

For: State Offices

2004 National Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Forum

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

In June 2003, Washington State hosted a national forum to review CREP implementation and provide an opportunity to learn from the success of other States. This worthwhile training meeting was attended by FSA, NRCS, and State and local officials from existing and potential CREP States.

This year, Pennsylvania State partners is hosting the fifth annual CREP forum, titled “Solving Multiple Resource Issues Today and Tomorrow”. Representatives from FSA and partner agencies have been invited to attend and actively participate in this meeting.

Information about the 2004 CREP Forum is available online at <http://www.crepforum.state.pa.us/>.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to review and discuss the following:

- The State of CREP - A National Perspective
- Regional Impacts of the Farm Bill
- A Look Beyond the Current Farm Bill to the 2007 Bill
- Outreach Strategies and Local Partnerships
- CREP Implementation Challenges and Milestones
- Environmental Benefits and Monitoring.

Disposal Date	Distribution
August 1, 2004	State Offices

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1 Overview (Continued)

B Purpose

This notice provides the following:

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

C Who Should Attend

FSA State Offices with signed CREP agreements, pending proposals and/or agreements, and States that are considering a CREP proposal are authorized to send CRP representatives to attend. Travel for Federal State Office participants shall charge travel to Washington-controlled travel funds. The following States, which have signed CREP agreements, are approved for no more than 2 representatives to attend:

- Arkansas
- California
- Delaware
- Florida
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin.

States developing or planning to develop a CREP are approved for no more than 1 CRP representative to attend.

2 General Information

A Training Dates

The training will be held in Hershey, Pennsylvania from June 22 through June 24, 2004.

Travel arrangements shall be made so that participants will be present at the start of training at 9 a.m., Tuesday, June 22, 2004. Participants should **not** schedule departing flights before 11:30 a.m., Thursday, June 24, 2004.

Note: A reception and related events are also being held Monday, June 21, 2004. See Exhibit 1 for details.

2 General Information (Continued)

B Hotel Information

The meeting will be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, West Chocolate Ave. and University Drive, Hershey, Pennsylvania, 17033. Participants must make reservations by **May 6, 2004**. Reservations can be made by telephone at 1-800-533-3131 or 717-534-8668, or through "Hotel Accommodations" at <http://www.crepforum.state.pa.us/>.

When making reservations with the hotel, participants shall specify that they are attending the "CREP National Forum". The room rate for the conference is \$125 per night.

C Airline and Ground Transportation Information

The Hershey Lodge is located 15 minutes from Harrisburg International Airport. This airport is served by the following airlines:

- Air Canada/Air Alliance
- Continental Express/Continental Connection
- Delta/Comair
- US Airways/US Air Express.
- American Airlines/American Eagle
- United/United Express
- Northwest

Forum attendees, especially those who plan to obtain rental cars, are also encouraged to consider using Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, or Newark area airports instead which are a 2-3 hour drive to Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Additional information about air travel and ground transportation from the Harrisburg Airport is provided through "Air Transportation" at <http://www.crepforum.state.pa.us/>.

D Registration for Training

The registration form for the CREP Forum can be downloaded from "Forum Registration" at <http://www.crepforum.state.pa.us/>.

The registration fee for the full forum is \$200 which is due by **COB May 6, 2004**. The registration fee includes materials, some meals, breaks, and the field trip.

Make checks payable to "PACD". Mail or FAX registration forms with payments by **May 6, 2004**, to:

**Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD)
25 North Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Telephone: 717-238-7223
FAX: 717-238-7201.**

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2 General Information (Continued)

D Registration for Training (Continued)

Each participant must have an approved AD-202 before incurring travel expenses. Participants shall make their own travel arrangements as soon as possible, using the most efficient means of transportation. **This notice does not constitute an approved travel authorization.** The per diem rate for Hershey is \$168 a day (\$125 for lodging and \$43 for M&IE).

Note: Subtract the cost for meals included with the registration fee as follows:

- **\$9 for each breakfast**
- **\$9 for each lunch**
- **\$22 for dinner.**

E Reasonable Accommodations

Notify the airlines and hotel directly of any required accommodations.

Persons with disabilities who require other accommodations to attend or participate in this training shall contact Paul Harte by May 6, 2004, by telephone at 816-926-6014 or e-mail to prharte@kcc.fsa.usda.gov.

F Additional Information

If additional information is needed about this training, contact either of the following:

- Paul Harte at 816-926-6014
- Mike Linsenbigler at 202-720-5295.

G State Office and Participant Action

State Offices and participants shall take the following action.

Step	Action
1	Register directly with the hotel according to subparagraph 2 B by COB May 6, 2004.
2	Each participant shall send a registration form and registration fee to PACD according to subparagraph 2 D by May 6, 2004.
3	Participants, or the State Training Officer, shall document this training by using the Internet Combined Administrative Management System (ICAMS). The ICAMS course number is "020135". Direct questions about processing in ICAMS to the State Training Coordinator.

