



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854
(651) 602-7900

Transmitted via Email

October 11, 2007

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-08-1

SUBJECT: LTP – Deferral letters for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

Purpose. Distribute a copy of the GRP deferral letter for DCs to mail to unfunded GRP applicants.

Expiration Date. December 31, 2007

At this time all GRP funds have been obligated to the highest prioritized applications submitted for the FY 2007 program period. There were more eligible applications submitted than could be allocated with the limited funds we were granted. The eligible applications that were not funded have been deferred to a waiting list and will remain in that status until funds become available.

Landowners with deferred applications will be notified of their status in writing by the District Conservationist from the originating NRCS office. A copy of the deferral letter is attached to this bulletin. Before mailing the letter to deferred landowners, DCs must fill in the blanks in the letter. Required information includes the applicant's name and address, your office phone number (twice), and the County of the FSA Committee. Be sure that you send a courtesy copy to the local FSA County Executive Director.

Any questions about this bulletin should be directed to Ginger Kopp, GRP Program Manager, at (651) 602-7909.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: DCs, ARCs, ASTCs (FO)
Paul Flynn, SRC
Greg Anderson, FSA





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APPLICATION DEFERRAL

SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL,
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

DATE

(Name and address of applicant)

Dear (applicant name):

This notification is to advise you, that although your Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) application meets the objectives established for the program, we were not able to fund your application at this time. During the application ranking process, it was determined that other applications would provide greater environmental benefits. Because funding for GRP projects in Minnesota is limited, your application did not rank high enough for funding during this evaluation period. Therefore, NRCS is deferring your application until the next application/ranking period.

Although your application will not be funded at this time, we encourage you to keep your application on file should additional funds become available. You may exercise any of the following options by calling (_____) _____ no later than 30 days from receipt of this notice to inform us of your decision:

- Retain this application for funding "as is" during the next evaluation period.
- Retain this application with the understanding that "I want to consider changes that will help improve my chances of receiving future funding. I am requesting NRCS assistance to identify potential improvements before the next evaluation period. Please contact me at (_____) _____ to schedule this assistance."
- I do not want my application considered during the next evaluation period. I am voluntarily canceling my deferred application.

If you do not contact NRCS by the above date, your application will be considered "as is" during the next evaluation period.

Deferral of your application is not an appealable issue because deferral of the application does not constitute an adverse decision under the National Appeals Division rules of procedure.

If you feel the facts have not been properly considered, you may request the following appeal rights: Appeal to the _____ County FSA Committee, or the National Appeals Division (NAD). You may also request mediation. Please contact the NRCS Office if you plan to take any of these actions.

Helping People Help the Land

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To request mediation contact:

Statewide Mediation Coordinator
Mary Nell Preisler
1526 170th Avenue
Bejou, Minnesota 56516-9736
Telephone: (218) 935-5785
FAX: (218) 935-9053

To appeal directly to the National Appeals Division (NAD) contact:

NAD Eastern Regional Office
8909 Purdue Road
Suite 240
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268
Telephone: 1-800-541-0457 OR (317) 875-9648
TTY: 1-800-791-3222
FAX: (317) 875-9674

Your written request must be received no later than 30 days from the date that you received this notification and clearly explain the reasons you disagree with the decision in order for it to be considered.

Thank you for your interest in this program. We look forward to assisting you in the future.

Sincerely,

Name
District Conservationist

cc: CED, FSA