource needs, and participant objectives, but generally should be located around the entire perimeter of the field, or at a minimum, in areas where runoff enters or leaves the field. Within the minimum and maximum widths above, quail and upland bird habitat buffer widths should be designed to conform to minimum field application setback width for manure or chemicals established by State or local regulations. Pivot corners of any size may be enrolled as CP33.

***--Note:** The CP33 buffer is eligible to be enrolled on 1 side of the field if enrolling CP33 on cropland adjacent to an organic farming operation. The entire perimeter of the field is not required.--*

CP33 buffers should be installed on the field edges (around the perimeter) or pivot corners of a cropped field. See Figure 1. Limitations include:

- travel lanes shall not be enrolled and **must** be wide enough to allow for normal access of farm machinery to the field
- buffers shall not be used as turn rows, roads, or for storage of crops or equipment
- whole fields shall not be enrolled:
 - fields less than 5 acres should not be enrolled in this practice
 - infeasible to farm does not apply to CP33

Note: Pivot corners may be less than 5 acres.

- alfalfa fields used for pasture or for hay and marginal pastureland do not qualify for enrollment

Note: Alfalfa is considered a crop for CP33-purposes only if it is in a rotation according to paragraph 151.

- CP33 buffers shall not be 'stacked' with other CRP grass practices on the same land ownership unit.

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (Continued)

E Size Requirements (Continued)

•*--Individual center pivot 'corners' may be enrolled.--*

Examples:

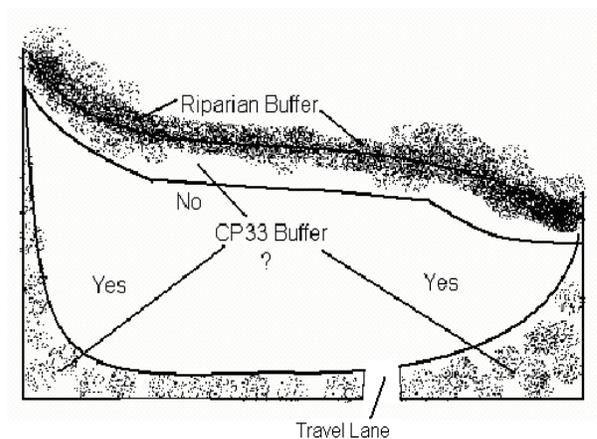


Figure 1

1. If a field already has a riparian buffer, this practice may be installed on the remaining sides of the field, but not adjacent to the established riparian buffer or other CRP practices.
2. If a field already has a native grass filter strip, this practice may be installed on the remaining sides of the field, but not adjacent to the established filter strip. If the existing practice is trees (windbreak, shelterbelt, hedgerow, or riparian buffer), this practice can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If 2 or more of the corners are connected by a *--buffer along the edge of the field (Figure 2, B) and if the buffer meets the dimensions set forth in the CP33 practice criteria, then center pivot corners may be enrolled as part of the CP33 buffer. Pivot corners with or without connecting buffers may also be enrolled as CP33 (Figure 2, A).--*

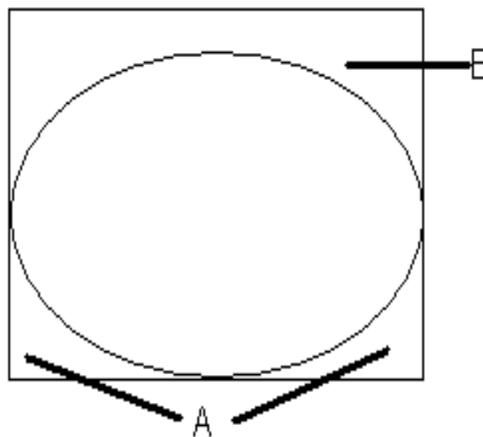


Figure 2

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (Continued)

J Practice Requirements

In addition to the practice standards in NRCS FOTG, the following requirements apply.

- The seeded acreage shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of CRP-1 unless grazing is incidental to the normal gleaning of the crop residue in the field *--according to subparagraph 720 A.--*
- Limit C/S to the minimum minerals and seed necessary to establish an adequate cover to improve wildlife habitat and environmental benefits.
- Trees and shrubs shall not exceed 10 percent coverage of the buffers. Shrubs and trees selected **must** provide optimal quail habitat and/or emergency benefits. Shrubs planted for wildlife berries/fruit and trees planted for wildlife fruit/nuts are acceptable if suited to the site.
- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be:
 - Federally, State, and locally registered
 - applied strictly according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- The habitat buffer **must** be established and maintained according to the practice standards in NRCS FOTG.
- Buffers shall not be used as turn rows, roads, or for storage of crops or equipment.
- **Seeding, if it occurs at all, should occur at much lighter rates than for CRP practices aimed at soil conservation and water quality enhancement.** CP33-enrolled acres should be lightly seeded and may even be allowed to regenerate by natural succession without additional seeding, provided that NRCS or a Technical Service Provider certifies adequate seed source for natural regeneration.
- If natural regeneration fails, the producer is responsible for seeding the buffers to meet the intent of the practice.

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (Continued)****J Practice Requirements (Continued)**

- Desirable vegetation may be propagated through light disking, and may be maintained through light disking every two to three years over the life of the contract.
- Spot application of herbicide may be needed to control undesirable plants.
- Native grass, but does not eliminate beneficial introduced legumes, although the inclusion of native forbs/legumes is encouraged. Alfalfa and clover may be part of the seeding mix.

K Planting Timespan

Planting or sowing of the approved cover shall be completed within 12 months of the effective date of CRP-1. See paragraph 426 for exceptions.

