NRCS CRP Note #117
FSA Conservation Message #07-353
July, 2007

This document was prepared jointly by the Minnesota offices of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA). It is intended to clarify and provide consistency for the eligibility determination procedures and documentation requirements of the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). It also clarifies each agency's responsibilities when processing offers for the CCRP. The document does not replace the NRCS-FOTG (eFOTG), the National FSA 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Handbook or applicable CRP Notices. Updates to this document will be made as deemed necessary by NRCS and FSA State Office staff. *Practices eligible for CCRP under the public wellhead protection area criteria are not included in this CRP Note.*

A. Sequence of Program Sign-up Activities

The CCRP sign-up procedure starts when an interested customer makes an inquiry to **FSA**, **NRCS** or a Technical Service Provider (**TSP**). **TSPs** and conservation partners providing assistance to customers on CCRP need to coordinate their work through the local USDA staff.

CCRP activities FSA is required to complete:

- Administration of all CCRP contracts, including compliance determinations.
- Cooperation at all levels to ensure consistent implementation of CCRP policies and procedures.

All CCRP requests are referred to the local **FSA** office. **FSA** determines:

- if the customer meets eligibility requirements,
- if basic land and practice eligibility criteria are met, and
- if program policy and practice requirements are met as per Exhibit 9 of the 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Handbook.

An on-site review by **FSA** to determine the above may be needed. Based on the practice request submitted by the customer, **FSA** generates form CRP-2C and a photocopy of the approximate acreage offered, and refers the producer to **NRCS**. **FSA** gives the CRP-2C and an aerial map to **NRCS**.

NRCS or a **TSP** determines and completes the following based on a site visit**:**

- if the purpose(s) of the practice(s) according to Exhibit 9 in the 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Handbook are met,
- if the acreage is suitable for the offered practice(s),
- if the practice(s) is needed and feasible to solve the resource concern,
- completion of the "Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability Worksheet" for each practice listed on the CRP-2C,
- fills in block 13 of the CRP-2C, and
- returns the CRP-2C and a copy of the "Documentation" worksheets to **FSA**.

If the customer is still interested in enrolling the eligible offered acreage into the CCRP, **FSA** completes a CRP-1 for customer signature and **NRCS** or a **TSP** completes a conservation plan. The minimum requirements for a CRP conservation plan are as follows:

- the Environmental Evaluation Worksheet (NRCS-CPA-052) signed by NRCS or TSP,
- conservation plan map which indicates the location of all CRP practices,
- soils map of the area in the conservation plan,
- applicable land eligibility and practice eligibility worksheets that are completely filled out,
- NRCS-CPA-1155, Contract Support Document – Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations, which includes a list of all practices (include mid-contract management practices) and the extent (number or acres) of each practice scheduled by year, practice narratives which also reference additional practice design information or job sheets and a signature page. The plan will include obtaining the signatures from:
  - ✓ all the signatories of the CRP-1 that have responsibility to implement the plan,
  - ✓ the NRCS DC,
  - ✓ the Soil and Water Conservation District (if they chose to sign),
  - ✓ Note: FSA will sign in any appropriate place as this document no longer contains a signature block for "Other Sponsoring Agency",
- Mid-contract management job sheets as appropriate, and
- OPTIONAL PLANNING INFORMATION AT THE TIME OF CONTRACT APPROVAL:
  - ✓ Conservation Plan Schedule of Operations (printed out of toolkit) (CONS-68), including a narrative and detailed listing of all appropriate practice unit amounts and establishment dates. It is up to the individual field office if they wish to print and include this form in the CRP plan or not.
  - ✓ Practice design and job sheets for each practice. This information eventually is required to become part of the plan but is NOT required prior to contract approval. Job sheets do not require signatures.

The above information provides the basis for a complete CRP conservation plan.

After FSA approves the CRP contract, additional site-specific technical information will be completed by the NRCS or TSP to be included in the approved plan. These items include:

- a detailed practice design and/or a job sheet for each practice on the CRP-2C, and
- as appropriate, provides assistance with the layout and the installation of each practice.

At the county level FSA and NRCS have the option to decide if each agency will maintain a separate copy of the CRP conservation plan, or if they will jointly share one USDA copy. Where multiple copies of CRP conservation plans are maintained, any and all subsequent plan changes made via revisions and modifications must be recorded in each copy.

B. Conservation Practices for CCRP

All conservation practices designed by **NRCS** or a **TSP** (includes SWCDs and Department of Natural Resources (DNR)) must meet:

- The requirements of the corresponding FOTG practice standard. Sites where a practice design does not or cannot meet the requirements of the corresponding FOTG practice standard are only acceptable if a request for a waiver, signed by the participant and practice designer, is approved by the NRCS State Conservationist **prior** to implementation of the practice. NRCS - DCs, FSA, TSP or Minnesota DNR do not have the authority to grant waivers to NRCS practice standards.

- The Minnesota Upland Treatment Policy, and
- The 2-CRP Handbook requirements.

FSA and NRCS will coordinate the referral of all applicable CRP-2s for forestry practices to the **Minnesota DNR, Division of Forestry (DNR)** to be designed by a forester. **DNR** will submit the completed forestry practice design(s) and job sheet(s) to the landowner and a copy to **NRCS** for inclusion in the conservation plan.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Through a national level Cooperative Agreement, **DNR** has the responsibility for developing CCRP practice designs and job sheets and working with landowners to layout and implement the practices shown in Table 1. **DNR** will report completed practice installations to **FSA**.

Table 1: Practices Designed by MNDNR, Division of Forestry*

Practice	NRCS Practice Standards	Practice Code
CP3 Tree Planting	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490
CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490
CP11 Vegetative Cover – Trees – Already Established	Tree/Shrub Establishment	612
CP22 Riparian Buffer (Livestock exclusion & fencing will be designed by NRCS)	Riparian Forest Buffer Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	391 612 490
CP23 Wetland Restoration (upland forested acres)	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490
CP23A Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain (upland forested acres)	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490
CP31 Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490
CP37 Duck Nesting Habitat	Tree/Shrub Establishment Forest Site Preparation	612 490

***Note: NRCS** has the responsibility for determining the eligibility of the above practices and development of the conservation plan. **MN DNR** Forestry is responsible to develop the practice design, assist with the layout and the installation of these practices.

C. Certification of Completed Practices

- FSA is responsible to obtain landowner self certification of practice completion on 90% of all CRP installed practices using the AD-862.
- NRCS policy does not allow the reporting of conservation practices into the Performance Results System (PRS) without; 1) documentation (as described in the FOTG) and; 2) a technical evaluation that the "as implemented" CRP practice meets the criteria in the corresponding NRCS practice standard. FSA will allow NRCS employees access to the landowner submitted practice self certification documentation for PRS reporting purposes.
- NRCS is responsible to certify 10% (10 percent) of all practices using the AD-862.
  - NRCS Certification will be completed by September 30 of the current fiscal year,
  - Certification will be completed on prioritized practices (see table below),

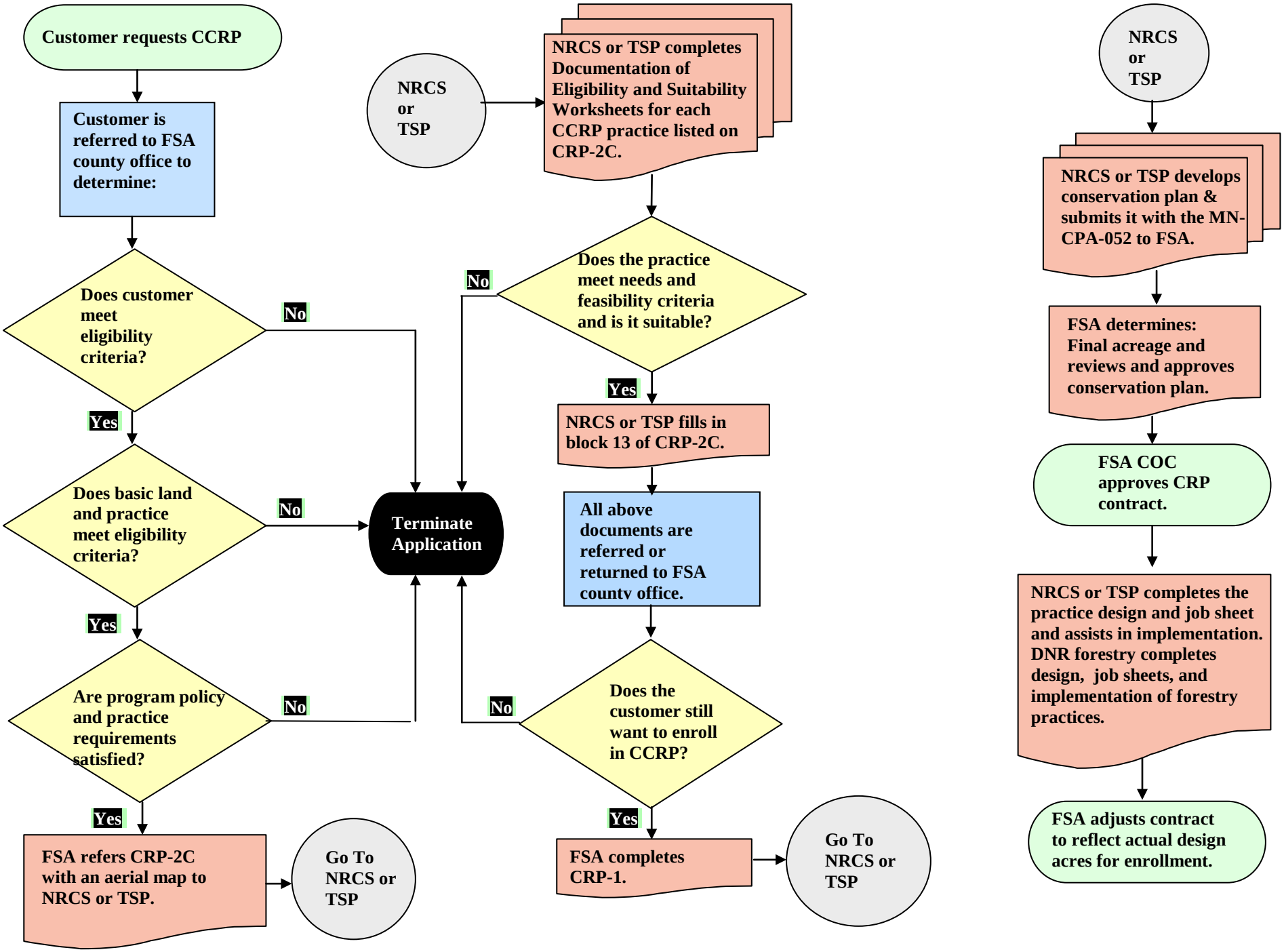
- By December 1 of each year the FSA CED and the NRCS DC will jointly determine the number of certifications required to accomplish this task based on the number of prior fiscal year completed CRP-1s,
- NRCS will conduct current year certifications based on 10% (10 percent) of the prior year's total,
- Complete the workload associated with practice certification by September 30 of the current fiscal year, and
- Priority for certification will be as follows:

