

For: State and County Offices

Streamlining Suggestions

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Suggestions for Streamlining the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

A Background

At the request of DAFP, suggestions were submitted from State and County Offices about streamlining FSA programs and functions. Each suggestion has been carefully reviewed to determine the impact of the suggestion on producers, statutory limitations, and if the suggestion would benefit all counties across the nation.

This notice responds to suggestions about programs and functions related to GRP. Similar suggestions may have been consolidated and only addressed once.

B Purpose

This notice provides responses to streamlining suggestions related to GRP.

C Suggestions and Responses

Suggestion: NRCS Field Offices need to print the Conservation Plans of Operation for the contract folders and/or provide a copy to FSA to reduce research time.

Response: FSA has worked with NRCS to ensure that a copy of the Conservation Plan of Operation is available for each contract file. NRCS will soon provide instructions to their Field Office staff to ensure that a copy is provided for each contract.

Disposal Date	Distribution
March 1, 2006 12-14-05	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice GRP-13

1 Suggestions for Streamlining the Grassland Reserve Program (Continued)

C Suggestions and Responses (Continued)

Suggestion: The form, which is sent from NRCS to the applicant, says they have been ranked and accepted and asks if they want to continue with the application. This is confusing and creates excessive phone calls and counter time.

Response: **This confusion seems to happen mainly on easement approvals. NRCS State Offices will provide a copy of the easement approval letter to FSA and application if taken by NRCS at the State Office. FSA State Office will provide this information to the affected County Office so they will know who has been approved in their county.**

Suggestion: Provide a handbook for State and County Offices to use. This will reduce the number of inquiries in regard to GRP issues.

Response: **The GRP handbook is currently in clearance.**

Suggestion: Reports that need to be run (such as GRP, etc.) should automatically print at the end of the month instead of needing to access the reports to print.

Response: **We believe there is merit in your proposal but insufficient IT resources are available to immediately implement.**

Suggestion: Payments could be issued by NRCS rather than FSA.

Response: **The agencies agreed that FSA was better situated for this function and, without proper analysis, it would be imprudent to implement this suggestion.**