L Environmental Concerns

Consideration of wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity, and other environmental concerns, *--including impacts to organic farming operations, are to be evaluated in the planning and--* establishment of the upland habitat practice.

M Practice Maintenance

This practice shall be maintained without additional C/S for the life of CRP-1 according to the practice standards in NRCS FOTG.

C/S shall be refunded if either of the following applies:

- the producer destroys the practice during the contract period
- the cover fails to provide adequate upland quail and upland bird habitat and environmental benefits during the practice lifespan, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

National CRP Practices (Continued)

CP42 Pollinator Habitat

A Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to establish habitat to support a diversity of pollinator species.

--Secondary benefits may include increasing conservation benefits associated with organic farming operations.--

B Program Policy

Apply this practice to eligible cropland where pollinator habitat can be established and maintained, as determined by NRCS technical specifications, in a cost-effective manner through enrollment in CRP.

Note: CP42 may be enrolled as CRP grassland along with CP87 or CP88.

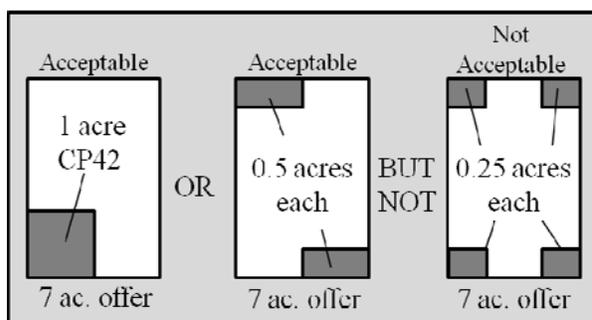
The conservation plan developed for acreage under CRP-1 devoted to CP42 **must** address pollinator habitat needs.

C Size Requirements

- Producers may use CP42 on all offered acreage.
- If not planted in whole fields, block plantings of CP42 are preferred over strips. If planted in strips, each strip must be a minimum of 20 feet wide.
- Habitat areas of CP42 must be at least 0.5 acres each.

Example 1: Participant A offers 40 acres, with all acreage in CP42. This offer is eligible.

Example 2: Participant B offers 7 acres, including 1 acre of CP42. Individual habitat areas of CP42 must be no smaller than 0.5 acres.



National CRP Practices (Continued)

***--CP42 Pollinator Habitat (Continued)**

D Eligibility

To be eligible for C/S, this practice shall:

- create pollinator habitat to an acceptable level
- prevent degradation of pollinator habitat from recurring after establishment
- be maintained for the CRP-1 period
- be included in the approved conservation plan
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring after establishment
- improve environmental benefits to less than the soil loss tolerance.--*

National CRP Practices (Continued)

*--CP42 Pollinator Habitat (Continued)

F Practice Requirements (Continued)

- Grasses seeded in this practice must be native. Though wildflower, legume, and/or shrub species planted are encouraged to be native, beneficial introduced flowering plants (e.g., alfalfa and clover) may be part of the seeding mix. Each introduced species is encouraged to make up no more than 10 percent of the pure live seed mixture with a total of introduced flowering plants encouraged to not exceed 20 percent of the pure live seed mixture.
- To provide quality nesting habitat for native bees, nonsod forming bunch grasses are preferred over sod-forming grasses, if including grass in the seeding mix.
- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be:
 - Federally, State, and locally registered
 - applied strictly according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
- The practice **must** be established and maintained according to the practice standards in NRCS FOTG.
- If included in the approved conservation plan and where allowed by NRCS FOTG, brush piles, downed tree structures, edge feathering, or similar methods may be used to create dead woody material for pollinator nesting habitat. No trees may be enrolled in CP42 Pollinator Habitat. Edge feathering may be included in a conservation plan where a forested edge or treeline owned by the participant abuts CP42 and edge feathering material can be dropped on to CP42. Woody habitat created on CP42 shall not exceed 1,500 square feet for every 1 acre of CP42, up to 1 acre in total woody habitat.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- Spot application of herbicide may be needed to control undesirable plants.
- The seeded area shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of CRP-1.
- Where practicable, as determined by NRCS or TSP, State-certified seed shall be used for CP42.
- The practice shall have periodic management activities performed, according to the conservation plan, during the life of CRP-1, as determined by COC.--*

National CRP Practices (Continued)**CP42 Pollinator Habitat (Continued)****G Practice Length**

The practice length for CP42 is:

- 10 years for general or continuous enrollment
- 15 years for CRP grasslands only.

H Planting Timespan

Planting or sowing of the approved cover shall be completed within 12 months of the effective date of CRP-1. See paragraph 426 for exceptions.

I Environmental Concerns

Consider preserving and improving pollinator and wildlife habitat, and other environmental ~~concerns~~, including impacts to organic farming operations, when making determinations ~~about types of plantings, spacing, and other practice specifications.~~

J Practice Maintenance

The practice shall be maintained without additional C/S for the CRP-1 period. C/S shall be refunded if:

- producer destroys the cover during the CRP-1 period
- cover fails to provide adequate pollinator habitat and environmental benefits during the practice lifespan, unless caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

K Management Activity

This practice shall have periodic management activities performed, according to the conservation plan, during the life of CRP-1, as determined by COC. The practice shall be disturbed on a rotational basis by light disking, prescribed burning, selective herbicide application, or other prescribed methods as approved by STC. Management methods shall enhance or maintain flowering plant diversity, set back vegetative succession and woody encroachment, and expose soil for pollinator nesting sites. Mowing is generally an inadequate means of disturbance for pollinator habitat, except as needed to remove annual weeds during establishment, or to facilitate prescribed burning or light disking. See paragraph 428.

C/S is authorized for management activities.

L Technical Responsibility

Technical responsibility for this practice shall be assigned to NRCS or TSP.