Priority	**Practices**
High	CP8, CP9, CP18C, CP23, CP23A, CP27, CP37 and including any practice requiring a structure or engineering designed practices
Medium	CP5A, CP15A, CP16A, CP17A, CP21
Low	All other practices

D. Completing the Process

- **NRCS** provides copies of all conservation planning materials to the landowner and **FSA**.
- **FSA** is responsible to review the plan and approve the CCRP contract.
- **NRCS and\or DNR Forestry** continues to work with participants to develop practice designs or job sheets for all approved practices.
- Based on conservation plan and practice design information **FSA** determines the practice components and develops an estimated cost share amount using the CRP Docket.
- **FSA** is responsible to determine the final acreage of each practice and update any acreage changes in the conservation plan. **FSA** may make changes to the acreage in the contract as necessary according to their established procedures after practice implementation.
- As requested by the participant, **NRCS and/or DNR Forestry** provides additional technical assistance and practice lay-out to facilitate implementation of practices.
- **FSA** is responsible to follow-up with approved participants to remind them of the implementation schedule and obtain bills, receipts and participant documentation for implemented practices.
- Refer to Diagram 1 for a flow chart of this process.

Diagram 1 Flow Chart for CCRP Applications



E. Technical Service Providers

USDA may provide technical assistance both directly or through NRCS certified Technical Service Providers (**TSPs**). All CRP technical work is required to meet NRCS policy including the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) for conservation planning and the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) requirements for conservation practices and systems.

As approved by the respective state office **USDA** may be able to use internal agency funds to approve the use of a **TSP** for CRP work products. **TSPs** can be either conservation partners approved in a Contribution Agreement (these individuals will have **NRCS** designated Technical Approval Authority (TAA)), or a certified private sector individual or business (these **TSPs** are certified on the TechReg web site). All **TSP** services are provided independently of oversight from the **NRCS** and assume total liability and responsibility for the work products they produce. Approval for the use of reimbursed **TSP** services must be obtained prior to beginning any work deliverables.

Technical Service Provider (TSP) (reimbursable assistance)

The requirement to have prior approval for **TSP** services means that CCRP conservation planning activities will have very limited opportunity for **TSP** services. Prior to approving **TSP** services, **USDA** must determine if funding is available, the amount of technical assistance funds allowable for each request, and contract for the approved services.

Other Technical Assistance (non-reimbursable assistance)

Conservation partners working with **NRCS** can work in a non-reimbursable fashion on CCRP which includes all phases of CCRP activities. When this occurs **NRCS** must review and sign-off on all their work, indicating that it is technically complete and correct (**NRCS** can do this by delegating "Technical Approval Authority" to specific partners) and **NRCS** retains the technical responsibility and liability for these work products.

F. CCRP Plan Administration

Administrative Changes

NRCS will not revise CRP plans for non-technical reasons. **FSA** is responsible to update all CRP plans for all administrative revisions including changes in farm number, tract number, contract number and acreage adjustments.

Technical Modifications/Revisions

NRCS will record conservation plan modifications/revisions via a revised CPA-1155 that is given to **FSA** who is responsible to document contract revisions. The revised CPA-1155 can be completed via pen and ink changes to the existing plan. Revisions to the electronic ToolKit plan are not required. Modifications/revisions will be reviewed with the participants and contain a new signature by the participant(s) responsible to implement and maintain the plan. **NRCS** will complete CRP modifications/revisions for the following situations:

- extending the CRP-1,
- change of land ownership,
- modifying or changing practices,
- the addition of food plots,
- the addition of mid-contract management activities,
- emergency provisions including haying and grazing, and
- when the performance is different than the original conservation plan but meets FOTG specifications.

Copies of all CPO modification/revisions will be given to **FSA** for review and approval.

G. STATUS REVIEWS:

NRCS will conduct annual status reviews with the participant on 10% (10 percent) of all CRP-1s approved in the previous FY.

- By January 1 of each year the **FSA CED** and the **NRCS DC** will jointly determine the number of status reviews to be completed and a listing of those contracts where a status review is being requested. The priority for status reviews will be jointly determined but could consider those practices where **NRCS** has not previously certified practice completion,
- When all practices in the plan are completed and the vegetative and tree cover is established the status review reported to **FSA** will be labeled "FINAL",
- **NRCS** will complete the workload associated with annual status reviews by September 30 of the current fiscal year.

H. CCRP CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION:

Refer to the attached pages for policy clarity and documentation requirements. Electronic files of the eligibility worksheets for each practice can be found on the MN NRCS homepage: http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/. From the home menu click on Programs followed by Conservation Reserve Program then on Eligibility Documents.

I. APPEALS:

All determinations that adversely affect the applicant including (1) participant eligibility, (2) land, (3) location and (4) practice eligibility are appealable. **FSA** is responsible to notify all adversely affected applicants of their rights to appeal.

J. COORDINATION:

The key to a successful local CCRP program is coordination between **USDA**, local conservation partners, **TSPs** and others that provide assistance to participants. Coordination at the county level is critical. If a situation arises where local **USDA** personnel cannot agree on specific CCRP policies, including; contract sign-up procedure, practice eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, practice certifications, and status reviews the **NRCS-DC** will refer the issue to the **NRCS (ASTC-FO)** and the **FSA-CED** will refer the issue to the **FSA DD** for discussion and resolution. At their discretion the **NRCS (ASTC-FO)** and/or the **FSA DD** may request state office assistance to resolve policy questions. All CRP partners need to understand their roles and work together to provide the best possible and most efficient service to interested producers.

Comments about this document are welcome and should be directed to **NRCS** and/or the **FSA** state office CRP conservation staffs for suggested improvements to future revisions to this document.

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NRCS, St. Paul, MN

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FSA, St. Paul, MN

Table 2: CCRP Practice Codes, Titles & Page Numbers*

CP #	Practice Title	Pg.
5A	Field Windbreak Establishment	9
8A	Grass Waterways	12
9	Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife	16
15A	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)	18
15B	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips) on Terraces	20
16A	Shelterbelt Establishment	22
17A	Living Snow Fences	24
18B/C	Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity / Salt Tolerant Cover	27
21	Filter Strips	30
22	Riparian Buffer	34
23	Wetland Restoration	39
23A	Wetland Restoration , Non-Floodplain	42
24	Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover as Cross Wind Trap Strips	45
27/28	Farmable Wetlands (FWP) Program / FWP Buffer	47
29	Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer	55
30	Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer	58
31	Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands	61
33	Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds	63
37	Duck Nesting Habitat	69

* For non-wellhead protection areas only.

CCRP Practice

CP5A Field Windbreak Establishment

The purpose of this practice is to establish windbreaks to improve the environmental benefits on a farm or ranch to, first, reduce cropland erosion below soil loss tolerance and, second, enhance wildlife habitat.

The maximum allowable practice width will consist of 1 to 3 rows of trees and/or shrubs spaced according to guidance in the Windbreak/Shelterbelt Standard, Code 380. The spacing between rows (row-to-row width) depends on the total number of rows, the species of trees or shrubs to be planted, and the type of weed control to be used. Row spacing may vary and row spacing guidance and spacing maximums are listed in the standard. Multiple field windbreaks in the same field will be spaced according to the contributing erosion factors using WEQ. See Diagram 2 for field windbreak examples.

At the participant's option, an additional area up to one rod in width is eligible for enrollment adjacent to the outside row of any windbreak. This area will provide access to maintain the windbreak and allow the tree canopy to develop over the life of the contract.

Field windbreaks must be located, positioned, and documented to provide wind erosion control benefits. Eligible fields must be determined to have potential wind erosion that exceeds "T", the tolerable soil loss rate. Potential wind erosion will be calculated using the EI portion in the Critical Period Procedure of the Wind Erosion Equation. WEQ information is located in Section I of the FOTG. Wind erosion potential for the CP-5A site will be documented on the CP-5A eligibility sheet.

