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“Transmitted via email”

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-4-41

SUBJECT: LTP – Conservation Reserve Program.

Purpose: To clarify FSA policy in the 2-CRP Handbook.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004.

**Background.** The Farm Service Agency (FSA) issued Amendment 3 to the Agricultural Resource Conservation Program, 2-CRP Handbook on May 19, 2004. The Key changes are as follows:

- CP31, Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands. CRP practice CP31, Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands is a Continuous CRP practice, with technical responsibilities assigned to the FS. If requested, NRCS will also determine if the offered acreage is within a 100-year flood plain
- Conserving Use Definition. The definition of “Conserving Use” was modified in the CRP Final Rule. The new definition may be found in 2-CRP, Exhibit 2. [However, the key change is that land previously enrolled in the program where the grass cover required by CRP-1 continues to be maintained as though still enrolled will be considered as conserving use.]
- Use of Form NRCS-CPA-52. The use of Form NRCS-CPA-52 is required and must be attached to the FSA copy of the conservation plan. In addition, FSA must also sign the NRCS-CPA-52. Therefore, States using a modified NRCS-CPA-52 will need to modify their State Form to add the three (3) questions FSA will need to answer and add a FSA signature block on your State modified form. (For reference see the national Form NRCS-CPA-52).
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Requirement to Revise Conservation Plan if CRP Acreage Changes Due to New Measurement. FSA did not concur with our recommendations of not having to revise the CRP conservation plan when planimetrying new aerial photography or digitizing new photography that results in an acreage change due to the new measurement of CRP acreage. Therefore, pen and ink changes (date and initial change) of the conservation plan will be required where the new CRP acreage change due to the new measurement service.
- Designation of Technical Responsibility of Certain Practices to the Forest Service (FS). Technical responsibility for practice CP23, Wetland Restoration, has been assigned to FS. This is incorrect; it should read “assigned to NRCS and FS.” NRCS will continue to provide technical assistance for wetland restoration projects where the design of embankments and or other structures are required to restore the wetland area. FS will be responsible for all restorations requiring tree planting.

- Other Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Activities. Technical responsibility for CP22, Riparian Buffers, has been assigned to FS. This also is incorrect; it should read “assigned to NRCS and FS.” NRCS will continue to provide engineering technical assistance for concentrated flow erosion and/or water development/facilities for livestock, and the FS for those buffers not requiring engineering technical assistance.

NRCS field staffs have access to Amendment 3 of the 2-CRP Manual from your FSA Office. Contact Paul Flynn, State Resource Conservationist for additional information on this CRP update.

/s/ Ann English, acting for  
WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

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FO  
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