

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Q&A's for Signup 43

Q1: CP11's were only permitted to have a 10-year practice length. What is the practice length for CP11's that are expiring and will be re-offered as a 3A?

A1: The practice length is 10-15 years. See 2-CRP, subparagraph 66B.

Q2: Does the CRP cover have to be a monoculture to receive N1b points for enhancements?

A2: No, the cover must be primarily a monoculture. See Exhibit 26

Q3: An expiring CRP contract includes land that was waterbank land. Can the expiring contract be re-offered? If yes, what practice is it enrolled under and what is the soil rental rate?

A3: The expiring contract is eligible to be re-offered under continuous signup as practice CP30, Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer. The marginal pastureland rental rate should be used. Incentives do not apply.

Q4: Can a State entity enroll in CRP and receive payments?

A4: The State entity may enroll in the CRP, **no** payments may be received.

Q5: States are reaching their allocation limit for certain continuous signup practices, such as CP23. Should States continue to take offers for CP23?

A5: Yes, continue to take offers for CP23. Notice CRP-691 provided new allocations and an opportunity to submit requests for additional acres.

Q6: What soil should be used to calculate the maximum payment rate when the 3rd and 4th soil have the same number of acres?

A6: Use the soil with the higher rental rate.

Q7: How do I prepare GIS files for use with the COLS application?

A7: A: Link is provided for the updated TERRA documentation for thin client users.

<https://fsa.sc.egov.usda.gov/mgr/GIS/training/User%20Guides/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fmgr%2fGIS%2ftraining%2fUser%20Guides%2fThin%20Client%2fTERRA&FolderCTID=&View=%7bADD4B97D%2d819B%2d43A1%2d83C8%2d525207E9CE9C%7d>

The FAQs and User Guide cover the issue of copying files from thin client to the workstation. Refer to FAQ 10 video to see exactly how to move the files for thin client.

- Q8:** How do we enter multiple offers for a tract?
- A8:** Only one offer per tract can be submitted. If an offer has been submitted but changes are needed before signup ends, users should search for the offer, and then select “Edit”. “Edit” will unsubmit the offer. Users can then edit the information or submit a different offer for the tract. Each scenario must be uniquely named. Even offers scenario names which have been deleted cannot be reused.
- Q9:** All acres are rounded to tenths in TERRA. What should we do if this causes the acreage to exceed the actual eligible acreage for the offer?
- A9:** In COLS edit the offer and reduce the largest acreage by the necessary amount. For example: actual acreage is 6.3 acres, TERRA sends first soil of 3.1 (3.11) and second soil of 3.3 (3.27) for a total of 6.4. In COLS reduce the second soil to 3.2.
- Q10:** What information can be released concerning the interest in signup 43?
- A10:** No acreage numbers may be released. However, States may provide that CRP sign up has thus far gone better than expected with no major issues reported. The volume of producers interested in enrolling in CRP appears strong, but much depends upon how many producers choose to enroll the next two weeks.
- Q11:** Will existing monoculture stands of introduced or native grasses be eligible to be offered under the EBI.
- A11:** Yes, the EBI Fact Sheet and Exhibit 26 are being clarified to provide that existing monoculture stands are eligible. Monoculture stands of CP1 – Introduced grasses will receive 10 points, and monoculture stands of native grasses will receive 20 points.
- Q12:** Will existing stands of trees that do not meet the minimum planting standard be eligible to be offered.
- A12:** Yes, we are clarifying the EBI Fact Sheet and Exhibit 26 to include that existing stands are eligible if the existing stand meets the appropriate site index, (State developed standards). Existing solid stands that meet the appropriate site index will receive 10 points, existing stands with openings will receive 50 points.
- Q13:** If an expiring CRP contract has a native grass stand that has trees that have volunteered in the stand, what practice should be used to re-enroll the expiring land? Is this eligible as CP2?
- A13:** This is a local (COC) determination concerning the compliance of the current contract. Does the land meet the CP2 standard? Does the land meet the standard of CP4D. States need to provide guidance to their county offices concerning these types of situations and what is appropriate for your area.

Example:

Field 1 – 100 acres Native Grass 50 point mix	Field 2 – 50 acres Native Grass – 20 point mix
	Field 3 – 40 acres Introduced grass – 40 point mix
	Field 4 – 10 acres Introduced grass – Monoculture Crested wheat grass – 10 point mix

Q14: What is the minimum amount of enhancement that must be done in order to receive the 20 points under N1b for enhancement?

