

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

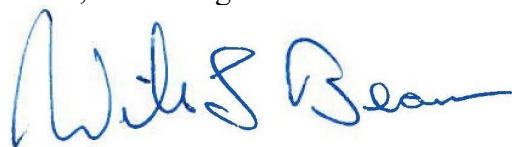
Farm Service Agency
Washington, DC 20250

Notice ARCPLC-83

For: State and County Offices

**Issuing Letters to Producers Eligible for
Grassland Conservation Initiative (GSI) – Round 3**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Notice ARCPLC-73 provided information to County Offices about issuing a letter to producers on farms where the entire acreage was devoted to grass/idle/fallow (GIF) from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2017.

Notice CM-817 provided instructions for updating the “ARCPLC G/I/F Eligibility” indicator for farms where history records were researched and determined the entire farm was GIF from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2017.

B Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices about a third mailing to producers on farms where the entire farm is GIF and those farms and producers were not notified in any previous mailing of letters.

C Contact

If there are questions about this notice:

- County Offices will contact the State Office
- State Offices will contact Brent Orr by e-mail at **brent.orr@usda.gov**.

Disposal Date	Distribution
August 1, 2020	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

2 Producer Notification

A Producers Receiving Notification

The following methodology was used to determine which producers were to receive a letter:

- 2019 G/I/F farms were identified
- farms were removed from that list:
 - if previously notified on/for that farm
 - whose G/I/F indicator was updated after November 17, 2019.

B Notification Letter

The letter in Exhibit 1 will be mailed to producers on farms identified above on or about February 6, 2020. There are 5,375 letters being mailed.

A list of the recipients along with the location of the file will be shared with State Office specialists by email.

3 Action

A State Office Action

The SED and State Office employees will ensure that County Offices are informed of the content of this notice.

B County Office Action

County Office employees will assist producers as they inquire about the status of their farm relative to the G/I/F provisions and the attached letter.

All Cropland Reported Letter

The following letter will be mailed to farms identified in subparagraph 2 A.



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Production
and Conservation

Farm Service
Agency

Dear [First name, Business/Last Name],

On December 20, 2018, the President signed the 2018 Farm Bill, which reauthorized the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program administered by FSA and established the Grasslands Conservation Initiative (GCI) under the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) administered by NRCS.

As of November 17, 2019, you have been identified as the operator or owner of FSN Farm Number in County, State. FSA records indicate the entire farm was planted to grass, idle, or fallow from January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2017. Your base acres and payment yields will be maintained; however, ARCPLC payments will not be made with respect to those base acres for 2020 through 2023. Although your farm has been identified as not eligible to receive ARCPLC payments, you may be eligible for the GCI. GCI assists producers in protecting grazing uses, conserving and improving soil, water, and wildlife resources on eligible land.

Under the CSP GCI, you have a 1-time opportunity to enroll any portion of your eligible land in a GCI contract. You must agree to maintain and manage enrolled grasslands for 5 years in a grass cover, or with conservation practices installed and maintained to address grassland related resource concerns. You will receive annual payments of \$18 per acre for base acres enrolled in a GCI contract. Payments will not be subject to CSP payment limitations or CSP general payment limitations. You can terminate your GCI contract at any time and without penalties.

If you are interested in participating in the GCI in FY 2020, you must notify the local NRCS office by March 6, 2020. If you choose not to enroll in the GCI at this time, you may have the opportunity to enroll in future years.

Please contact NRCS if you are interested in the GCI or FSA if you have questions about your planting history at Office Phone

Sincerely,

/s/ County Executive Director

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