

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency  
Washington, DC 20250

**Agricultural Resource  
Conservation Program  
2-CRP (Revision 5)**

**Amendment 4**

**Approved by:** Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**Amendment Transmittal**

**A Reason for Amendment**

Exhibit 11 has been amended to remove the reference to CP40 and correct that C/S is authorized as a component of CP4D development of a permanent water source for wildlife.

Exhibit 26 has been amended to clarify N1a subfactor points for the following practices:

- CP1, existing stands of 1 to 3 species receive 10 points
- CP2, existing stands, minimum 1 to 3 species receive 20 points
- CP3, existing stands, according to State-developed standards, receive 10 points.

Exhibit 26 has been amended to correct the eligible practices in the N4 table for signup 41.

| <b>Page Control Chart</b> |             |  |
|---------------------------|-------------|--|
| <b>TC</b>                 | <b>Text</b> | <b>Exhibit</b>                                     |
|                           |             | 11, pages 21, 22<br>26, pages 5, 6<br>pages 17, 18 |



**National CRP Practices (Continued)**

**CP4B Permanent Wildlife Habitat (Corridors), Noneasement (Continued)**

**G Environmental Concerns**

Consider preserving and improving the environment and wildlife concerns when making determinations about types of plantings, spacing, and other practice specifications.

**H Practice Maintenance**

This 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)

## CP4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Noneasement

**A Purpose**

This practice is to establish new or maintain existing a permanent wildlife habitat cover to enhance environmental benefits for the wildlife habitat of the designated or surrounding areas.

**B Program Policy**

Apply this practice to eligible cropland that is suitably located and adapted to the establishment of new or maintaining existing permanent wildlife habitat.

A wildlife conservation plan **must** be developed for acreage under CRP-1 devoted to CP4D.

**C Eligibility**

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

- improve environmental benefits to less than the soil loss tolerance
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring
- be maintained for the CRP-1 period
- be included in the approved conservation plan
- include woody vegetation as determined appropriate by STC in consultation with the State Technical Committee.

**\*--Note:** C/S is authorized as a component of CP4D development of a permanent water source for wildlife.--\*

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**2 National Ranking Factor N1 - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (Continued)**

**B Subfactor N1a - Cover (Continued)**

CP/Cover Matrix

Evaluate this subfactor based on the covers expected to become established. FSA or TSP shall only allow those covers that are suitable for the site designated for the offer.

| <b>Practice 1/</b>   | <b>Assigned Point Score</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>CP1 Permanent introduced grasses and legumes</b>  |                             |
| *--Existing stand of 1 to 3 species or planting new stand of 2 to 3 species of--*<br>an introduced grass species   | 10                          |
| Existing stand or planting mixture (minimum of 4 species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area  | 40                          |
| <b>CP2 Permanent native grasses and legumes</b>  |                             |
| *--Existing stand (minimum 1 to 3 species) or planting new mixed stand--*<br>(minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species and at least 1 forb, or legume species beneficial to wildlife.  | 20                          |
| Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.   | 50                          |
| <b>CP3 Tree planting (general) 2/</b>  |                             |
| *--Southern Pines (Softwoods) - Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 550 trees per acre).   | 10                          |
| Northern Conifers (Softwoods) - Solid stand of conifers/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 850 trees per acre).  |                             |
| Western Pines (Softwoods) - Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing according to State-developed standards or planted at more than 650 trees--* per acre).  |                             |
| Southern Pines (Softwoods) - Pines/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 500 to 550 per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.                         | 50                          |
| Northern Conifers (Softwoods) - Conifers/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 750 to 850 trees per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.             |                             |
| Western Pines (Softwoods) - Western Pines (softwoods) - Pines/softwoods existing planted at a rate of 550 to 650 per acre depending upon the site index (State-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover. |                             |

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**2 National Ranking Factor N1 - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (Continued)**

**B Subfactor N1a - Cover (Continued)**

| <b>Practice 1/</b>  | <b>Assigned Point Score</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <p>Opening for Southern and Western Pines are not to be less than a minimum of 2 acres or a maximum of 5 acres in size for fields of 20 acres and larger. For smaller fields will be based upon percentage. Opening in Northern conifers will be one-half to 2 acres in size. Opening may include buffers on the interior of the field. Field edges (borders) may be used if they are irregular in shape and average 30 feet in width.</p> <p>Natural regeneration of native herbaceous or shrubby vegetation with required maintenance may be permitted within open areas if it is consistent with NRCS technical standards and concurred with by State FWS or U.S. FWS Officials.</p> <p>Open areas of native grasses and/or shrub planting best suited for wildlife in the area shall be considered CP3 for EBI scoring and contract purposes.</p> | <p>50</p>                   |

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**4 National Ranking Factor N3 - On-Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion (Continued)**

**B EI Chart**

EI (higher of wind or water EI) (0 to 100 points maximum)

| <b>EI - Sheet and Rill or Wind</b> | <b>Points</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Less than 4                        | <b>0</b>      |
| 4                                  | 1             |
| 5                                  | 2             |
| 6                                  | 4             |
| 7                                  | 7             |
| 8                                  | 11            |
| 9                                  | 16            |
| 10                                 | 22            |
| 11                                 | 29            |
| 12                                 | 37            |
| 13                                 | 46            |
| 14                                 | 56            |
| 15                                 | 67            |
| 16                                 | 79            |
| 17                                 | 92            |
| 18                                 | 97            |
| 19                                 | 98            |
| 20                                 | 99            |
| 21 +                               | 100           |

**EBI and National Ranking Factors (Continued)**

**5 National Ranking Factor N4 - Enduring Benefits**

**A Summary**

Enduring Benefits Beyond CRP-1 Period. (0 to 50 points maximum)

The N4 evaluates the likelihood that the practice established will persist and be maintained beyond the life span of CRP-1 and will provide benefits beyond the contract period

Land established with certain existing vegetation types, such as hardwood trees, softwood trees, or shrubs, is less likely to be returned to crop production after contract expiration. In addition, land re-established to a wetland ecosystem, or rare or declining habitat, is also less likely to return to crop production at the end of the contract period.

The N4 score is the sum of the weighted average scores using the N4 table provided below. To determine the N4 value, calculate the weighted average value for **all practices** using the N4 table. Round the result to the nearest whole number using the normal rules of rounding.

Use the following table to award N4 points. Score zero points if none of the following practices are offered.

**Note:** The practice selected must be appropriate for the site. Trees should not be selected on sites where trees are not a part of the ecosystem. For example: A tree stand should not be planted on a site where the climax vegetation for the site is range. The vegetation should be consistent with the ecosystem of the site.

**Important:** Food plots (CP12) are awarded 0 points.

| <b>N4 Table - Signup 41</b>  | <b>Points</b> |
|--|---------------|
| New hardwood tree (CP3A), longleaf pines, or Atlantic White Cedar plantings and CP25 where the plant community is existing or will be established to primarily trees | 50            |
| Existing or enhanced stand of hardwood Trees, Longleaf pine, and/or Atlantic White Cedar (CP3A)  | 40            |
| New pine/softwood tree (CP3)   | 30            |
| CP25, where the plant community is existing or will be established to a primarily grass and/or shrub complex or CP42   | 25            |
| Existing pine/softwood tree (original contract signed as CP3) * * *  | 20            |
| *--All other conservation practices not listed (CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D)--*   | 0             |