

For: State and County Offices

**Additional Policy for Renewing and Revising State Conservation Priority Areas (CPA's)**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

Notice CRP-651 provided policy and procedure for renewing and revising State CPA's and associated zones. This notice provides additional policy for renewing and revising State CPA's.

**B Purpose**

This notice also provides:

- procedure for reviewing and certifying **current** State CPA's
- policy on the data source used for State and county cropland acres and procedure for obtaining State and county cropland acres to be used in calculating the size limit of the State CPA's
- policy and procedure to States within the Longleaf Pine National CPA to establish State CPA's.

Disposal Date	Distribution
July 1, 2010	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices

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### 1 Overview (Continued)

#### C Policy About General Signup Practices Enrolled Under Continuous Signup

General sign-up practices enrolled under Continuous Signup, including CREP, must meet eligibility requirements in 2-CRP, subparagraph 112 A.

**Note:** General sign-up practices enrolled under CREP must meet basic land eligibility criteria according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 97 B.

**Example:** Kansas has an existing CREP agreement that includes CP4D as an eligible practice. The CP4D practice is not eligible as a continuous sign-up practice. Land enrolled under CREP as a CP4D must meet another land eligibility category according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 97 B.

Project areas established for CREP are not considered State CPA's for eligibility purposes.

State Offices with CREP agreements should take CREP goals into consideration when establishing State CPA's.

### 2 Reviewing and Certifying Current State CPA's

#### A Review State CPA's

State conservation specialists shall find their **current** certified State CPA's maps on the Sharepoint web site located at <https://fsa.sc.egov.usda.gov/mgr/GIS/training/Program%20Areas/GIS%20Data.aspx>. After accessing the web site:

- CLICK "CEPD" located in the middle of the page
- CLICK "State CPA"
- zipped files with State labels will be listed

**Note:** Download the appropriate State file.

- open the map and review for accuracy as to the location of current CPA's.

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### 2 Reviewing and Certifying Current State CPA's (Continued)

#### B Certifying State CPA's

If the State CPA's and associated zones are correctly mapped, notify Jean Agapoff by e-mail at [jean.agapoff@ca.usda.gov](mailto:jean.agapoff@ca.usda.gov) and certify that the existing map is correct.

If the State CPA's or associated zones are incorrectly mapped, contact Shawn Bucholtz by e-mail at [shawn.bucholtz@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:shawn.bucholtz@wdc.usda.gov) with an explanation for the discrepancy.

**Note:** State Offices with CREP agreements may have changed the location of their State CPA's since the last general sign-up.

#### C Confirming That County Offices Are Using the Correct State CPA's Shapefile

State Offices must ensure that each of their County Offices are using the correct State CPA's shapefile.

### 3 Policy and Data Source of Available Cropland Acres for Computation of State CPA's

#### A Policy

Notice CRP-651, subparagraph 2 C provided that State CPA's are limited to no more than 33 percent of the State cropland. To determine available cropland, State Offices must subtract any applicable National CPA acreage.

Cropland acreage for each FSA farm was extracted from the Farm Records Database, as of January 21, 2010. The cropland acreage is summarized by the **physical** county location of the cropland. This county cropland acreage report will be the official source for cropland acres when establishing State CPA's.

When establishing State CPA's, land currently enrolled in CRP is considered cropland. No deductions or additions to the county cropland acres in the report are necessary or permitted.

#### B Obtaining Cropland Data

The table containing county cropland acres may be accessed from CEPD's State and County Office Information Center located at <http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/ffas/dafp/cepdsto.htm>. After accessing the web site:

- CLICK item "13", "2010 State CPA Updates"
- CLICK "County Cropland Excel Table"

The file is zipped password-protected. Call Jean Agapoff at 530-792-5594 for the password. Use the "Cropland Acreage" column.

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### 3 Policy and Data Source of Available Cropland Acres for Computation of State CPA (Continued)

#### C Longleaf National CPA (NCPA) and State CPA's

States within the Longleaf Pine NCPA may establish State CPA's. All cropland acres within the Longleaf Pine NCPA are considered to be part of a State's total cropland acres when calculating the size limit of State CPA's acres. Because the Long Leaf Pine CPA is only eligible for 1 practice, State Offices are not required to subtract the Longleaf Pine NCPA acres from State cropland acres before calculating the size limit of the State CPA acres.

**Example:** South Carolina has 6 million acres of cropland as of December 31, 2009.

Although 1 million acres of this cropland is within counties that are part of the Longleaf Pine NCPA, all 6 million acres of cropland are available to be included in the State CPA. However, no more than 33 percent (2 million acres) may be included in the South Carolina State CPA's.

### 4 Action

#### A State Office Action

State Offices shall follow the provisions of this notice.

#### B County Office Action

No action is required.