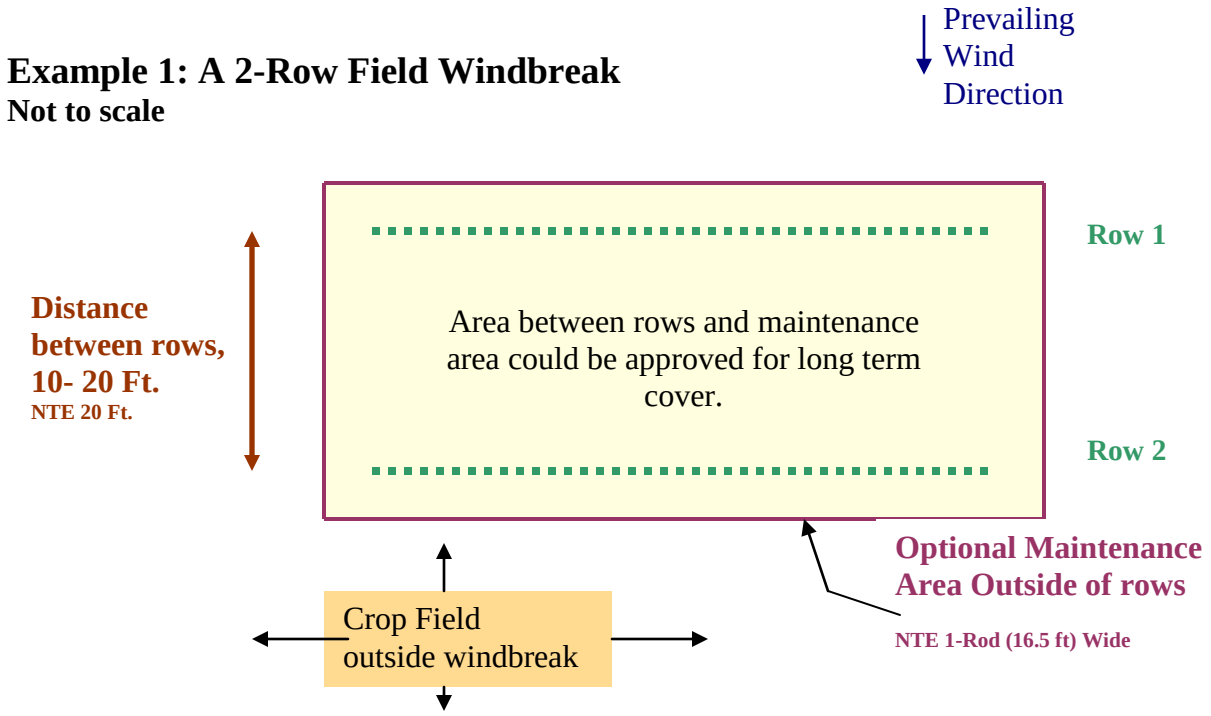
A temporary cover crop, not to exceed 2 years, is allowed if the following circumstances are justified: 1) seedlings are not available; 2) the normal planting period has passed or the practice will not be completed within 12 months from the CRP-1 effective starting date; 3) chemical residues are likely to carry-over in the soil. Longer cover crops may be considered if: 1) steep slopes are present; 2) water or wind erosion is present; or 3) other unique site conditions exist. For all situations where grass cover will be established (both temporary and long term) with the CP-5A practice the table below lists the only approved species that can be used.

Crop	Rate/acre
Small grains (Oats, Wheat, Barley, Rye)	1 ½ to 2 ½ bu.
Perennial rye	8 lbs.
Timothy	2 to 3 lbs.

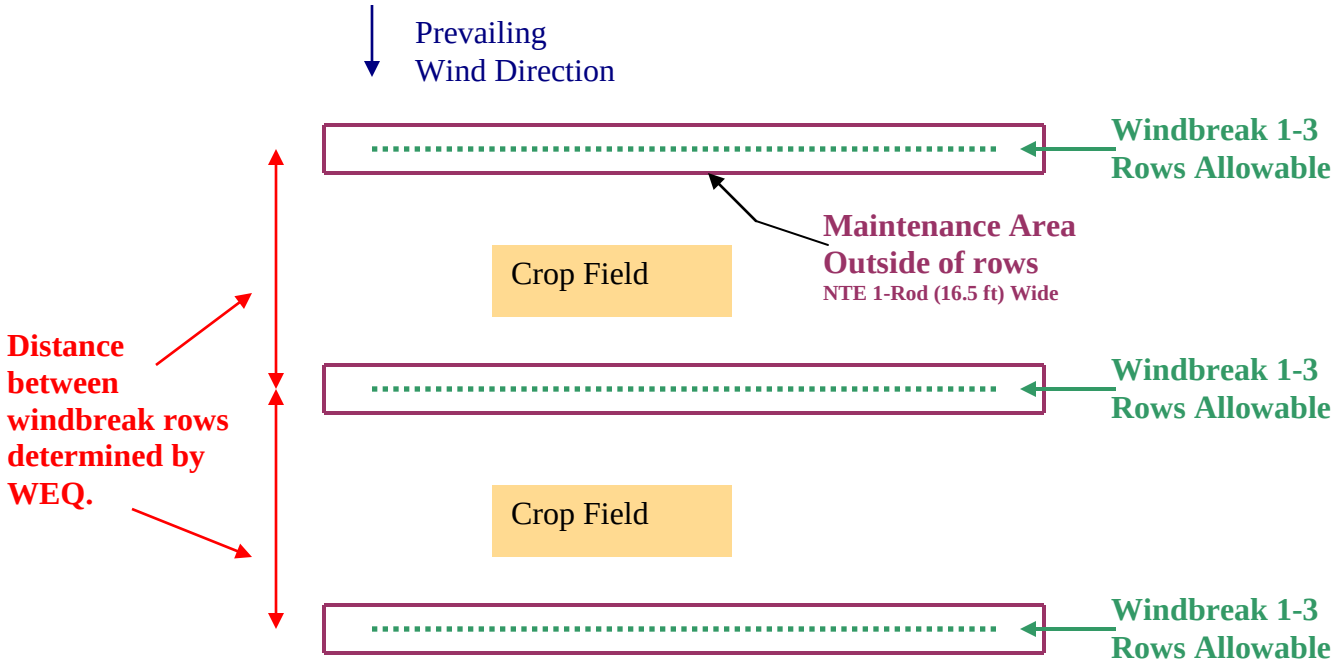
All grasses and weeds located within the row must be controlled for the life of the contract. If within-row soil erosion control or weed suppression is needed, use as appropriate, mulch, fabric, mechanical and/or chemical control methods. Annual mowing of CRP acreage for generic weed control is prohibited after a final status review has been received from NRCS. According to 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Paragraph 442B, cost share is allowed for one weed and/or insect control treatment within 24 months after the planting of trees/shrubs if approved by the COC and it is a part of the conservation plan.

Diagram 2 Field Windbreaks

Example 1: A 2-Row Field Windbreak
Not to scale



Example 2: A Series of 1-3 Row Field Windbreaks
Not to scale



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Field Windbreaks — **CP5A** Version 4/07

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____ **Resource Concerns for Eligibility Wind Erosion**

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Documented potential wind erosion is equal to or greater than T? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Soil Map Unit Symbol* _____ or Soil Map Unit Name* _____

***Use predominant soil of significant extent for planning purposes**

Enter the Soil Loss Tolerance for the Map Unit (T) tons/acre/year _____

Unsheltered Distance across field (L) _____ (Ft) **(Measured in the prevailing wind direction)**

C Factor for County _____ I Factor for Soil Map Unit _____

Potential Soil Loss** _____ tons/acre/year (A) **(from the Critical Period Procedure of the Wind Erosion Equation (WEQ))**

****(A = C*I*L)**

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *Documented potential wind erosion is less than T.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

(Use the Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups from Section I of the FOTG to determine tree or shrub suitability for the offered acres)

Notes:

_____

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice

Extent of Windbreak (# of rows, check one, and width)

☐ One: Width _____ ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 33 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Two: Width _____ ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 53 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Three: Width _____ ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 73 ft. including maintenance area*)

***One rod width (16.5 ft) may, at the participant's option, be enrolled along the outside row(s) of the windbreak for maintenance access and canopy development.**

CCRP Practice

CP8A Grassed Waterways

The purpose of this practice is to convey runoff from terraces, diversions, or other water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding and to improve water quality. The program may enroll up to twice the waterway design width not to exceed 100 feet. **Current revised CRP policy does not allow the waterway practice to include or provide cost share assistance on any are that is not enrolled into CRP, see Diagram 3.**

Sites with existing vegetation or existing non-functioning waterways could be entirely eligible if all of the following apply

1. FSA determines the area is cropland and meets CRP crop history requirements and,
2. NRCS determines that the existing vegetation is **not** adequately serving the purpose of the practice and,
3. The area is **not** under a practice lifespan from any cost share program.

If all the above do not apply some sites could be partially eligible. Those areas determined by FSA to be non-cropland are not eligible for enrollment. However, eligible cropland areas immediately adjacent to these areas can be enrolled. The waterway can be constructed and FSA will pay a prorated cost share based on the percentage of the area determined to be eligible.

The site review for the CP8A practice will always include an Environmental Evaluation and written documentation (NRCS-CPA-052) as to whether the offered site will adversely affect wetlands. Sites must be evaluated for impacts both to Swampbuster and NEPA. Wetlands can occur on slopes, such as a waterway site. Usually sloping sites will not meet the wetland hydrology criteria associated with flooding or ponding but could be considered a non-depressional, saturated wetland.

Additional Swampbuster Guidance

For saturated non-depressional wetland sites:
If the site is a Wetland (W) that is:

- Within a HEL field, the waterway practice can be installed for erosion control and no minimal effect agreement is required,
- Within an NHEL field, the waterway can be installed for erosion control only if a minimal effect agreement is obtained.

If the offered site is Prior Converted Cropland (PC) that was manipulated and cropped prior to 12/23/85, any additional manipulation will not be a violation of the Food Security Act. If the offered site is a Farmed Wetland Pasture (FWP) where the adjacent land is pasture or hayland and the site has been manipulated follow the guidance listed above for wetlands.

NOTE: All wetland minimal effect exemptions and/or agreements may not qualify for exemptions to the Clean Water Act administered by CoE or MN Wetland Conservation Act administered by BWSR. Producers should be advised they may need to request approval from these agencies prior to manipulating wetlands.

Continued next page

Additional Guidance for NEPA and Executive Order 11990

The above information relates only to Swampbuster; all wetland sites must also be evaluated for NEPA through policy in the General Manual Part 410.26, Protection of Wetlands.

Subsurface Drains

Subsurface drains, NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Subsurface Drain, Code 606, can be established as part of this practice only to create an adequate seedbed for vegetation establishment or to allow equipment to pass without damaging the waterways. Cost share for tile size is limited to the design required for the waterway and will not consider additional upslope subsurface drainage or surface intakes.