A14: The producer would have to enhance at least 51 percent, or 5.1 acres of the 10 acre monoculture stand of crested wheat grass to receive the 20 points.

Q15: Are only the monoculture stands eligible or would a CP2, 20 point cover also be eligible for N1b enhancement points?

A15: If the CP2, 20 point stand is primarily a monoculture it is eligible to receive 20 points under N1b for the enhancement.

Q16: When issuing cost share payments, which year is being read for AGI flags?

A16: The AGI flags are reading the year of CRP-1 approval. If the CRP-1 was approved on September 1, 2009, cost share payments issued now will read the 2009 AGI flags.

- Q17: In the General Signup 43 Summary training slides, slides 10 and 12 discuss a change that has been made to allow COLS and TERRA to round to tenths. I've heard that with MIDAS new CRP contracts will be in hundredths because Farm Records acreage will be reported in hundredths. How will this work for signup 43?
- A17: The determination has been made that CRP will continue to measure and record acreage in tenths.
- Q18: Does the TERRA scenario need to go back to the F: Drive for COLS to pick it up?
- A18: Yes. COLS can **not** see drives that are not mapped to the user's workstation. Thin client TERRA output has always needed to be copied to the county office workstation or server in order for the user to browse them into COLS. See the User Guide and the thin client FAQ document.
- Q19: How does land planted to trees in EQIP, WHIP, Conservation Stewardship Program, or the Conservation Security Program maintain its cropland status according to 3-CM, paragraph 26?
- A19: The land loses its cropland status when the trees are planted.
- Q20: 2-CRP, Exhibit 26, page 5, practice CP3 to receive 50 points for subfactor N1a states "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." Does this mean for an existing stand, or a planted stand.
- A20: A newly planted stand shall be planted at a rate of 550 to 650 trees per acre to receive the 50 points
- Q21: Can TERRA be opened before signup to allow county offices to create scenarios to provide to producers in preparation for signup?
- A21: No. Enabling TERRA before signup begins allows county offices to conduct a signup before signup 43 begins. While we understand the advantages to enabling TERRA early, conducting signup activities before signup begins is not authorized.
- Q22: Can TERRA be enabled to provide County Offices access to signup 44 to complete an Erodibility Index evaluation in order to quickly determine eligibility for the producer?
- A22: No. Enabling TERRA before signup begins allows county offices to conduct a signup before signup 44 begins and possibly before signup 43 begins. While we understand the advantages to enabling TERRA early, conducting signup activities before signup begins is not authorized.
- Q23: Can NRCS provide interim conservation plans for pending contracts which may not have a conservation plan completed by September 30?

- A23: No. Interim conservation plans are not authorized.
- Q24: Can NRCS provide interim conservation plans for pending TIP contracts which may not have a conservation plan completed by September 30?
- A24: No. Interim conservation plans are not authorized.
- Q25: Can County Offices update only the general signup soils data table and complete the remaining data entry later?
- A25: No. All soils data tables must be updated in their entirety.
- Q26: What was the intent of mentioning the Job Sheets in notice CRP-706?
- A26: Job Sheets for a practice are intended to help provide information to the applicant of what may be required for a specific practice. NRCS should have this information available from previous signups and should be used to help answer some producers questions.
- Q27: If offered acreage has an existing cover from previous CRP participation and was not immediately re-enrolled, must it be enhanced to current cover standards to be accepted?
- A27: Yes. Acreage that is not immediately re-enrolled is considered a new offer and must meet the current cover requirements to be accepted. For example, Producer A's CRP contract expired September 30, 2010, and the offer to re-enroll the acreage was not accepted during signup 39. The producer maintained the cover and is offering the acreage during signup 43. The offer is considered a new offer and must meet current cover requirements to be accepted.
- Q28: A producer was prevented from planting 200 acres of wheat but only has 150 base acres of wheat. The producer also has 50 base acres of grain sorghum. Will the 200 acres of prevented planting of wheat be eligible for CRP purposes?
- A28: The producers cropping history of 150 acres for wheat and 50 acres for grain sorghum would NOT be altered based on a claim of 200 acres of prevented planting for wheat for crop insurance purposes.