

**For:** AL, FL, LA, MS, and TX State and County Offices

**Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP) Clarification**

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



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

EFCRP signup began on July 17, 2006, and ended on October 20, 2006. Approved conservation plan had to be completed and signed before approving CRP-1L's.

Authority to enroll in EFCRP ended on December 31, 2006. Certain EFCRP contracts may have been approved using an interim conservation plan according to Notice CRP-547. CRP-1L requires the EFCRP participants to have a final conservation plan by June 30, 2007.

Some questions have been received about the following:

- payments to participants when the contract is approved using an interim conservation plan
- instructions for contracts not approved by the December 31, 2006, deadline
- changing payment options
- changing practices.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides:

- policy about issuing payments
- instructions for offers that were not approved before December 31, 2006
- information about payment option changes.

<b>Disposal Date</b> September 1, 2007	<b>Distribution</b> Above State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices, FS, and NRCS
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## Notice CRP-555

### 2 Policy

#### A Payments Before Final Conservation Plan is Approved

No payments shall be authorized or issued until a final conservation plan is approved.

#### B Offers Not Approved By December 31, 2006

Certain otherwise acceptable offers were not processed before the deadline because of several factors. If an otherwise acceptable offer was not approved before December 31, 2006, the otherwise acceptable offer is void. EFCRP authority to enroll acreage expired on December 31, 2006. Some scenarios of unacceptable offers may include:

- COC or designee did not approve the EFCRP offer by signing CRP-1L, block 14
- forester did not return CRP-2F timely
- producer did not return to the FSA County Office before COC met
- CRP-2F was not submitted to the forester.

#### C Changing Payment Options

Modifications to the contract to change the payment option must be approved by the National Office before modifying the contract.

#### D Changing Practices

Modifications to the contract to change the practice are limited only to those practices determined suitable by the forester. COC may approve the modification to the contract.

### 3 Action

#### A State Office

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

#### B County Office

County Offices shall follow the provisions of this notice.