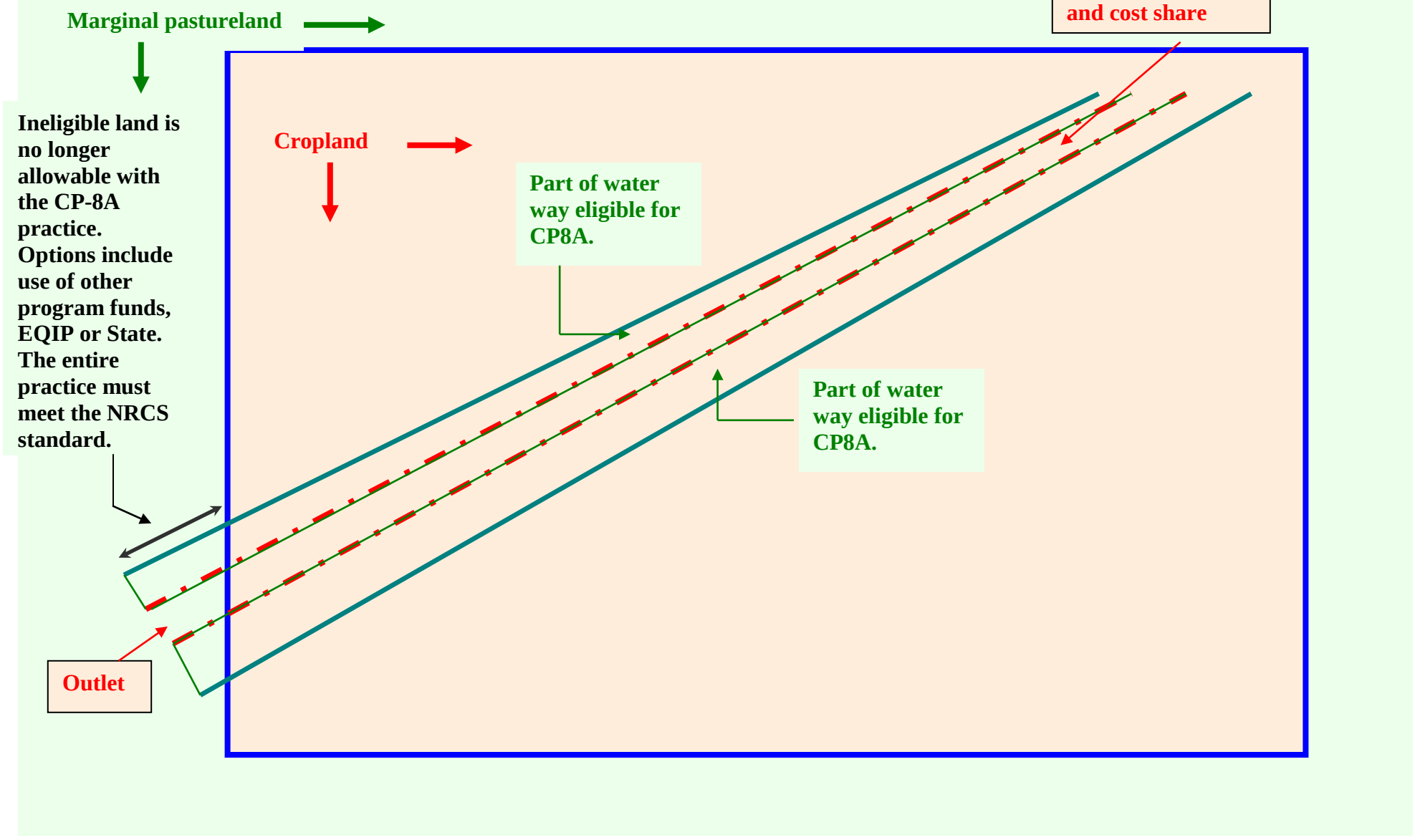
Outlet Structures

Outlet structures such as tile outlets, grade stabilization structures, aluminum toewall structures, rock chutes and pipe drop structures can be a component of this practice and cost shared. NRCS Conservation Standards Grade Stabilization Structure, Code 410; and Water and Sediment Control Basins, Code 638; Critical Area Planting, Code 342, and Mulching, Code 472 can be used for this practice.

Diagram 3

Grassed Waterway Eligible Areas

(Not to scale)



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Grass Waterways — CP8A, Version 4/07

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Water Erosion
Water Quality

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Document that a classic gully or ephemeral erosion exists on the offered acres.

_____

Ineligible Practice:

☐ Concentrated flow erosion does not exist on the offered acres.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Is there an adequate outlet in the offered acres? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Upland watershed area is adequately treated according to policy?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

Notes:

_____

☐ *The site is unsuitable for the practice.

Extent of eligible area:

_____ Ft. Wide*

***Up to two (2) times the minimum design standard, not to exceed 100 ft. wide.**

_____ Ft. Long**

****** Include only land eligible for CRP enrollment.**

Total practice area: _____ Acres

CCRP Practice

CP9 Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife

The purpose of this practice is to provide water for wildlife for the majority of the year. The practice must establish a shallow water area with an average depth of 6 – 18 inches for a minimum of 6 months of the year for all years. NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657 will be used for designing this practice.

This practice is not to be used for the purpose of a pond development. Current policy does not allow implementation of this practice by excavating within any wetland (including farmed wetlands or wetlands cropped under natural conditions). Use practices CP23, CP23A, CP27 or CP37 if the purpose is to restore wetland functions and values.

The practice may be offered only once per tract, only one (1) CRP-1 is allowed and the contract acres may not exceed 10 acres in size including the buffer acres. A perennial vegetative buffer is required with this practice as per the following policy:

- The width of the buffer shall not be less than 20 feet or exceed an average maximum of 120 feet wide,
- The buffer area and the shallow water area shall not exceed 10 acres per tract,
- The upland buffer area will be seeded to a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of 3 at least grasses, and 1 forb.

When this practice is established field staff will document that excavation did not occur and that fill was not placed within a wetland.

All seeding recommendations need to meet the NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645. This practice may include complementary NRCS Practice Standards such as Critical Area Planting, Code 342; Mulching, Code 484; Subsurface Drain, Code 606; and Grade Stabilization Structure, Code 410.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife — **CP9** Version 4/07

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____ **Resource Concerns for Eligibility**
Water Source for Wildlife

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Offered acre(s) is (are) in a non-wetland area*? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

***Existing functional wetlands do not qualify for this practice.**

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The offered acres already function as a wetland.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Offered acres can provide a source of water for the majority of the year in all years?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

An area at least 20 feet wide is available for an adequate vegetative buffer?

☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

_____

Unsuitable Site:

☐ *The offered acres do not provide a source of water.

☐ **The offered acres do not provide an adequate buffer.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of shallow water area _____ acres

Buffer Width*: _____ ft.

***The buffer width will not exceed an average maximum width of 120 ft.**

CCRP Practice

CP15A Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips)

The purpose of this practice is to establish strips of permanent vegetative cover generally following the contour on eligible cropland alternated with wider cultivated strips farmed on the contour that will reduce erosion and control runoff.

The buffer strips must be established for erosion control and **must** be alternated with wider cultivated strips of non-CRP cropland for eligibility. Contour buffer strips are not eligible to be installed on terraces within this practice. The buffer strips must be established for soil erosion and runoff control purposes. Eligible fields must have potential sheet and rill soil erosion documented as being above T using *RUSLE2*. Potential sheet and rill erosion will be determined using the proposed:

1) crop rotation,
2) seedbed preparation field operations and,
3) residue management activities.

Print-outs from RUSLE2 calculations can serve as soil loss documentation.

Field borders may be included in the offered acres if NRCS documents the need in writing that the field border is necessary to drain water and insure the functionality of the contour buffer system. The field border maximum width is 15 feet.

The lowest contour buffer strip in a field may be up to 2 times the minimum width recommended for the practice. The acceptable width is determined as follows:

- Designed for soil erosion purposes is 15 feet,
- Seeded to grass or a grass/legume mixture is 15 feet,
- Seeded to legumes only is 30 feet (reseeding at the producers expense may be required).

NRCS Practice Standard Contour Buffer Strips, Code 332 will be used to design this practice.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips) **CP15A**

Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Water Erosion
Control Runoff

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Documented sheet and rill soil erosion (A) is greater than T? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Soil Map Unit Symbol* or Soil Map Unit Name

***Use predominant soil of significant extent for planning purposes. Document here or include RUSLE2 calculation sheet.**

To determine if the proposed acres are eligible, RUSLE II is required for calculating soil loss. Attach result to this document.
RUSLE II Soil Loss Rate (A)

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *Documented sheet and rill soil erosion (A) is less than or equal to T.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice? ☐ Yes* ☐ No*

Notes:
(Must document need for field borders as an integral part of the contour buffer system.)

☐ *The site is unsuitable for the practice.

Extent of eligible area:

Buffer Strip Width Ft. (Must be at least 15 ft., not to exceed 30 ft.*)
*** If seeded to legumes only, the minimum width is 30 ft.**

Lowest Buffer Strip Width Ft. **(May be up to 2 times the minimum width recommended)**

Row Crop Width Ft. **(Must be greater than the buffer strip width)**

Field Border Width Ft. **(Must be less than or equal to 15 feet)**

CCRP Practice

CP15B Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (Contour Grass Strips) on Terraces

The purpose of the practice is to establish vegetative cover on terraces to enhance water quality and reduce soil erosion in terraced fields. The acreage offered must meet cropping history requirements and must not be under another program lifespan or agreement to maintain the terrace system.

This practice applies only to properly functioning terraces, not currently planted to a vegetative cover, that are beyond the practice lifespan and ensures that the long-term functions of the terrace are maintained.

A buffer may be included in the offered acres not to exceed 10 feet on the upslope (channel) and/or downslope (backslope) portions of the terrace. The maximum width including the buffer areas must not exceed 60 feet.

The terrace must be properly functioning for practice eligibility and must not be under a practice lifespan or other agreement to maintain the terrace system.

