

For: State and County Offices

**Announcing CRP Continuous Signup 51 for Non-CREP Offers**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

On June 1, 2018, Secretary Perdue announced that USDA will resume accepting continuous signup offers through the voluntary CRP beginning June 4, 2018, through August 17, 2018.

To ensure the statutory 24 million acre cap for CRP enrollment was not exceeded, Notice CRP-843 was issued suspending authority to accept continuous signup 51 offers for all continuous signup types, beginning October 1, 2017. However, County Offices were permitted to accept and process offers under an approved CREP agreement and for CRP grasslands.

Continuous signup 51 will be available for producers to submit offers to enroll or re-enroll eligible land in CRP under limited priority practices only. The limited practices ensure the most sensitive land that provides multiple benefits is protected while remaining within the 24 million acre statutory cap. In addition, certain continuous signup incentives are not authorized for the limited practices.

This notice does not apply to enrollment, including re-enrollment, of land under a CREP Agreement. County Offices shall continue to accept and approve offers for enrollment, including re-enrollment, under approved CREP's if eligible, through August 17, 2018. See Notice CRP-849 for applicable deadlines for offers under a CREP [Agreement].

**Important:** The terms of some CREP Agreements provide specific terms regarding re-enrollment of acres under the CREP, including whether a change in the existing practice enrolled is allowed. The terms of the CREP Agreement will prevail regarding re-enrollment of acres under the CREP.

Notice CRP-853 provides information for a 1-year extension for certain expiring general and continuous signup contracts.

Disposal Date	Distribution
December 1, 2018	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices

## Notice CRP-854

### 1 Overview (Continued)

#### B Purpose

This notice provides:

- new policy for continuous signup 51
- policy for offer processing and contract approval
- deadlines.

### 2 New Policy for Continuous Signup 51 Beginning June 4, 2018

#### A Signup Period

Producers may submit offers for continuous signup 51 beginning June 4, 2018, through August 17, 2018. There is no authority to accept offers after August 17, 2018.

#### B Eligible Practices

Only offers for the practices listed in the table below are eligible to be submitted during continuous signup 51. The only available **eligible** signup names in COLS for the listed practices are “Continuous SU51” and “SU51 Farmable Wetland Program”.

Practice	Title
CP8A	Grass Waterways, Non-easement
CP9	Shallow Water Area for Wildlife
CP21	Filter Strips
CP21B	Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips
CP21S	Saturated Filter Strips
CP22	Riparian Buffer
CP22B	Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffers
CP22S	Saturated Riparian Buffer
CP23	Wetland Restoration on Floodplain
CP23A	Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
CP27	Farmable Wetlands Pilot Wetland
CP28	Farmable Wetland Pilot Buffer
CP37	Duck Nesting Habitat
CP39	FWP Constructed Wetland
CP40	FWP Aquaculture Wetland restoration
CP41	FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland

## Notice CRP-854

### 2 New Policy for Continuous Signup 51 Beginning June 4, 2018 (Continued)

#### B Eligible Practices (Continued)

Expiring general signup practices may be eligible for enrollment under a new continuous signup contract as one of the eligible practices.

**Example:** A producer submits an offer to enroll land under continuous signup 51 on July 3, 2018. The land is enrolled in CRP under a general signup CRP-1 for a 40.80 acre CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes, that is expiring on September 30, 2018. The producer offers a portion of the expiring CP1 as a CP21, Filter Strip. If all eligibility requirements are met, the new CRP-1 must be approved on or before September 28, 2018. The contract effective date is October 1, 2018.

#### C Incentives Not Authorized

The signing incentive payment (SIP), practice incentive payment (PIP), and the 10 or 20 percent per acre rental rate incentive are **not** authorized for all continuous signup practices for signup 51.

County Offices must ensure that producers understand that SIP, PIP, and the SRR incentive are **not** available for signup 51.

### 3 Offer Processing and Contract Approval

#### A How to Process Offers

County Offices shall process offers for continuous signup 51 according to 2-CRP, Part 5 and COLS User Guide. County Offices shall follow 2-CRP, subparagraph 171 C, for the process flow for continuous signup. **Manual CRP-1's and CRP-2C's are not authorized.** If County Offices have a situation that requires a manual form, the SED may request DAFP to allow on a case-by-case basis.

#### B NRCS Determination of Needed, Feasible and Suitable

FSA must provide an **unsigned** CRP-2C and digital imagery identifying the land offered for enrollment to NRCS for all continuous signup offers.

