

For: State and County Offices

Preparing for CRP General Signup 33

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

On January 31, 2006, Secretary Johanns announced the next General CRP signup will be held from March 27, 2006, through April 14, 2006, at local USDA Service Centers. General signup 33 is being implemented to cost-effectively accept offers of environmentally sensitive acreage for new 10- to 15-year contracts to begin October 1, 2006, for program year 2007 contracts.

For signup 33, FSA will determine land eligibility, environmental benefits index (EBI) scores, and maximum payment rates using the web-based Conservation Online System (COLS), formerly known as GSOP.

Note: A new CRP Geographic Information System (GIS) Tool is expected to be released for signup 33 use.

B Setting Priorities

State and County Offices shall set workload priorities and plan office activities accordingly to ensure timely program implementation.

C Purpose

This notice provides information about determining the total county cropland status in preparation for this general signup, continuous signup, and other general signup preparation information.

Disposal Date	Distribution
September 1, 2006	State Offices; State Offices relay to Service Centers and NRCS State Offices

Notice CRP-513

2 General Signup Data

A Using/Updating General Signup Data

County Offices will use COLS to process offers for signup 33 using the following pre-populated files:

- updated CRP soils data
- National and State conservation priority areas and zones as established before signup 29
- county default Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) rainfall “R” and Wind Erosion Equation (WEQ) climatic “C” factors used for erosion-related calculations as established before signup 29
- look-up tables for EBI factors N2b, N2c, and N5a, as established before signup 29
- hydrologic unit codes (HUC’s) as established before signup 29.

County Offices shall obtain and/or develop the current available information for all of the following in signup 33 if not already obtained in preparation for signup 29:

- NRCS RUSLE rainfall (R) and WEQ climatic (C) maps
- HUC maps
- current NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) soil survey
- locally approved EBI ranking factor N1A plant varieties/mixes for each point option according to 2-CRP, Exhibit 19.

County Offices shall review and update cost-share rates for practice component loading in CRES and review and update total practice cost estimates per acre for CRP practices for COLS loading before the signup 33 start date on March 27, 2006.

3 Continuous Signup Provisions

A Signup Numbering

2-CRP, subparagraph 111 B, provides that CRP continuous signup numbers shall change at the beginning of each FY. For FY 2006, continuous signup 31 began on October 1, 2005. Signup 32 is to be used for all extended or re-enrolled 10-year or 15-year CRP-1’s as provided in Notice CRP-511.

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3 Continuous Signup Provisions (Continued)

B Concurrent Signups

General signup 33 will be held concurrently with continuous signup 31. County Offices shall process offers of acreage under the continuous signup provisions during the general signup period.

C Land to be Eligible Under the Signup

The following categories of cropland that meet 2-CRP crop history and ownership criteria will be eligible under signup 33:

- cropland with CRP erodibility index (EI) of 8 or greater

Note: An EI calculator has been added to the CRP Soils database Web site at <https://indianocean.sc.egov.usda.gov/soilDbMgnt/SoilWelcome.do>.

- cropland in a National or State conservation priority area
- cropland on active CRP contracts scheduled to expire September 30, 2006.

Note: Expired and expiring WBP land is **not** eligible under signup 33.

D Changes in Maximum Payment Rate Calculations

For signup 33:

- the per acre limit used in maximum payment rate calculations has been raised from \$180/acre to \$200/acre.
- maintenance incentive rates are currently under review and may be adjusted for new CRP contracts.

E Producer Notifications

CEPD and KCCO will prepare and send letters to producers with active CRP contracts scheduled to expire September 30, 2006, notifying them of signup 33 provisions. Web reports are planned to provide listing of County Office letter mailings for County Office follow-up, if needed.

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4 County Cropland Limitation

A Background

For signup 33:

- the total county cropland and total WRP cropland amounts loaded by County Offices in response to Notice CRP-505 shall be used, unless updated in AS400/ADV36 according to Notice CRP-505 before March 3, 2006
- determinations of county CRP acreage available shall **only** exclude CRP cropland acres scheduled to expire September 30, 2006

Notes: These acres are excluded because all new contracts resulting from signup 33 will begin on October 1, 2006.

No acreage recently declined under REX for contracts expiring September 30, 2007, will be excluded from this county amount because all the contracts recently provided re-enrollment and extension (REX) offers will be active on September 30, 2006.

- waivers to exceed the total county cropland limit shall be limited to those already provided under Notice CRP-505.

Note: COC's and STC's shall not submit additional waiver requests for signup 33.

- counties without CRP acreage available shall **not** accept offers under signup 33 or continuous signups for land located in the county
- counties for which COC's set the general signup/REX signup enrollment limit at 22 percent to 24.9 percent under Notice CRP-504 shall adhere to these limits and shall **not** accept offers under signup 33 for land located in the county if current total county CRP/WRP enrollment exceeds the applicable county limit.

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4 County Cropland Limitation (Continued)

B Cropland Limit Reporting

For general and continuous signups, the total county cropland and total county WRP cropland amounts used to determine the available acres and the county cropland limitation status will be provided through the “CRP State Office Reports - Weekly Active CRP Contract File Upload”:

**“MEPEHH-R1 TOTAL COUNTY CROPLAND REPORT
SUMMARY OF ACTIVE AND EXPIRING CRP/WRP CROPLAND ACRES
ALL COUNTIES REPORTING”**

This report is available at

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crpstorpt/rmepenh/MEPEHHR1.HTM>.

Notes: This report is updated weekly with county AS400/ADV36 CRP information.

No signup 33 preparation actions are needed in AS400/ADV36 unless the County Office determines it necessary to update the total county cropland and/or total county WRP cropland amounts as described in subparagraph A.

Although this report is designed to reflect the available cropland at the 25 percent or higher waiver level for all counties, counties for which COC’s set the general signup/REX signup enrollment limit at 22 percent to 24.9 percent under Notice CRP-504 can use the last column “Percent Enrolled” to determine their cropland limit status for signup 33.

5 Action

A County Office Action

County Offices shall take action according to the following table.

Step	Action
1	Make preparation for CRP general signup a high priority when setting workload priorities and scheduling office activities.
2	Determine the total county cropland percent available according to paragraph 4 of this notice.

B State FSA Office Action

State Offices shall make preparation for CRP general signup a high priority when setting workload priorities and scheduling office activities.