The NRCS Practice Standard Contour Buffer Strips, Code 332 will be used for designing this practice.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover On Terraces (Contour Grass Strips) **CP15B**

Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Water Quality
Water Erosion

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Existing terraces are not currently under a practice lifespan or other maintenance agreement? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Ineligible Practice:

☐ * Terraces are currently under the practice lifespan or maintenance agreement.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Is the terrace system properly functioning ☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:
(Seeding is needed and feasible.)

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice.

Extent of eligible area:

Backslope Toe or End of Fill Buffer Ft Wide. (Not to exceed 10 feet wide.)

Upslope Channel or Cutslope Buffer Ft. Wide (Not to exceed 10 feet wide.)

Total Width of Practice Ft. Wide **(Maximum of 40 feet* unless buffers are less than 10 feet.)**

*** The maximum width of the practice, including the buffer areas, must not exceed 60 feet.**

CCRP Practice

CP16A Shelterbelt Establishment

The purpose of this practice is to protect farmstead or livestock areas from blowing winds and to save energy. The maximum allowable practice width will consist of 3 to 8 rows of trees and/or shrubs spaced according to guidance in the NRCS Practice Standard Windbreak/Shelterbelt, Code 380. The spacing between rows (row-to-row width) depends on the total number of rows, the species of trees or shrubs to be planted, and the type of weed control to be used. Row spacing guidance and spacing maximums are listed in the standard. Row spacing may wary within a planting and all rows don't have to be spaced at the maximum width.

At the participant's option, an additional area up to one rod in width (16.5 ft.) is eligible for enrollment adjacent to the outside row of any shelterbelt. This area will provide access to maintain the shelterbelt and allow the tree canopy to develop over the life of the contract.

Cost share is allowed for one weed and/or insect control treatment within 24 months after the planting of trees/shrubs if approved by the COC and it is a part of the conservation plan.

Shelterbelts must be located, positioned and documented to provide protection to **existing** farmsteads, livestock areas or other structures. Proposed buildings and feedlot areas are **not** eligible for this practice.

Refer to CP5A for information about temporary cover crops.

Eligible applicants must be individuals or entities that are considered to be "actively engaged in farming". Contact FSA to determine if prospective participants meet this requirement.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Shelterbelt Establishment CP16A

Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY: **Resource Concerns for Eligibility**
Protection from Wind

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.: **Save Energy**

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Check area to be protected* ☐ Farmstead ☐ Feedlot

*must be existing structures

☐ Livestock barn ☐ Other (explain in Notes)

Ineligible Practice:

☐ Protected areas are pasture, fallow, or non-farmland

☐ Protected areas are proposed structures and do not currently exist.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice*? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

(Use CTSG for tree species in the FOTG, Section I to determine tree or shrub suitability for the offered acres)

Notes:

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice

Extent of Shelterbelt (# of rows, check one, and width)

☐ Three: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 73 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Four: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 93 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Five: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 113 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Six: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 133 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Seven: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 153 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Eight: Width ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 173 ft. including maintenance area*)

***One rod width (16.5 ft) may be enrolled along the outside row(s) of the windbreak for maintenance access and canopy development.**

☐ Total Shelterbelt Area **Acres.**

CCRP Practice

CP17A Living Snow Fences

The purpose of this practice is to establish living snow fences on a farm or ranch to manage snow, provide living screens and enhance wildlife habitat. This practice applies to eligible cropland to protect against drifting snow on lanes, roads, railroads and public facilities.

The maximum allowable practice width will consist of 2 to 3 rows of trees and/or shrubs spaced according to guidance in the NRCS Practice Code 380, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Standard. The spacing between rows (row-to-row width) depends on the total number of rows, the species of trees or shrubs to be planted, and the type of weed control to be used. Row spacing guidance and spacing maximums are listed in the standard. Row spacing may vary within a planting and all rows don't have to be spaced at the maximum width.

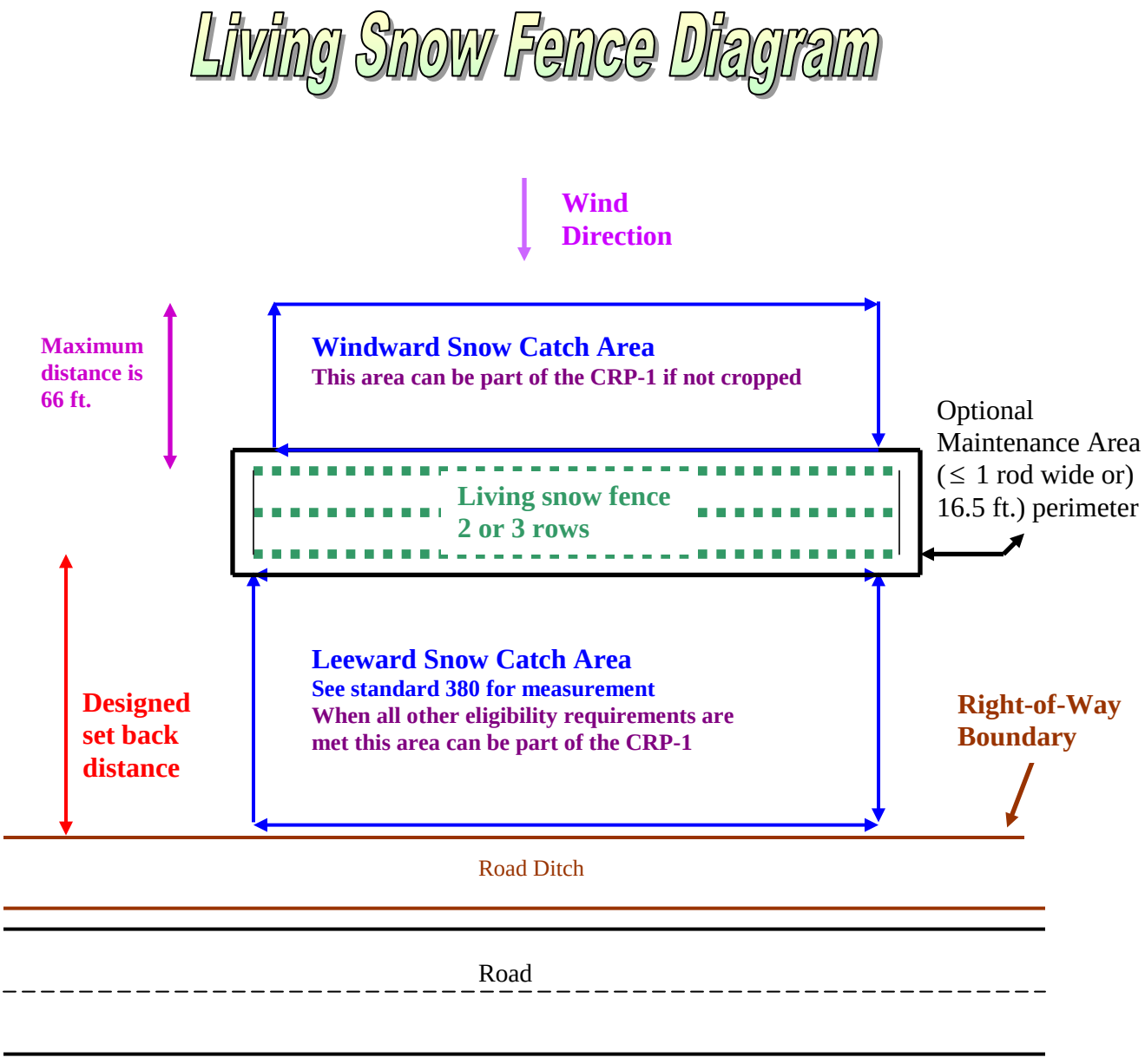
The eligible area includes the two snow catch areas (windward and leeward). The leeward (downwind) snow catch area is the distance between the road right-of-way and the first leeward row of trees/shrubs (set-back distance) multiplied by the length of the living snow fence. The set-back distance will be calculated by using the Living Snow Fence Design Program from the following web site http://climate.umn.edu/snow_fence/Components/Design/introduction.htm. The maximum windward snow catch area is the length of the living snow fence multiplied by 66 ft (4 rods widths measured perpendicular from the first windward row of trees). The 66 ft. is the maximum length for this distance. A shorter distance can be used, however snow depth increases dramatically nearer to the snow fence.

If the snow catch areas are not enrolled the applicant may choose to enroll an area up to one rod in width (16.5 ft.) adjacent to the outside rows of the living snow fence as a maintenance area. This area will provide access to maintain the snow-fence and allow the tree canopy to develop over the life of the contract. When the snow catch areas are enrolled they also serve as a maintenance area and additional land is not eligible. Refer to Diagram 4 for an example of a living snow fence.

The snow catch area(s) will be part of the CRP-1 if taken out of production. The seeding requirements are a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses, and 1 forb. Refer to the Upland Wildlife Habitat Management Standard, Code 645 for seeding standards. Haying and grazing are not allowed. If the applicant plans to crop or hay the snow catch area it is ineligible for enrollment in CRP.

Cost share is allowed for one weed and/or insect control treatment within 24 months after the planting of trees/shrubs if approved by the COC and it is a part of the conservation plan.

Diagram 4: **Living Snow Fence**
(Not to Scale)



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Living Snow Fences — **CP17A** Version 4/07

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____ **Resource Concerns for Eligibility Snow Management**

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Check area to be protected ☐ Lanes ☐ Roads ☐ Railroads ☐ Public Facilities

Ineligible Practice:

☐ Protected area is not one of the above

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice*? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

(Use the CTSG found in the eFOTG, Section I to determine tree or shrub suitability for the offered acres)

Notes:

_____

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice

Extent of Living Snow Fence (# of rows, check one, and width)

☐ Two: Width _____ ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 53 ft. including maintenance area*)

☐ Three: Width _____ ft. (Max. width is ***up to*** 73 ft. including maintenance area*)

***One rod width (16.5 ft) may be enrolled around the perimeter of the living snow fence for maintenance, access and canopy development.**

Designed Minimum Setback** _____ ft. Wide

****Minimum designed setback is measured from the edge of the road right-of way (windward side of ditch) to the first row of the living snow fence (leeward side). The set back is based on snow transport, fence porosity and attack angle of wind from the U of M Living Snow Fence Design Module found at the following website:**
http://climate.umn.edu/snow_fence/Components/Design/introduction.htm

A) Maximum Leeward Snow Catch Area =
Designed Minimum Setback distance (ft.) x length of living snow fence (ft.): _____ ft^2

B) Maximum Windward Snow Catch Area =
66 ft. x length of living snow fence (ft.): _____ ft^2

Designed Total Eligible Snow Catch Area = A x B _____ ft^2

CCRP Practice

CP18B Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity
CP18C Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover

Eligibility Criteria for CP18B:

The purpose of this practice is to establish permanent salt tolerant vegetative cover on eligible cropland that will improve the environmental benefits of a farm or ranch. This practice is limited to sites detrimentally affected by **areas identified as saline seeps**.*.

