

**For:** FSA Offices

**Compliance Reviews for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

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



---

**1 Overview**

**A Background**

On May 8, 2002, a joint memorandum was issued delineating the roles and responsibilities for providing Technical Assistance (TA) for CRP. The memorandum provided that NRCS complete no more than 10 percent of all practice certification (AD-862's) for all CRP practices nationwide where NRCS has technical responsibility for the assigned practice in the conservation plan. The memorandum also provided policy on annual status reviews, producer self-certification, and securing signatures on conservation plans.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides:

- policy for CRP practice certification
- policy for CRP annual status reviews
- signature requirements.

---

**Disposal Date**

January 1, 2005

**Distribution**

All FSA Offices, State Offices relay to County Offices

## Notice CRP-471

### 2 Policy

#### A Completing 10 Percent of All Practice Certifications

NRCS or other technical service provider (TSP) will complete up to 10 percent of all practice certifications (AD-862's) for all CRP practices nationwide where NRCS has technical responsibility identified in the conservation plan.

#### B Determining 10 Percent

FSA shall determine the total number of practices that must be certified by NRCS based on 10 percent of the number of practices on CRP-1's approved for the previous FY. To determine the number of AD-862's to be completed by NRCS, County Offices shall calculate 10 percent of the total number of practices for all program year 2003 CRP contracts for each applicable county. County Offices may access report "Summary of Practices for Active Contracts by Program Year" at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crpstorpt/06approved/r1meppta/r1meppta.htm> to determine the number of AD-862's that are required to be completed by NRCS. County Offices will need to scroll through the report to find their county for program year 2003. The total number of practices in the county and the number of each type of practice may be accessed from this report.

If FSA and NRCS have agreed on the total number of AD-862's to be completed by NRCS in FY 2004, and those practice certifications are complete, no further action is required. If FSA and NRCS did not agree on the total number of AD-862's for completion by NRCS, then FSA shall use the report to determine the number of AD-862's to be completed by NRCS.

#### C Priority Practice Selection

Certain practices have greater technical complexity. These practices shall have priority when selecting the 10 percent of practice certifications completed by NRCS. For the following practices, NRCS or TSP, as applicable, shall certify practice performance on AD-862, up to 10 percent, before certifying practice performance for any other CRP practices:

- CP8A
- CP9
- CP18B
- CP18C
- CP21, when a structure, water facility, water development, or pipeline is included
- CP22, when a structure, water facility, water development, or pipeline is included
- CP23
- CP26
- CP27
- CP28
- CP29, when a structure, water facility, water development, or pipeline is included
- CP30.

## Notice CRP-471

### 2 Policy (Continued)

#### C Priority Practice Selections (Continued)

If NRCS or TSP certifies practice performance on AD-862 for practices listed in this subparagraph, and the 10 percent requirement has not been reached, all other CRP practice may be used to fulfill the 10 percent requirement.

**Example:** The xxx report indicates that Lancaster County, Nebraska, has 250 practices installed on CRP for the previous FY. Twenty-five practices must have practice performance on AD-862 completed by NRCS. NRCS completes twenty AD-862's for practices listed in this subparagraph. The remaining 5 certifications may be completed on any other CRP practice. FSA and NRCS should work together to determine the remaining 5 practices that must have practice performance completed by NRCS.

#### D Producer Certification

For practice performance not certified by NRCS, FS, or TSP, producers shall self-certify practice performance according to Notice CRP-463.

#### E Annual Status Review

NRCS shall conduct no more than 10 percent of all the annual status reviews nationwide, based on FSA recommendations. The 10 percent required will be determined based on the total number of CRP-1's approved in the previous FY.

FSA and NRCS shall work together to prioritize and select the contracts and practices to complete an annual status review.

#### F Spot Checks

FSA will conduct spot checks on at least 10 percent of CRP-1's approved that do not have an annual status review completed by NRCS.

#### G Signature Requirements

NRCS is responsible for obtaining signatures on the conservation plan for:

- all producers with a share greater than zero
- Conservation Districts.

**Notice CRP-471**

**3 Action**

**A State Office Action**

State Offices shall ensure that County Offices follow the provisions of this notice.

**B County Office Action**

County Offices shall comply with the provisions of this notice.