

For: State and County Offices

2002 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Forum

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

Bradley Karmen

1 Overview

A

Background

There are 21 CREP agreements implemented and approximately 10 additional CREP agreements under development.

In June 2001, Maryland hosted a national forum to review implementing CREP and to provide an opportunity to learn from the success of other States. This meeting was attended by FSA, NRCS, State, and local officials from existing CREP States and potential CREP States.

This year, Illinois is hosting the third annual CREP meeting. Representatives from FSA and other partner agencies have been invited to attend the meeting.

This meeting will provide an opportunity to review and discuss:

- current status of State CREP's
- State CREP's accomplishments
- marketing
- developing a new CREP
- legal considerations
- monitoring and evaluation efforts
- producers' perspectives
- Farm Bill developments.

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Disposal Date August 1, 2002	Distribution State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices
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1 Overview (Continued)

B

Purpose

This notice provides:

- information about who should attend the training
 - the scheduled dates and times of the training session
 - registration, hotel, and airport information
 - a request for State CREP information
 - a draft agenda (Exhibit 1).
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C

Who Should Attend

State FSA Offices with signed CREP agreements, pending proposals and/or agreements, or are considering a CREP proposal are authorized to attend. States shall charge travel to Washington-controlled travel funds. The following States, which have signed CREP agreements, are approved for up to 2 representatives to attend:

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| • Arkansas | • Michigan | • Oregon |
| • California | • Minnesota | • Pennsylvania |
| • Delaware | • Missouri | • Vermont |
| • Illinois | • New York | • Virginia |
| • Iowa | • North Carolina | • Washington |
| • Kentucky | • North Dakota | • Wisconsin. |
| • Maryland | • Ohio | |

States developing or planning to develop CREP are approved for 1 representative to attend.

Notice CRP-399

2 Training Information

A

Training Dates

The training will be held at the Hotel Pere Marquette in Peoria, Illinois from June 9 through June 12, 2002. Shuttle service is available to the hotel from the Peoria Airport. Peoria is about a 45 minute drive from Bloomington Airport. Chicago airports are approximately 150 miles north of Peoria. St. Louis International Airport at Lambert Field is approximately 90 miles south of the city.

If necessary, for participants to arrive at the training on time, Sunday travel will be allowed. Participants should make travel arrangements so that they arrive at the training by 8 a.m. Monday, June 10. Participants should not schedule departing flights before 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12.

Participants shall RSVP to Widmeyer Communications by May 10, 2002, using either of the following:

- e-mail to **crep@widmeyer.com**
 - telephone to 1-202-667-0901, ext. 192.
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B

Hotel Information

The meeting will be held at the Hotel Pere Marquette. Participants must make reservations directly with the hotel by COB May 10, 2002. The telephone number is 1-800-447-1676 or 309-637-6500.

When making reservations with the hotel, participants shall specify that they will be attending the Illinois CREP Forum. The room rate which includes all meals is \$59 per night per single room. Hotel check-in time is 4 p.m. and check-out time is 12 noon on the day of departure.

C

Ground Transportation

Ground transportation from Peoria airport to Hotel Pere Marquette is available by shuttle service provided by the hotel. Phone the hotel from a courtesy phone at the indicated number located in the baggage claim area.

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2 General Information (Continued)

D

Registration for Training

The registration fee for the meeting is \$50. Send a \$50 check, payable to the Peoria County SWCD, to:

Peoria County SWCD
Attention: Betty Gorman
2412 West Nebraska Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61604.

Contact Betty Gorman at 309-671-7040, ext. 101, if necessary.

In addition; include the following information:

- name
- organization
- address
- telephone number
- FAX number
- e-mail address
- copy of travel authorization.

Each employee must have an approved AD-202 or FSA-164, as applicable, before incurring travel expenses. This notice does not constitute an approved travel authorization. The per diem rate for Peoria, Illinois is \$85 a day (\$55 for lodging and \$30 for M&IE).

E

Additional Information

If additional information is needed about this training contact Chad Chadwell at 202-720-7674 or Mike Linsenbigler at 202-720-6303.

F

Reasonable Accommodations

Notify the airlines and hotel directly of any accommodations that are necessary.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this training should contact Chad Chadwell at 202-720-7674 or e-mail to **Charles_Chadwell@wdc.usda.gov** by June 4.