Eligibility Criteria for CP18C:

The purpose of this practice is to establish permanent salt tolerant vegetative cover, including trees or shrubs, on eligible cropland that will improve the environmental benefits of a farm or ranch. This practice is limited to areas where a **high water table** is causing a saline condition in the soil*.

* This practice does not apply to irrigation induced saline conditions.

Criteria For 18B

Any areas where the county soil survey indicates a saline seep has been mapped.

Criteria For 18C

The acreage enrolled as CP-18C will be limited to those soils with a high salinity content due to a high water table and an electrical conductivity (EC) of at least 8 mmhos/cm. When these conditions exist the presence of a saline seep is not a requirement for eligibility.

Definition of saline areas CP18C:

Areas are considered *saline* where the county soil survey indicates soils which have been mapped as either 1) saline soils or 2) a saline phase. For both of these cases the producer must have a current (within the last 3 years) soil test to show that each eligible area has an electrical conductivity (EC) of at least 8 mmhos/cm. An on-site verification is not needed if these criteria are met.

Saline inclusions within non-saline soil map units when the area is determined to have an EC of 8 mmhos/cm or greater.

1. These are generally small areas and may be designated by a soil spot symbol. If a soil spot symbol exists and the criteria listed above are met, the area is eligible without on-site verification.
2. When a soil spot symbol does not exist, each individual area is required to have an on-site verification by a soil scientist to determine if the criteria are met and the extent of the area that is eligible for this practice.

For 18B and 18C there is a limit on enrollment to no more than 50 acres. NRCS Practice Standard 327 will be used to design these practices.

Recommended Saline Soil Seed Mixture:

Species	PLS Rate (lbs/ac)
Tall Wheatgrass	6
Western Wheatgrass	4
Canada Wildrye or Slender Wheatgrass	1
Switchgrass	0.5

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity — **CP18B** — Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Control Saline Seeps

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Discharge area meets the characteristics of a saline seep and is identified on a soil survey? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Extent of area adversely affected by a saline seep Acres (saline affected)

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The site is ineligible for the practice.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice.

Extent of eligible area:

Acres (saline affected)

Acres (additional needed to control saline problem)

Acres Total (must be no more than 50)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover

CP18C

Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Control Saline Water Table

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Have soils been determined to have high salinity levels due to an elevated water table (as documented by a soil scientist)? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

AND

Does the soil survey indicated that the soil map units are either saline soils or w/ a saline phase? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

OR

Has a current soil test shown that these areas have an EC > 8? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

OR

Have saline inclusions within non saline soil map units been determined by a soil scientist to have an EC>=8? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The site is ineligible for the practice.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice? ☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

☐ **The site is unsuitable for the practice.

Extent of eligible area:

Acres total eligible (Maximum is 50 acres per tract) (include map from soil scientist indicating salinity test results)

CCRP Practice

CP21 Filter Strips

The purpose of this practice is to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystems of the water body.

See the CRP cost share docket for information on vegetation establishment payment options.

Use the NRCS Practice Standard Filter Strip, Code 393 to design this practice.

Note: Refer to Table 3, in Appendix A, for wetland restrictions on this practice.

The filter strip begins at the top of the stream bank. Some land adjacent to the stream may not meet the eligibility criteria and will not be enrolled in the CCRP; however, this ineligible land shall be included:

- In the area used as a filter strip,
- In the conservation plan,
- When determining the width of the filter strip.

Additional Guidance for Watering Facilities
This practice allows for cost sharing the establishment of alternative watering facilities and fencing only when livestock are present on the site and the enrollment into CCRP removes the source of livestock water. Fences will be established according to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Fencing Code 382. There are 2 options for alternative water sources; 1. water facilities such as troughs and tanks, and 2. water developments for example dug, bored or drilled wells or springs or ponds. The choice of alternative water source will be the **lowest cost option** suitable for the situation. Alternative water sources will be designed according to the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Watering Facilities Code 614. All landowners receiving cost share assistance on watering facilities will be encouraged to develop a separate prescribed grazing plan on their grazeable non-CRP acres.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Filter Strip

CP21
Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY: **Resource Concerns for Eligibility Water Quality**

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

I. Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):
Has the on-site evaluation determined that this site is in an eligible location and will solve a surface or sub-surface water quality resource concern? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Ineligible Practice:
☐ *The site is ineligible for the practice, document reason(s) below.

II . LOCATION CRITERIA (Indicate the type of area being protected)

☐ **A.** Perennial Stream
☐ **B.** Seasonal Stream (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt). Stream identified by:
  ☐ USGS maps
  ☐ county soil survey maps verified by an on-site visit
  ☐ on-site visit and approval of the ARC if stream is unmapped
☐ **C.** Wetland determined to be Cowardin classification of select one
☐ **D.** Sinkhole
☐ **E.** Permanent water body containing water throughout the year in all years
☐ **F.** Drainage Ditch (must meet perennial or seasonal stream criteria)

III. CROPLAND CRITERIA (Indicate FSA-defined cropland to be converted to filter strip)
Check all that apply
☐ annual crop (corn, soybeans, wheat, etc.)
☐ perennial vegetation (such as alfalfa and other legumes)
☐ expired CRP

IV. SITE SUITABILITY (check one)

☐ The majority (> 50%) of field runoff occur or will occur as uniform sheet flow?

☐ The majority (> 50%) of field runoff occur or will occur as uniform sheet flow after installation of flow spreading practices. Indicate practices to be used to convert concentrated flow areas to sheet flow:
  ☐ shaping and grading ☐ flow diversion ☐ level spreaders
  ☐ vegetative barriers ☐ contour buffers ☐ contour furrows
  ☐ other (Explain)_____

Continued next page
☐ **Unsuitable Site Conditions**
Check appropriate reasons below

☐ < 50% of field runoff occurs as uniform sheet flow and no measures are planned to induce sheet flow.
☐ > 50% of field runoff bypasses proposed filter strip because of surface intakes and associated tile.
☐ inability to support acceptable vegetation.
☐ upland sheet and rill soil losses >10 tons/ac./yr.
☐ upland sheet and rill soil losses > 3 tons/ac./yr. and contributing watershed will be • 60 times the area of the filter strip.
☐ contributing watershed slope • 10%
☐ channel bank stability
☐ Existing vegetation in non-cropland or cropland adjacent to the watercourse is providing effective filtering.

STOP!!!! Unsuitable site

PRACTICE WIDTH

Select widths according to Minnesota NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 393 **and** as follows: CRP eligible widths range from 30 feet to 120 feet and an additional width can be added not to exceed 350 total feet only if the purpose is for water quality and the need is documented. Reasons for additional width are shown below under A and B. B is only used to **1.)** insure that a 30-foot width of unflooded viable filter strip remains above the ordinary high water mark (2-year flooding frequency) on frequently flooded soils **2.)** encompass surface intakes located within 350 feet upslope from the area to be protected if the intakes result in runoff bypassing the proposed filter strip (at least a 30 foot width of viable filter must remain above the elevation of ponded water surrounding the inlet); and **3.)** to include cropland berms between the filter strip and area being protected if "Infeasible-to-farm provisions" cannot be used to do this. **Check appropriate boxes below.** For example check both the filter strip slope and pathogen control boxes for a recommended 240 foot width.

A. Minimum Width needed for water quality filtering as determined by the practice standard is:

☐ Minimum Width between 30 and 120 feet: **Recommended width**: ft.

OR

B. Additional Minimum Width between 120 and 240 feet is justified by:

☐ Minimum Width between 120 and 240 feet: **Recommended width**: ft.

Check appropriate reason(s) below

☐ filter strip slope ☐ soluble contaminant control ☐ pathogen control
☐ upland soil losses 8-10 tons/ac./yr.
☐ ratio of contributing watershed area to filter strip area between 31:1 and 60:1

OR

C. Additional Minimal Width beyond A or B is justified by: Recommended width: ft.

Check appropriate reason(s) below

☐ frequently flooded soils:

Show location and extent of "frequently flooded" soils on photo, map or sketch. Normal duration, season, and frequency of flooding:

☐ surface inlets/tile Intakes

Show location of inlets and estimated extent of temporary water ponding around inlets on photo map or sketch.

☐ berms

Berms are ridges of spoil created when a ditch is dug and can be cropped. Berms prevent overland flow from entering the ditch. If a filter strip is installed, cropping is no longer practical. Show location of berms and estimated width in feet. Calculate total width next page.

D. Total Width

IV A width ____ **+ IV B** width ____ **+ IV C** width ____ = **Total width** ____ **ft.**

ARE AREAS PRESENT THAT MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT?

YES (Double click in form field to change answer)

Check appropriate reason(s) below if yes.

☐ Non-cropland acres between cropland acres and area to be protected provide effective filtering.

☐ Part or all of offered cropland acres currently provide effective filtering.

Existing effective filtering vegetation in non-cropland and cropland acres must: be included in the area used as a filter strip and be in the conservation plan. Acreage of this vegetation may be deducted by FSA from overall filter strip acreage to determine acreage eligible for CRP payments.

