

For: AL, AR, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MN, MS, MO, NJ, NC, OH, OR, SC, TN, VA, and WI
State and County Offices

Preparing for Closing Out 2014 CRP Tree Thinning Incentive (TTI)

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

The Agricultural Act of 2014 provided authority to offer incentives to eligible CRP participants to encourage tree thinning and other practices to improve the condition of resources, promote forest management, or enhance wildlife habitat on CRP acreage. CRP TTI's were subsequently limited to tree thinning and prescribed burning activities. The CRP TTI authority expired on September 30, 2018.

Before the expiration of the authority, funds were obligated to CRP participants who had previously requested CRP TTI. To receive CRP TTI payments, CRP participants are to report performance of completed tree thinning and/or prescribed burning activities to FSA County Offices by COB September 30, 2020. Failure to report performance by this date will result in funds made available to CRP participants being de-obligated and the CRP participant not being paid for completed CRP TTI activities.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- instructions for cleanup of entries in the CRP TTI survey document located on the DAFP SharePoint site
- guidance for making payment following CRP participant and Technical Service Provider (TSP) certification of CRP TTI activity completion
- preparation for closing out the 2014 CRP TTI.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2021	Above State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices, NRCS Offices, and State Forestry Agencies

Notice CRP-904

2 Policy

A Cleanup of Entries in CRP TTI Survey Document

County Offices can only “edit” CRP TTI SharePoint records. Upon accessing the Conservation Division SharePoint site, County Offices must update entries in the CRP TTI survey document. Acres must not be increased above the originally approved acreage. County Offices do not have the ability to “delete” an erroneous or duplicate CRP TTI SharePoint record. Rather, County Offices are to update the “Comments” field to indicate that a record needs to be deleted and funds de-obligated. See Exhibit 1 for instructions.

The CRP TTI survey document is located at https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/fsa-dafp/CEPD/county_office/Lists/Tree%20Thinning%20Incentives%201/MainView.aspx.

B Making TTI Payments

CRP TTI payments are limited to the following authorized CRP conservation practices: CP3, CP3A, CP4D, CP11, CP22, CP22B, CP22S, CP31, CP36, CP38A, CP38C, CP38D, and CP38E. Eligible CRP TTI activities are limited to tree thinning and prescribed burning.

The following national rates were established for CRP TTI.

Technical Practice	Technical Practice Code	National Incentive
Tree Thinning and Burning	TTI-666/338/394	\$150/acre
Tree Thinning	TTI-666	\$75/acre
Prescribed Burning	TTI-338/394	\$25/acre for first burn \$35/acre for subsequent burns

The CRP participant must complete CRP TTI activity and report performance, and the State forestry agency representative or TSP must certify performance of the CRP TTI activity, before the CRP participant may be paid. If the participant has not yet reported performance, the County Office must notify the participant that funds are still available provided the activity is completed and performance certified by COB September 30, 2020.

Note: CRP TTI obligations can be paid regardless of whether a CRP participant incurs out-of-pocket costs in completing the eligible activity.

CRP TTI payments may be made following each tree thinning or prescribed burning activity performance.

Payments are made through the Conservation Payments System according to 5-CRP, paragraphs 282 and 284. The applicable alpha program code is XXCRPTTI (where “XX” represents the FY in which FSA-848A is completed) and the program accounting code is 3352.

CRP TTI payments are subject to the requirements of 1-PL, 4-PL, and 5-PL, as applicable, and the \$50,000 CRP annual rental payment limitation for the program year.

Notice CRP-904

2 Policy (Continued)

C Preparing to Close Out 2014 CRP TTI

All CRP TTI obligations have an expiration date of September 30, 2020. CRP participants must complete the activity and certify the performance on FSA-848B by **COB September 30, 2020**.

Note: CRP participants must be notified a minimum of 30 calendar days before the expiration of their tree thinning or prescribed burning activity in writing (Exhibit 2).

Performance of approved CRP TTI activities must be completed according to the conservation plan and must be certified on FSA-848B by both the:

- participant
- NRCS, State forestry agency, or TSP.

3 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices will:

- follow provisions of this notice
- submit questions to David Hoge by either of the following:
 - e-mail to **david.hoge@usda.gov**
 - telephone at 202-720-7674
- forward copies of this notice to the following partners:
 - State NRCS office
 - State forestry agency office
 - TSP's, if applicable.

B County Office Action

County Offices will:

- follow the provisions of this notice
- report to the FSA State Office that all letters have been mailed to TTI participants by **COB August 14, 2020**
- submit questions to the FSA State Office.

Instructions for Cleanup of Entries in the CRP TTI Survey Document

The County Office must review each TTI SharePoint record to ensure that every field is correct.

SharePoint Column	Action
CRP Contract Number	Enter the current CRP contract number with suffix, if applicable, from the Conservation Contract Maintenance System and FSA-848, item 5.
Contract Practice Acres	Enter the number of eligible acres enrolled on CRP-1 for the practice. This should match FSA-848, item 10G and must not be increased.
Activity Acres	Ensure the correct number of acres for which an eligible CRP TTI activity will be conducted. This must match the number on FSA-848, item 10H.
Obligation Request Amount	Enter the total amount of CRP TTI funds requested. This entry must not be increased. This must match FSA-848, item 10I. Note: Ensure that the manual calculation is correct.
COC FSA-848A Approval Date	The County Office completes this field after FMD has obligated funds for the approval.
Funds Obligation Date	Enter the date of the batch obligation for this TTI application.
Performance Date	Enter the date the activity was performed.
Participant Certification Date	Date the producer certifies the practice is complete. This item must be completed before payment is issued.
TSP or NRCS Certification Date	Date NRCS/FS/TSP certified the practice was performed according to standards and specifications. This item must be completed before payment is issued.
County Office Payment Date	Enter the date FSA-848B is paid.
NPS Payment ID Number	Enter the corresponding NPS payment ID number.
Unique Identifier	This is a County Office-assigned number that includes the State code, county code, and manual application number. SS-CCC-XXXX where SS = State code, CCC = county code, and XXX = manual application number assigned by the County Office.
Comments	Enter any notes or additional information for reference, but do not add any PII. Examples of comments include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • duplicate record that can be de-obligated • ineligible because of payment limitation • canceled for nonperformance or failure to meet practice standards and specifications.

Example Letter Notifying CRP Participants of the Expiration of Their Tree Thinning or Prescribed Burning Activity

United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency COUNTY OFFICE/SERVICE CENTER Street Address City, Town, Zip Code Phone Number Date	
CRP Participant Name Street Address City, Town, Zip Code	Control No: Farm No: Program: CRP
Tree Thinning Incentives 9/30/2020	Contract Number: Practice: Expiration Date:
<p>Thank you for your participation in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Farm Service Agency records indicate that you were approved for CRP Tree Thinning Incentives (TTI) under provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill to conduct thinning and/or prescribed burning activities on one or more of your current CRP contracts.</p> <p>If you have already completed thinning and/or prescribed burning activities according to your prior approval by the Farm Service Agency and desire payment of funds for these activities, you must file a performance report with this office and request payment by COB, September 30, 2020. Follow the instructions on the Form FSA-848A furnished to you with your CRP TTI approval. A copy of the FSA-848A is available from this office.</p> <p>If you do not certify completion of the thinning and/or prescribed burning activities by COB, September 30, 2020, the approval for payment of funds under TTI will be cancelled.</p> <p>Please contact this office prior to COB, September 30, 2020, for more information about your CRP TTI approval or this letter.</p> <p>County Executive Director</p>	