

For: IA, MN, MT, NE, ND, and SD State and County Offices

Determining County Cropland Limitation for Farmable Wetlands Pilot (FWP) Program

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A

Background

2-CRP, Part 12, provides policy for the 25 percent cropland limitation. FWP is subject to the 25 percent cropland limitation. In preparation of signup for FWP, States must determine the county cropland limitation. For FWP, the total county cropland used to determine the 25 percent cropland limitation will be determined by the cropland total maintained in the System/36 Farm Summary File.

County Offices must update the total county cropland acreage in the CRP software using the System/36 Farm Summary File according to this notice. The CRP software will compare the acreage enrolled in CRP and WRP, excluding CRP acreage that expired on September 30, 2000, and compare that to the cropland acreage administratively located in the county.

Note: Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota are eligible to participate in FWP.

B

Purpose

This notice provides procedure for:

- determining the total county cropland limitation for FWP
- requesting waivers of the 25 percent cropland limitation.

<p>Disposal Date</p> <p>January 1, 2003</p>	<p>Distribution</p> <p>State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices</p>
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Notice CRP-385

2 County Cropland Limitation

A

**Determining
Total County
Cropland for
FWP**

County Offices shall use the following table to determine and transmit to the State Office the total county cropland and other data to be used for FWP.

Step	Action
1	<p>Immediately upon receipt of this notice, County Offices shall request the number of cropland acres enrolled in WRP from NRCS.</p> <p>Note: Do not obtain Emergency Wetland Reserve Program data.</p>
2	<p>After all WRP data is obtained, but no later than, May 23, 2001, County Offices shall access Conservation Main Menu EEA000 according to 1-CRP, paragraph 266.</p>
3	<p>On Menu EEA000, ENTER "3", "CRP Contract File Menu", and PRESS "Enter". CRP Contract File Menu EPCA00 will be displayed.</p>
4	<p>On Menu EPCA00, ENTER "10", "Available No./Cropland/Easement", and PRESS "Enter". Available No./Cropland/Easement Screen EPCC0501 will be displayed.</p>
5	<p>On Screen EPCC0501, ENTER "1", "Available Contract and Cropland Data", and PRESS "Enter". Contract No./Cropland Screen EPCC1001 will be displayed.</p>
6	<p>On Screen EPCC1001:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enter the WRP cropland data received from NRCS (step 1) in the "Total WRP Accepted Acres" field <p>Note: Land other than cropland may be enrolled in WRP. County Offices shall only enter the cropland enrolled in WRP in the "Total WRP Accepted Acres" field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • place cursor in the "Enter percentage if waiver is authorized" field and remove the amount displayed by pressing "Field Exit" key <p>Notes: County Offices approved for waivers of the 25 percent cropland limitation for previous CRP signups shall not enter the previous waiver amount in this field.</p> <p>If the FSA National Office approves a waiver of the 25 percent cropland limitation for FWP, County Offices must enter the percent waived in the "Enter percentage if waiver is authorized" field. Only FSA National Office approved waivers may be entered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enter the total county cropland which shall be the same as the farm summary cropland. <p>Note: The farm summary cropland total is displayed on the same screen.</p> <p>Important: After the new total county cropland from the Farm Summary File has been entered, County Offices shall not change the cropland total on Screen EPCC1001 unless authorized by the FSA National Office.</p>

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2 County Cropland Limitation (Continued)

**A
Determining
Total County
Cropland for
FWP
(Continued)**

Step	Action
7	<p>After entering the current WRP cropland data and county cropland total, PRESS “Enter” twice. Data entered will be updated and Available No./Cropland/Easement Screen EPCC0501 will be displayed.</p> <p>Important: If "Enter" is not pressed after the new data is entered, the new data will not be updated in the CRP software.</p>
8	<p>On Screen EPCC0501, ENTER “2”, “Easement Data”, and PRESS “Enter”. Easement Data Screen EPCC1002 will be displayed.</p>
9	<p>On Screen EPCC1002, verify that the “WRP Accepted Acres” and “Total County Cropland” fields are updated with the data entered on Screen EPCC1001. After verifying that the data is correct, PRESS “Enter”. Data entered will be updated and Available No./Cropland/Easement Screen EPCC0501 will be displayed.</p> <p>Important: If "Enter" is not pressed after the new data is entered, the new data will not be updated in the CRP software.</p>
10	<p>On Screen EPCC0501, ENTER “7”, “Available Cropland Minus September 30 Expirations”, and PRESS “Enter”. Screen EPCC0505, “CRP-Select Expiration Year”, will be displayed. ENTER “2000” and PRESS “Enter”. Warning message will be displayed. PRESS “Enter”. Cropland Minus Expiring Screen EPCC1007 will be displayed.</p>
11	<p>On Screen EPCC1007, verify the “WRP Accepted Acres” and “Total County Cropland” fields are updated with the data entered on Screen EPCC1001. After verifying that the data is correct, PRESS “Enter”. Available No./Cropland/Easement Screen EPCC0501 will be displayed.</p>
12	<p>On Screen EPCC0501, ENTER “5”, “Summary of County Cropland, CRP, Easement & WRP Data Report”, and PRESS “Enter”. Screen EPCC0505, “CRP-Select Expiration Year”, will be displayed. Enter “2000” and PRESS “Enter”. Warning message will be displayed. PRESS “Enter”. Screen FAX46501 will be displayed to change printer ID. PRESS “Enter” to print Report EPCC10-R003 will be displayed . Screen EPCC0501 will be displayed.</p>