REMARKS

1. For CRP the starting point for measuring minimum filter strip widths begins immediately adjacent to the feature to be protected. Specifically, filter strip installation in fields not adjacent to a sensitive feature is not addressed by CRP. Consult Conservation practice Standard 393, Filter Strip, dtd. Dec. 2002 for additional detail on starting points.
2. Land with a restrictive easement or covered by a state or local law that requires the establishment of vegetation may not be eligible for CRP. This is an FSA determination.

CCRP Practice

CP22 Riparian Buffer

The purposes of this practice are to: remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystems of the water body; create shade to lower water temperature to improve habitat for aquatic organisms; provide a source of detritus and large woody debris for aquatic organisms and habitat for wildlife.

Use the NRCS Practice Standard Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391 to design this practice. The minimum practice design requirement (minimum width) must solve an identified water quality resource concern. Water quality improvements include sub-surface water flow uptake by tree roots, reduction of flood flows by woody material, and reducing water temperature by creating shade. The suitability worksheet is a guide through the eligibility of location, practice and site suitability and will help with design also.
Note: Refer to Table 3, in Appendix B for wetland restrictions for this practice.

The riparian buffer begins at the top of the stream bank. Some land adjacent to the stream may not meet the eligibility criteria and will not be enrolled in the CCRP; however, this ineligible land shall be included:

- In the area used as a riparian buffer,
- In the conservation plan,
- When determining the width of the riparian buffer.

Natural regeneration of the riparian buffer is acceptable if DNR Forestry, or TSP documents that:

- An adequate seed source for trees and shrubs is present,
- Under normal conditions, the appropriate cover will be established within 2 years of CRP-1 effective date,
- **No cost share** is paid for natural regeneration and the producer will plant approved cover, without cost share, if the riparian buffer is not established within 2 years of CRP-1 effective date.

For a definition of natural regeneration refer to 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Amend. 1 Exhibit 9 page 99 - 100.

In areas of equal to or less than an annual precipitation of 25 inches or less supplemental drip irrigation is authorized. FSA removed plastic mulch as an eligible cost-share component for the entire state.

Additional Guidance for Marginal Pastureland Sites
Marginal pastureland sites must have or be capable of supporting forage suitable for grazing livestock. These sites are not required to be actively grazed, and the producer is not required to have livestock or fencing present to be eligible. If the site has existing woody vegetation in the offered area **NRCS** will also make determinations that 1) the area is not currently in a forestland

condition and; 2) whether the vegetation is adequately serving the purpose of the practice. Most forestland areas in MN have both an overstory of older mature trees and an understory of tree saplings, seedlings, and shrubs. Areas with an existing overstory of woody species but without the corresponding understory could be determined to be an adequate riparian buffer which could be renovated to meet NRCS practice requirements.

Additional Guidance for Watering Facilities

This practice allows for cost sharing the establishment of alternative watering facilities and fencing only when livestock are present on the site and the enrollment into CCRP removes the source of livestock water. Fences will be established according to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Fencing Code 382. There are 2 options for alternative water sources; 1. water facilities such as troughs and tanks, and 2. water developments for example dug, bored or drilled wells or springs or ponds. The choice of alternative water source will be the **lowest cost option** suitable for the situation. Alternative water sources will be designed according to the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Watering Facilities Code 614. All landowners receiving cost share assistance on watering facilities will be encouraged to develop a separate prescribed grazing plan on their grazeable non-CRP acres.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Riparian Buffer

CP22
Version 4/07

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Surface Water Quality
Groundwater Quality

I. Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Has the on-site evaluation determined that this site is in an eligible location and will solve a surface water quality resource concern? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Has the on-site evaluation determined that this site is in an eligible location that will solve a sub-surface water quality resource concern? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The site is ineligible for the practice, document reason(s) below.

Explain ineligibility: _____

_____

II. LAND CRITERIA (Indicate type of FSA defined land to be converted to riparian buffer)

☐ Cropland

☐ Marginal pastureland

III. CROPLAND LOCATION CRITERIA – (Indicate the type of area being protected)

☐ **A.** Perennial Stream

☐ **B.** Seasonal Stream (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt). Stream identified by:

- ☐ 1. USGS maps
- ☐ 2. County soil survey maps verified by an on-site visit
- ☐ 3. On-site visit and approval of the ARC if stream is unmapped

☐ **C.** Wetland determined to be Cowardin classification of select one

☐ **D.** Sinkholes

☐ **E.** Permanent water body containing water throughout the year in all years (i.e. lakes, ponds, etc.)

IV. Marginal pastureland LOCATION CRITERIA – (Indicate the type of area being protected)

☐ **A.** Perennial Stream

☐ **B.** Seasonal Stream (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt). Stream identified by:

- ☐ 1. USGS maps
- ☐ 2. County soil survey maps verified by an on-site visit
- ☐ 3. On-site visit and approval of the ARC if stream is unmapped

☐ **C.** Permanent water body containing water throughout the year in all years (i.e. lakes, ponds, etc.) and which has seasonal flow off the farm.

V. SITE SUITABILITY (check all that apply)

Surface Water Concerns

☐ The majority (> 50%) of field runoff passing through the buffer occur as uniform sheet flow.

☐ The majority (> 50%) of field runoff passing through the buffer occur as uniform sheet flow after installation of a flow spreading practice(s). Indicate practices to be used to convert concentrated flow areas to sheet flow:

- ☐ shaping and grading ☐ flow diversion ☐ level spreaders
- ☐ vegetative barriers ☐ contour buffers ☐ contour furrows
- ☐ other (Explain: _____)

☐ The establishment of this practice will contribute to an overall reduction in damage from flood flows during storm events.

☐ The establishment of this practice will contribute to an overall reduction in water temperature due to increased shading.

Subsurface Water Concerns

☐ Establishment of the practice contributes to an overall water quality benefit due to plant uptake of subsurface flows.

☐ **UNSUITABLE PRACTICE CONDITIONS**

Check appropriate reasons below

- ☐ Surface water quality concerns exist and < 50% of field runoff occurs as uniform sheet flow and no measures are planned to induce sheet flow
- ☐ site is unsuitable for trees and or shrubs
- ☐ upland sheet and rill soil losses >10 tons/ac./yr.
- ☐ channel bank is instable and will erode the buffer
- ☐ Acreage offered, whether cropland or marginal pastureland, is permanently underwater.
- ☐ Trees are already established on marginal pastureland and functioning as a riparian buffer.
- ☐ Land is considered a native remnant prairie and is unsuitable for tree planting.

Continued next page

VI. PRACTICE WIDTH

A. The maximum average width of a riparian buffer shall not exceed 180 ft. unless a documented **water quality** reason exists; if additional width is justified the absolute maximum is 350 ft. **Attach documentation for widths greater than 180 ft.**

Recommended width: ____ ft.

B. Additional needed width:

Check appropriate reason(s) below

☐ frequently flooded soils:

Show location and extent of "frequently flooded" soils on photo, map or sketch. Indicate the normal duration, season, and frequency of flooding: ____

☐ surface inlets/tile Intakes

Show location of inlets and estimated extent of temporary water ponding around inlets on photo map or sketch.

☐ berms

Berms are ridges of spoil created when a ditch is dug and can be cropped. Berms prevent overland flow from entering the ditch. If a filter strip is installed, cropping is no longer practical. Show location of berms and estimated width in feet.

Recommended width: ____ ft.

C. TOTAL WIDTH

VI A width ____ + **VI B** width ____ = **Total width** ____ **ft.**

VII. NATURAL REGENERATION

☐ **Check here if natural regeneration will be used to establish the riparian buffer**

REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURAL REGENERATION

☐ An adequate seed source of approved tree, shrub and grass species is present on site and it is determined that under normal conditions the appropriate cover will be expected to become established within 2 years of CRP-1 effective date.

☐ Producer notified that cost share is not authorized for natural regeneration

VIII. REMARKS

____

IX. Notes:

____

CCRP Practice

CP23 Wetland Restoration

The purpose of the practice is to restore the functions and values of converted wetland ecosystems that are entirely within the 100-year floodplain.

Eligible sites are defined as those cropped wetlands which have been manipulated, either entirely or partially, and which meet CRP cropland eligibility requirements, along with the associated upland buffer areas. All hydric soils, as identified on the county hydric soils list, which have been cropped and meet CRP requirements are eligible for restoration. For soil complexes that are listed as having hydric soil components an in-field review will determine the extent of each site eligible as a cropped wetland. The following matrix gives general hydric soil criteria, refer to the county hydric soils list for specific information:

SYMBOL	CRITERIA	TYPICAL LANDSCAPE LOCATION
1	Organic soils	Sites may be depressional or non-depressional (county specific).
2B2, 2B3	Saturation	Sites typically non-depressional - flats, drainage ways bogs, seeps. May include small depressional inclusions.
3	Ponded	Sites are depressional.
4	Flooding	Sites frequently flooded for long - very long duration.

The degree of restoration will be defined by the landowner after technical consultation with USDA. The goal of wetland restoration projects is to restore the original hydrology of the site. Practice feasibility, economic cost, off-site limitations along with other considerations may limit the extent of hydrology that can be restored. Has a last alternative sites will be eligible when the “cessation of cropping” and the subsequent establishment of CRP vegetation is accomplished. This practice is not eligible for natural regeneration.

Initial wetland restoration feasibility assessments must be completed by a qualified individual and must consider avoiding impacts to adjacent properties, utilities, or other infrastructures unless approvals, permits or consents are attainable. This assessment must include an evaluation of the depth, width and extent of the existing drainage system and its impact on the site’s hydric soils. Floodplain restorations must be evaluated to insure that the flood storage area is not reduced or adversely impacted through the placement of fill, dikes, levees, or embankments.

Wetland acreage eligibility will be determined independent of USDA wetland determinations or the FWS National Wetland Inventory although these sources should be used as references when determining eligibility. Eligible areas will typically be considered as Farmed Wetlands (FW), Wetlands Farmed Under Natural conditions (W) or Prior Converted Cropland (PC). The CP-23 practice may also enroll a buffer limited to a ratio of 3 acres of buffer to 1 acre of restored wetland. The entire practice area including the buffer area may not extend beyond the 100-year floodplain.

