

For: State and County Offices

**Revised Policy and Reporting Requirements for County Cropland Limits**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

A CRP general signup is scheduled beginning March 14 through April 15, 2011. The Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, requires that **not** more than 25 percent of the total cropland in a county is enrolled in CRP, including continuous, CREP, Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program (FWP), and WRP unless a waiver is authorized. The total county cropland limit is based on the cropland physically located in the county.

2-CRP provides policy concerning waivers to:

- increase the county cropland limit above 25 percent, if certain criteria are met
- exclude cropland enrolled under continuous signup or CREP from the 25 percent cropland limitation.

Additionally, in previous general signups, COC's were authorized to set a **general signup enrollment limit** for county CRP acreage at or below 25 percent of the total county cropland acreage limit to allow enrollment in continuous, CREP, FWP, and WRP.

**B Purpose**

This notice:

- extends all existing waivers for either the 25 percent cropland limitation or waiver to exclude continuous signup acres from total CRP acreage for general signup 41
- provides instructions for obtaining waivers for those counties at or near their county cropland limit that meet the provisions in 2-CRP, paragraph 81

Disposal Date	Distribution
August 1, 2011	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices

## Notice CRP-688

### 1 Overview (Continued)

#### B Purpose (Continued)

- announces that the general signup 39 enrollment limits will continue to apply for all counties unless a new waiver is authorized
- announces the availability of a 25 Percent Cropland Limitation Report
- provides location of a report for approved waivers received by the National Office.

### 2 Availability of 25 Percent Cropland Limitation and Waiver Reports

#### A 25 Percent Cropland Limitation Report

The National Office will post 25 Percent Cropland Limitation Reports by COB February 18, 2011, on the CEPD General Signup Sharepoint web site located at <https://fsa.sc.egov.usda.gov/states/cepd/crp/default.aspx>. Select an option under “25% Compliance Reports”. A report for all counties is available, as well as a report for counties at or near the limit. The report has columns for the general signup enrollment limit, active waivers, and acreage available for enrollment in general signup 41.

#### B Waiver Report

A list of waivers that have been approved by COC’s and received by the National Office will be posted at the CEPD General Signup SharePoint web site located at <https://fsa.sc.egov.usda.gov/states/cepd/crp/default.aspx>. Select the “Continuous Signup Waivers” option under “25% Compliance Reports”. The report will be updated daily or as necessary.

**Note:** Waivers from the previous signups are carried forward and do **not** need to be requested again.

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### 3 Waivers to Exceed 25 Percent County Cropland Limitation

#### A Obtaining a New Waiver for 25 Percent Cropland Limit

Offers for FY 2011 general signup are limited to 25 percent of the total county cropland, or for applicable counties, the county limit for general signup acreage, unless a waiver is approved according to 2-CRP, Part 4. COC's must follow instructions in 2-CRP, Part 4, including completing AD-893 and AD-894. **All active CRP, FWP, and WRP contract acreage within the physical location county must be taken into account when COC's calculate the percentage of county cropland waiver requested.** All waiver requests must be received by CEPD by March 4, 2011. Waiver requests:

- received after March 4, 2011, will **not** be considered
- may be submitted to James Michaels by either of the following:
  - e-mail to [james.michaels@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:james.michaels@wdc.usda.gov)
  - FAX to 202-720-4619.

**Important:** STC may recommend approval, but may **not** authorize a waiver of the 25 percent cropland limitation.

#### B Obtaining a New Waiver for Exclusion of Continuous Signup Acres to CRP Total Acreage

COC's may, with concurrence from local county governments, approve a waiver to exclude all continuous signup acres from the total acres enrolled in CRP when calculating the 25 percent, including CREP and FWP. **All active CRP, FWP, and WRP contract acreage within the physical location county must be taken into account when COC's calculate the percentage of county cropland waiver requested.**

If approved, the waiver applies to all continuous signup acres. Waiver requests to exclude only a portion of continuous signup acres, either by program (such as CREP or FWP) or by practices (such as CP23 or SAFE) will **not** be considered.

COC must obtain concurrence in writing from local county governments before approving a waiver. Local county government officials must be the highest executive authority in the county, such as County Commissioners, County Executive, and County Council.

Waivers to exclude all continuous signup acres must be approved by COC and submitted to CEPD, by memorandum. All waiver requests must be received by CEPD by March 4, 2011. Waiver requests received after March 4, 2011, will **not** be considered for general signup 41. The COC memorandum may be submitted to James Michaels by either of the following:

- e-mail to [james.michaels@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:james.michaels@wdc.usda.gov)
- FAX to 202-720-4619.

COC's must submit a copy of the memorandum to their respective State Office.

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### 3 Waivers to Exceed 25 Percent County Cropland Limitation (Continued)

#### C General Signup Enrollment Limits

Limits to general signup enrollment previously set by COC's are still in effect for future general signups until further notice or a new waiver is authorized.

### 4 Action

#### A State Office Action

State Offices shall follow the provisions of this notice and ensure that County Offices follow the provisions in this notice, including:

- by COB Friday, **February 18, 2011**, download the Cropland Limit Waiver Report available on the CEPD General Signup Sharepoint web site and distribute to County Offices
- by COB Friday, **March 4, 2011**, submit County 25 Percent Cropland Limitation waiver requests or Continuous Exclusion waiver requests to CEPD.

#### B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- follow the provisions of this notice
- by COB Tuesday, **March 1, 2011**, submit the 25 Percent Cropland Limitation waiver request and/or Continuous Exclusion waiver request to the State Office.