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2 County Cropland Limitation (Continued)

A
Determining
Total County
Cropland for
FWP
(Continued)

Step	Action
13	Review Report EPCC10-R003 to ensure that the data entered on Screen EPCC1001 is listed on the report. Screen EPCC0501 will be redisplayed. County Offices shall file the printed report under file code CRP 2, Reports and Statistics, according to 25-AS, Exhibit 32.
14	On Screen EPCC0501, ENTER "6", "Prepare Cropland/Easement File for Transmission" and PRESS "Enter". Screen EPCC0505, "CRP-Select Expiration Year", will be displayed. Enter "2000" and PRESS "Enter". Warning message will be displayed. PRESS "Enter". Screen FAX46501 will be displayed to change printer ID. PRESS "Enter" to print Report EPCC10-R004. Screen EPCC0501 will be displayed.
15	Review Report EPCC10-R004 to ensure that the data entered on Screen EPCC1001 is listed on the report. Screen EPCC0501 will be redisplayed. County Offices shall file the printed report under file code CRP 2, Reports and Statistics, according to 25-AS, Exhibit 32.
16	By COB, May 23, 2001, County Offices shall transmit Report EPCC10-R004 to the State Office according to 1-CRP, paragraphs 536 and 537. Note: State Offices are not required to send reports to the National Office. Records will be automatically transmitted in the monthly upload.

The total county cropland amount entered on Screen EPCC1001 will be used to determine acceptability of offers submitted for FWP. County Offices shall **not** change, without FSA National Office authorization, the total county cropland total entered on Screen EPCC1001 after Report EPCC10-R004 has been transmitted.

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2 County Cropland Limitation (Continued)

B
Requesting
Waivers for FWP

County Offices that meet the requirements for requesting waivers of the 25 percent cropland limitation provided in 2-CRP, Part 12, must request a waiver from the FSA National Office through STC, if COC determines it wants acreage physically located within the county to be eligible to be offered for FWP. **Requests must be submitted to the FSA National Office no later than COB May 30, 2001.**

Note: Land physically located in a county that has reached or exceeded the 25 percent cropland limitation is **not** eligible to be enrolled in FWP unless a waiver of the cropland limitation is approved by **the FSA National Office.**

COC's may submit requests for waivers of the 25 percent cropland limitation to STC's according to 2-CRP, paragraph 255.

STC's shall review all requests for waivers of the 25 percent cropland limitation and process requests according to the following table.

IF...	THEN...
all requirements of 2-CRP, paragraph 255, are met, and STC recommends approval	send request to the CRP Program Manager, by COB May 30, 2001 , with recommendation and all supporting documentation. Note: Failure to submit complete requests with STC, or designee, recommendation will delay FSA National Office response.
all requirements of 2-CRP, paragraph 255 are not met, or STC does not recommend approval	STC must deny the waiver request.

Important: STC's have no authority to approve a waiver of the 25 percent cropland limitation.

2 County Cropland Limitation (Continued)

C

Counties Exceeding Maximum Acreage

When the current accepted acreage has reached or exceeds the 25 percent limitation and a waiver has not been approved before the start of FWP signup, County Offices shall:

- announce the FWP signup
- ensure that offers for acreage physically located in the county are immediately denied, except for continuous signup practices, because of the 25 percent limitation
- notify all producers that only offers for continuous signup practices, including continuous CREP, and land physically located in the county that has not reached or exceeded the 25 percent limitation will be processed.

Note: COC shall immediately reject all offers for acreage physically located in the county, except continuous signup practices, and inform the producer using CRP-26.

State and County Offices must monitor the 25 percent cropland limitation throughout FWP signup. If at any time, the accepted acreage reaches or exceeds the 25 percent limitation, the County Office must suspend contract approval and either:

- request a waiver according to subparagraph 2 B
 - not request a waiver and notify all producers that only offers for continuous signup practices, including continuous CREP, and land physically located in a county that has not reached or exceeded the 25 percent limitation will be processed.
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3 Action

**A
County Office
Action**

County Offices shall take action according to the following table.

Step	Action
1	Obtain current WRP cropland acreage data from NRCS, according to this notice.
2	Record the WRP cropland acreage data in the system according to 1-CRP and paragraph 2.
3	Ensure that all applicable files are updated with the correct total county cropland according to paragraph 2.
4	Ensure that the correct county cropland total is transmitted to the State Office by COB May 23, 2001.
5	Determine if a waiver of the 25 percent cropland limitation will be required according to 2-CRP, Part 12 and paragraph 2.
6	Request waivers of the 25 percent cropland limitation by COB May 30, 2001 , from the FSA National Office through STC, according to paragraph 2.

**B
State Office
Action**

State Offices shall take action according to the following table.

Step	Action
1	Ensure that County Offices obtain and enter WRP cropland acreage into the automated CRP contract system.
2	Submit requests for waiver of the 25 percent cropland limitation for the FWP signup to the FSA National Office, by COB May 30, 2001 , according to paragraph 2.