CREP Tentative Agenda

**2004 National CREP Forum - Solving Multiple Resource Issues Today and Tomorrow
June 22-24, 2004
Hershey, Pennsylvania**

June 21, 2004	
12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Location TBD	Registration
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. On Your Own	Leisure Activities: The Susquehanna River: Float or Fish Guided trip to the River, canoes provided, education and pleasure Hershey Park & Hershey Tours Amish Farm Tours Golf Lancaster Outlet shopping
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Great American Hall - Red Room	Welcome Reception
June 22, 2004	
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Great Lobby	Registration
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Great American Hall - White Room	Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Great American Hall - Red Room	Opening and Welcome Moderator: Richard Pallman, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency, Pennsylvania Introduction of Sponsors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture • Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources • Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection • Pennsylvania Game Commission • Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission • Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture • Pheasants Forever • Chesapeake Bay Foundation • Members of the Forum Planning Committee
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Great American Hall - Red Room	Keynote Address: The Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Great American Hall - Red Room	State of CREP, A National Perspective - CREP began in Oct 1997 with the first agreement signed in Maryland. So what's been accomplished over the past 6 years? Moderator: Richard Pallman Speaker: John Johnson, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs, Farm Service Agency, Washington, D.C.

CREP Tentative Agenda (Continued)

June 22, 2004 (Continued)	
<p>10:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Great American Hall - White Room</p>	<p>Ask Washington - A time to ask specific questions of policy makers and implementers from Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Moderator: William Foose, CREP Program Chief, Pennsylvania Farm Service Agency, USDA</p> <p>Panel: Mike Linsenbigler, Deputy Director, Conservation and Environmental Programs Division (CEPD), Farm Service Agency, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Charles Chadwell, Manager CREP, CEPD, FSA, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Representative from NRCS: TBD</p>
<p>11:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Great American Hall - Red Room</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Great American Hall - Red Room</p>	<p>Regional Impacts of the Farm Bill - Discussion of the impacts the Farm Bill has on conservation and funding issues across the country.</p> <p>Moderator: TBD Speakers: TBD</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Great American Hall - Red Room</p>	<p>Beyond the 2002 Farm Bill - What's in Store for 2007? - Exploring possible directions for farm policy beyond the current Farm Bill, which expires in 2007.</p> <p>Moderator: Robb Miller, Advisor to Gov. Edward G. Rendell on Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation</p> <p>Speakers: TBD</p>
<p>3:00 p.m. - -3:30 p.m. TBD</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Rooms TBD</p>	<p>Concurrent Sessions (choose one)</p> <p>Session A - Regional Application of the Farm Bill A more in-depth interactive discussion of regional challenges in implementing the 2002 Farm Bill.</p> <p>Moderator: TBD Speakers: TBD</p> <p>Session B - Beyond the Farm Bill A more in-depth discussion of possible directions for farm policy beyond the current Farm Bill.</p> <p>Moderator: Robb Miller Speakers: TBD</p>
<p>6:00 p.m. Great American Hall - Red Room</p>	<p>Dinner</p> <p>Moderator: Richard Pallman</p> <p>Introduction of PA CREP Partners</p> <p>Keynote Address: The Honorable Dennis C. Wolff, Secretary of Agriculture, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania</p>

CREP Tentative Agenda (Continued)

June 23, 3004	
<p>7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Great American Hall - White Room</p>	<p>Breakfast and Daily Registration</p>
<p>8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Great American Hall - Red Room</p>	<p>Concurrent Sessions (choose one)</p> <p>Session A – Outreach Strategies and Local Partnerships How to stretch limited resources for reaching prospective CREP participants and successfully use local partnerships to maximize program success.</p> <p>Moderator: Tolif Hunt, Assistant Director, Sustainable Countryside’s, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy</p> <p>Speakers: TBD</p> <p>Session B – Challenges to CREP A discussion of how to overcome challenges like landlord-tenant problems, easement issues, Endangered Species Act and more.</p> <p>Moderator: TBD Speakers: TBD</p> <p>Session C -Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat Benefits Is CREP the best vehicle for achieving wildlife habitat and water quality goals currently available in the United States? What are the gaps in the program that need to be addressed to improve delivery of these benefits?</p> <p>Moderator: TBD</p> <p>Speaker: Scott Klinger, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Pennsylvania Game Commission</p> <p>Water Quality Speaker: TBD</p> <p>Session D – Monitoring Issues Discussion of how to measure what’s been done and capitalize on successes.</p> <p>Moderator: TBD</p> <p>Speakers: Mike Linsenbigler, Farm Service Agency Representative from Department of Environmental Protection Representative from Pennsylvania State University</p>
<p>9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Location TBD</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Great American Hall - Red Room</p>	<p>Repeat Concurrent Sessions (choose one)</p>
<p>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Great American Hall - White Room</p>	<p>USDA Policy Perspectives - Senior Policy Maker Perspectives</p>
<p>12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Board buses in East Lot</p>	<p>Farm Tour - Board the buses and take a ride through the Pine Creek Watershed, Schuylkill County, visiting four CREP projects including a dairy farm and a farm operated by Amish farmers. Box lunches will be provided.</p>
<p>5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Dinner on your own.</p>

CREP Tentative Agenda (Continued)

June 24, 2004	
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Great American Hall - White Room	Breakfast
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Great American Hall - Red Room	Participants Perspective - Farmers and landowners discuss their CREP projects and how to approach prospective participants. Moderator: TBD Panelists: TBD
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Location TBD	Break
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Great American Hall - Red Room	Partners Perspective - At the unique look at the Federal, State, and NGO partnership developed in Pennsylvania and how you can duplicate that approach in your State. Moderator: TBD Panelists: TBD
10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Great American Hall - Red Room	Wrap-Up and Close Summary Comments Moderator: Robert Thomas, Forum Chair, Pennsylvania Game Commission Panelists: USDA Perspective: Richard Pallman, Farm Service Agency, Pennsylvania State Perspective: Bill Wehry, Deputy Secretary, PA Department of Agriculture Partners Perspective: PA CREP Partners