The **unsigned** CRP-2C and digital imagery must be provided so that NRCS can document its Suitability and Feasibility evaluation and technical eligibility determination. NRCS will return to FSA the **unsigned** CRP-2C, digital imagery, and a signed and dated Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet (except for re-enrolled land currently enrolled in CRP for which the existing established practice is being re-offered) for the applicable practice documenting its evaluation and eligibility determination of the acreage offered.

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### 3 Offer Processing and Contract Approval (Continued)

#### B NRCS Determination of Needed, Feasible and Suitable (Continued)

**Example:** A producer submits an offer to re-enroll land under continuous signup 51. The land is currently enrolled in CRP under a continuous signup CRP-1 with an established and functioning 12.20 acre CP33, Upland Habitat for Birds, practice that is expiring on September 30, 2018. The producer offers to re-enroll a portion of the expiring 12.20 acres to be enrolled as a CP21, Filter Strips. Although a portion of the expiring acreage is being offered for re-enrollment, the producer is offering a different practice (CP33 to CP21). Therefore, NRCS must determine if the practice offered (CP21) is needed, feasible, and suitable, using the NRCS Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet. NRCS will provide a Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet for the new practice offered (CP21).

#### C NRCS Determination That Practice is Functioning Properly

If a producer does not change the practice when a re-enrollment is offered, NRCS does not need to make a determination of need, feasibility, and suitability at the time of the offer. However, NRCS must determine if the enrolled practice is present and functioning properly and that the number of acres offered meets the current practice standard, such as width of a filter strip. NRCS is **not** required to provide the Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet to FSA.

**Example:** A producer submits an offer to re-enroll land under continuous signup 51. The land is currently enrolled in CRP under a continuous signup CRP-1 with an established and functioning 11.50 acre CP21, Filter Strips, practice that is expiring on September 30, 2018. The producer offers to re-enroll the expiring 11.50 acres to be re-enrolled as a CP21, Filter Strips. Because NRCS made a determination of need, feasibility, and suitability at the time the acreage was originally enrolled as CP21, such determinations are not required at the time of re-enrollment. However, NRCS must determine if the filter strip is present and functioning properly and that the number of acres offered meets the current practice standard, such as width of the filter strip. NRCS is **not** required to provide the Documentation of Suitability and Feasibility Worksheet to FSA.

#### D Timely Filed Offers

Both CRP-1 and CRP-2C must be completed and signed by an eligible producer and received in the County Office no later than COB August 17, 2018, to constitute a timely filed offer. CRP-1 or CRP-2C alone does not constitute an offer. County Offices must immediately, but no later than COB August 17, 2018, enter the status in COLS as “Submit for Plan.”

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### 3 Offer Processing and Contract Approval (Continued)

#### E Conservation Plan Deadline

County Offices must provide all documents necessary to complete the conservation plan to NRCS, including but not limited to, signed CRP-1 and CRP-2C, by COB August 17, 2018.

NRCS must complete all conservation plans and return to FSA by COB September 7, 2018.

#### F Contract Effective Dates

For land not currently enrolled in CRP at the time the producer submits the offer, the effective date of the CRP-1 will be the first day of the month following the month the COC or CED approves the CRP-1. The producer may defer the effective date of the CRP-1 for up to 6 months. However, the effective date must always be the first day of the applicable month. See 2-CRP, subparagraph 213 B. The effective date of the CRP-1 may be on or after October 1, 2018; however, the CRP-1 must be approved by COB on September 28, 2018.

Land currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for re-enrollment no earlier than 6 months before the existing CRP-1 is scheduled to expire. The effective date for the new CRP-1 must be October 1 of the year the existing CRP-1 expires. The effective date **cannot** be deferred. If the existing CRP-1 is not in the last year of the contract period, the land is not eligible to be offered for enrollment. See 2-CRP, subparagraph 213 C.

All CRP-1's must have an approval date on or before September 28, 2018.

#### G Approving Continuous Signup 51 Offers

Both the CRP-1 and CRP-2C must be completed and signed by COB on August 17, 2018, to be considered a timely filed offer. Only 1 signature is required on the CRP-1. All timely filed eligible offers must be approved by the CED or COC by COB on September 28, 2018. Only acceptable offers according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 215 B, may be approved by CED or COC.

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### 4 Deadlines for Processing Offers, Conservation Plans and Approval in COLS

#### A Deadlines

The following table provides deadlines for continuous signup 51 offers.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
August 17	Deadline for producers to submit signed offers and for FSA to deliver offers to NRCS.
September 7	Deadline for NRCS to return completed Conservation Plans to FSA.
September 28	Deadline for COC or CED to approve CRP-1 and load CRP-1 approval in COLS. <b>Note:</b> There is no authority to approve a CRP-1 after September 28.