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2 General Information (Continued)

G

CREP Overview

States with existing CREP's should work with their State CREP specialists to jointly submit information that will be used for an introductory 1 ½ hour status review of their State CREP. This information should include at a minimum:

- a map of the project area
- goals and objectives of the project
- progress toward meeting goals
- program successes
- any pictures or slides of the program
- project recommendations
- any other pertinent information such as news articles, pamphlets, etc.

Provide information in Word or WordPerfect format to Dann Stuart by May 26, 2002, by e-mail to Dann_Stuart@wdc.usda.gov.

H

State Office and Participant Action

State Offices and participants shall take the following action:

Step	Action
1	By COB May 10, 2002, participants shall register directly with the hotel according to subparagraph B.
2	By May 10 each participant shall notify Widmeyer Communication by e-mail or telephone that they will be attending the training according to subparagraph A.
3	Participants or the State Training Officer shall document this training by using the Combined Administrative Management System (CAMS). The CAMS course number is 020073. Direct questions about processing in CAMS to the State Training Coordinator.

Agenda

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
CREP MEETING
JUNE 9-12, 2002
Hotel Pere Marquette
Peoria, IL**

Sunday, June 9

Travel Day

6:00 p.m.

Welcome Cocktails
Poster Session

Monday, June 10

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Registration/Breakfast

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Welcome
Governor Ryan

*Introduced by Brent Manning, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources*

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

State Reports
Widmeyer

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch
*Keynote: Joe Hampton
Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture (invited)*

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Ask DC
*Mike Linsenbigler
Chad Chadwell
NRCS Representative*

*Introduced by William Graff,
Illinois State Executive Director
USDA Farm Service Agency*

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:10 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

50-minute Concurrent Breakout Sessions - Financial/business side of CREP.
CREP as a good business decision - guaranteed income, high rates.
Macro-marketing
Presented by Widmeyer/FSA
Presentation for New States
Potential Speakers: Jeff Horan (MD), DC REP, Lisa Scott to find IL partners.

4:10 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Concurrent Breakout Sessions
Repeated**

6:00 p.m.

Dinner

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Agenda (Continued)

Tuesday, June 11	
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	<p>Farm Bill <i>Brad McMillian for Rep. LaHood</i> <i>Rep. Tim Johnson (invited)</i></p> <p><i>Introduced by Renne Cipriano</i> <i>Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency</i></p>
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<p>CREP States Monitoring <i>Dr. Doug Austen</i></p>
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	<p>Lunch (On your own) <i>Picnic lunch after barge trip.</i></p>
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<p>Monitoring <i>Learn the latest technology for mapping and monitoring.</i> <i>Dr. Doug Austen</i> <i>Manager, Watershed Unit</i> <i>Illinois Department of Natural Resources</i></p> <p><i>Introduced by Andrea Moore</i> <i>Assistant Director</i> <i>Illinois Department of Natural Resources</i></p>
3:00 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.	Break
3:10 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	<p>Concurrent Breakout Sessions Legal Considerations <i>A discussion of the legal side of securing easements - subordination, title search, etc.</i> <i>Cindy Bushur-Hallam, Legal Counsel, Department of Natural Resources</i></p> <p>Producer Panel <i>Producers talk about the positive impact of CREP on their operations, and what producers want to hear about the program.</i></p> <p>Micro-marketing <i>Jill Ketter</i> <i>Barb Mendenhall</i> <i>Mike Chandler</i> <i>Soil & Water Conservation representatives discuss effective tactics for producer-to-producer outreach.</i></p>
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions Repeated
6:00 p.m.	Dinner (On your own)

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Agenda (Continued)

Wednesday, June 12

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Spirit of Peoria Tour** *Introduced by William Gradle
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resource
Conservation Service*

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **State Partnership**
Rep. Raymond Poe

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **Presentations from partners**

*Pheasants Forever
The Nature Conservancy
Illinois Farm Bureau
Quail Unlimited (invited)*

Commodity
*Garry Niemeyer - Corn Growers
Brad Glenn - Soybean Growers
Ron Warfield - IL Farm Bureau*

Conservation
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Presentation on the benefits that
Crep is bringing to threatened and endangered species
and migratory birds.*

*US Army Corps of Engineers
Brad Thompson
Discussion of the Corps' large ecosystem restorations and -
particularly on the Illinois River - and its connection to CREP.*

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Wrap-up**
Rick Mollahan