

**For:** State Offices

**Approving Interim Conservation Plans for Certain Signup 26 CRP-1's**

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



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

Notice CRP-433 provided State and County Offices with the EBI level and access to lists of Signup 26 acceptable and rejected offers.

An approved conservation plan must be completed and signed before CRP-1 may be approved. Because of heavy workload in some areas, it may not be possible for NRCS to timely provide final approved conservation plans for those applicants that selected a CRP-1 effective date by October 1, 2003.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides:

- policy concerning preparing and approving interim conservation plans
- the Interim Conservation Plan Addendum (Exhibit 1).

<p><b>Disposal Date</b></p> <p>October 1, 2004</p>	<p><b>Distribution</b></p> <p>State Offices; State Offices relay to NRCS State Offices</p>
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## Notice CRP-444

### 2 Policy

#### A Interim Conservation Plan

FSA has developed the CRP-1 Interim Conservation Plan to be used for Signup 26 FY 2004 CRP-1's. The interim conservation plan may **only** be used for Signup 26 CRP-1's for which both of the following apply:

- a FY 2004 program year
- workload conditions are such that this temporary measure is necessary.

The interim conservation plan must contain, at a minimum:

- the CRP practice number (CP1, CP2, etc.)
- NRCS technical standard number 327, Conservation Cover.

**Note:** The specifications for all applicable practices shall be included in the final conservation plan.

The Interim Conservation Plan Addendum must be signed by the producer and a member of COC or CED.

**Notes:** Interim conservation plans are **not** authorized for CRP-1's with an effective date of October 1, 2004, or any other CRP signup.

See Exhibit 1 for the Interim Conservation Plan Addendum.

#### B Authority to Use Interim Conservation Plan

The interim conservation plan shall only be used by the NRCS Field Office when SED and the NRCS State Conservationist agree that the provisions of subparagraph A apply.

## Notice CRP-444

### 2 Policy (Continued)

#### C Final Conservation Plan Completion

If an interim conservation plan is completed, a final conservation plan must be completed no later than November 1, 2003. For purposes of this notice, a final conservation plan is the approved conservation plan completed after an interim plan has been in effect for CRP-1. For all CRP-1's without an interim conservation plan, the approved conservation plan is the final conservation plan.

**Notes:** COC's shall **not** approve CRP-1 until all applicable signatures are obtained on the interim conservation plan and addendum.

Participants must be notified that starting a practice before approval of CRP-1 is at their own risk. Cost-share will only be paid for those eligible costs that are approved under the interim or final plan.

#### D State Office Action

SED's shall:

- meet with State Conservationist to determine whether final conservation plans cannot be timely prepared
- in conjunction with the NRCS State Conservationist, notify in writing counties approved to use the interim conservation plan
- inform COC's, in authorized counties, that they can approve CRP-1's with an interim conservation plan
- instruct COC's to terminate CRP-1 if the participant does not sign the final conservation plan. Liquidated damages and refunds shall apply, as applicable.

#### E NRCS Concurrence

NRCS has concurred with this notice.

Interim Conservation Plan Addendum

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGN-UP 26 FY 2004 CONTRACTS  
INTERIM CONSERVATION PLAN ADDENDUM

_____	_____
NAME	FARM NUMBER
_____	_____
TRACT NUMBER	FIELD NUMBER(s)

The attached interim conservation plan is general in nature but is intended to allow your contract period to begin upon approval of the CRP-1 while a final plan is developed for your land for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract for that land. It may be that your interim plan requires nothing more than continuing certain practices. You need to check the plan (attached) and call any questions to the attention of your local Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) or Technical Service Provider (TSP).

Personnel from the Department of Agriculture’s NRCS or TSP will conduct a field visit and develop site specific requirements unique to your CRP offer no later than November 1, 2003. An on-site field visit and evaluation of the existing CRP field conditions will determine the present condition and species mix of existing grasses, legumes, forms, and shrub cover. In addition, NRCS or TSP will identify any site specific planting requirements or treatments required to meet the selected CRP practice and related technical specifications. Modification of the interim plan and CRP contract will be made after the on-site evaluation.

The requirements, shown in the attached interim conservation plan, may be revised when the final plan is completed after the field visit; however, you will be required to comply with the interim plan as a condition for being considered eligible for payments for the CRP in this interim period. Specifically, you will be eligible for payment from the first day of the month following the date the County Committee approves your contract, including this interim plan, provided you comply with all the terms and conditions of the contract. The final plan will be consistent with the interim plan and with the terms of the CRP contract to which you have agreed. Cost shares during this interim period will only be paid for those costs which are approved in connection with the interim plan. Cost shares under the final plan will only be paid for those activities which occur after the final plan has, in fact, been finalized and agreed to.

If you are not comfortable with the interim plan, contact your local NRCS office or TSP to ask that they work with you immediately on a detailed (final) plan. However, the timeline for final plan development is dependent on field office workload that may otherwise delay the beginning of your contract term. In these cases, it is unlikely a contract could be approved by September 30, 2003.

Accordingly, by signing below, the participant acknowledges receipt of this interim conservation plan Addendum including the attached NRCS Interim Conservation Plan, and this addendum and agrees to comply with the terms and conditions hereof as well as the terms and conditions of the basic CRP contract and its appendix.

_____	_____
Producer Signature	Signature of CCC Representative
_____	_____
Date	Date