Wetlands will be restored using the NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657. Seeding mixes for the wetland zone can be found in the 657 standard. Buffer areas for sites developed under a grassland ecosystem will be seeded according to NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 or Restoration of Declining Habitats Code 643, with a mixed stand of a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses, and 1 forb. Buffer areas for sites under a woodland ecosystem will use NRCS Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612. When restoring woodland ecosystems, plant hard mast species along with other species suitable for the wet nature of the site. As appropriate the NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 as above may also be included in a woodland ecosystem planting. Native ecosystems can be determined by the soil survey or by the native vegetation maps (TRYGG or Marshner maps)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Wetland Restoration **CP23**

Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY: **Resource Concerns for Eligibility Restoration of Wetlands**

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

1. Restorable cropped wetland acres are located inside the 100-year flood plain?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. The area offered includes hydric soils, altered or manipulated wetlands or prior converted cropland? (Additional map documentation must identify each eligible site).

☐ Yes ☐ No

Ineligible Practice:

☐ Offered acres are not located inside the 100-year floodplain.

☐ Offered acres are not cropped wetlands

Site Suitability (from site visit)

Document whether native vegetation is herbaceous or woodland.

Notes:

Unsuitable Site:

☐ The entire offered acres are not within the 100-year flood plain.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of restored wetland acres

Buffer Area*: feet

***Will not exceed 3:1 buffer to wetland ratio**

Total Size of practice area acres

CCRP Practice

CP23A Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain

The purpose of the practice is to restore the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been devoted to agricultural use that are entirely outside the 100-year floodplain.

Eligible sites are defined as those cropped wetlands which have been manipulated, either entirely or partially, and which meet CRP cropland eligibility requirements along with the associated upland buffer areas. All hydric soils, as identified on the county hydric soils list, which have been cropped and meet CRP requirements are eligible for restoration. For soil complexes that are listed as having hydric soil components an in-field review will determine the extent of each site eligible as a cropped wetland. The following matrix gives general hydric soil criteria:

SYMBOL	CRITERIA	TYPICAL LANDSCAPE LOCATION
1	Organic soils	Sites may be depressional or non-depressional (county specific).
2B2, 2B3	Saturation	Sites typically non-depressional - flats, drainage ways bogs, seeps. May include small depressional inclusions.
3	Ponded	Sites are depressional.
4	Flooding	Sites frequently flooded for long - very long duration.

The degree of restoration will be defined by the landowner after technical consultation with USDA. The goal of wetland restoration projects is to restore the original hydrology of the site. Practice feasibility, economic cost, off-site limitations along with other considerations may limit the extent of hydrology that can be restored. Has last alternative sites will be eligible when the “cessation of cropping” and the subsequent establishment of CRP vegetation is accomplished. This practice is not eligible for natural regeneration.

Initial wetland restoration feasibility assessments must be completed by a qualified individual and must consider avoiding impacts to adjacent properties, utilities, or other infrastructures unless approvals, permits or consents are attainable. This assessment must include an evaluation of the depth, width and extent of the existing drainage system and its impact on the site’s hydric soils.

Wetland acreage eligibility will be determined independent of USDA wetland determinations or the FWS National Wetland Inventory although these sources should be used as references when determining eligibility. These areas will typically be considered as Farmed Wetlands (FW), Wetlands Farmed Under Natural Conditions (W) or Prior Converted Cropland (PC). The CP-23A practice may also enroll a buffer limited to the number of acres required to provide protective buffer to the cropped wetland and to enhance wildlife habitat not to exceed a ratio of 4 acres of buffer to 1 acre of restored wetland.

Apply this practice to eligible cropped wetlands and associated acreage that are any of the following: located outside the 100-year floodplain, playa lakes. Note this practice may have overlapping eligibility criteria with either, or both, the CP-27, CP-28 practices in the Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) and

the CP-37 Duck Nesting Habitat practice. Vegetation establishment criteria are dependent on the native ecosystem. The native ecosystem can be determined by the soil survey or by the native vegetation maps (TRYGG or Marshner maps)

Wetlands will be restored using the NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657. Seeding mixes for the wetland zone can be found in the 657 standard. Buffer areas for sites developed under a grassland ecosystem will be seeded according to NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 or Restoration of Declining Habitats 643 using a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses and 1 forb. Buffer areas for sites under a woodland ecosystem will use NRCS Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612. When restoring woodland ecosystems, plant hard mast species along with other species suitable for the wet nature of the site.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain — **CP23A** Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility Restoration of Wetlands

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

1. Restorable wetland acres are located outside the 100-year floodplain?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. The area offered includes hydric soils, altered or manipulated wetlands or prior converted cropland? (Additional map documentation must identify each eligible

☐ Yes ☐ No

Ineligible Practice:

☐ The area offered does not include areas of altered or manipulated cropped wetlands and/or prior converted cropland.

Site Suitability (from site visit)

Document whether native vegetation is herbaceous or woodland.

Notes:

Unsuitable Site:

☐ The offered acres are not located outside the 100-year floodplain.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of restored wetland acres

Buffer Area (optional)*: ** feet

***If required to protect and enhance the practice.**

****Will not exceed 4:1 buffer to wetland ratio.**

Total Size of practice area acres

CCRP Practice

CP24 Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover as Cross Wind Trap Strips

The purpose of this practice is to establish at least 2 strips, not to exceed 5 strips, varying in size, of permanent vegetative cover resistant to wind erosion perpendicular to the prevailing wind directions on eligible cropland determined to have a wind erodibility index greater than or equal to 4 (EI>=4) that will; reduce on-farm wind erosion, trap wind-borne sediments and sediment borne contaminants and help protect public health and safety.

This practice will be designed according to the NRCS Practice Standard Cross Wind Trap Strips, Code 589C. The buffer strips must be designed using the Wind Erosion Equation.

The amount of grass strips eligible for this practice cannot exceed 10% of the total field acreage. Offers consisting of multiple trap strips will be designed and spaced using current wind erosion prediction technology. Permanent vegetation shall be at minimum 12 inches in height at maturity. At least 2 strips that meet the size requirements are required for this practice. Each strip shall be a minimum of 15 feet in width, not to exceed 25 feet wide and will be established perpendicular to the prevailing winds.

Deposition of trapped soil materials shall be removed when the accumulated sediment in the cross wind trap strips exceeds 6 inches in depth. Cover shall be reseeded at producer's expense after accumulated sediment is removed.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover As Cross Wind Trap Strips — **CP24**

Version 4/07

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
Wind Erosion

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility:

Erosion Index (EI) is equal to or greater than 4? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

Soil Map Unit Symbol* _____ or Soil Map Unit Name* _____

*** Use predominant soil of significant extent for planning purposes**

Enter the Soil Loss Tolerance of Map Unit (T) tons/acre/year _____

C Factor for County _____ I Factor for Soil Map Unit _____

EI* = _____

***EI = C*I/T**

Ineligible Practice:

☐ * Wind erosion EI is less than 4.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Acreage is suitable for the practice? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Notes:

_____

☐ The site is unsuitable for the practice

Extent of Practice:

Number of trap strips*

*** Total acreage cannot exceed 10% of the field**

Width (FT)**

**** 15 ft. minimum to 25 ft. maximum for each row**

Row 1	
Row 2	
Row 3	
Row 4	
Row 5	

CCRP Practice

CP27 Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP)
CP28 Farmable Wetlands Buffer

When enrolling acres into CP27, practice CP28 is also **required**. The purpose of the CP27 practice is to restore the functions and values of wetlands that have been devoted to agricultural use. **Hydrology and vegetation must be restored to the maximum extent possible, as determined by USDA**. The maximum allowable size for a CP27 is 40 acres. The purpose of the CP28 is to provide a vegetative buffer around the CP27 wetlands to remove sediment, nutrients, and pollutants from impacting the wetland and to provide wildlife habitat for the associated wetland. The minimum acceptable width of the CP28 is 30 feet surrounding the CP27 wetland. CP28 may not exceed the larger of a maximum average width of 150 feet surrounding the CP27 or 3 times the size of the CP27 wetland.

Use the same guidance as described in practice CP-23 or CP-23A to determine the eligible extent of a CP-27 restorable wetland site.

Offered acres in the 100-year floodplain, as determined by NRCS, are **NOT eligible for this practice**. Acreage permanently under water is also ineligible. Areas eligible for this practice include wetlands (W), farmed wetlands (FW) and prior converted cropland (PC). NRCS will determine the location and boundaries of the above areas, and will determine the extent of wetland hydrology to be restored and re-vegetation requirements of the buffer area.

Hydrology and vegetation must be restored to the maximum extent practical. Use NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657 to establish the practice. Cessation of cropping a "W" can be considered as restoration only when no other hydrologic manipulation has occurred. Wetland acreage eligibility will be determined independent of USDA wetland determinations or the FWS National Wetland Inventory although these sources should be used as references when determining eligibility. Ditch plugs will be installed on surface drains where it is practical to restore wetland basins.

If the site is "FW" or "PC" all on-site tile lateral lines will be broken or plugged and tile intakes removed. Sites with drainage systems (tile or surface) serving upstream neighbors who are not interested in restoration activity will be designed to not impede upstream drainage. Multiple landowner main tile lines, that carry upstream water and that are 8 inches or less in size, will be replaced with non-perforated tile. When these main tile lines exceed 8 inches the practice designer has the option of leaving these lines alone. When enrolling areas it is important to document the baseline hydrologic conditions **prior** to restoration. After the CRP contract expires the landowner can manipulate the hydrology only back to the baseline condition.

CP28 buffers are mandatory to the extent where they are possible to be established (see scenario 5) and the amount is dependent on the amount of wetland eligible to be enrolled, not the total wetland area (see scenario 1). The minimum size of a CP28 buffer is 30 feet wide surrounding and adjacent to the eligible wetland and the buffer size cannot exceed the larger of a maximum average width of150 feet or a 3:1 buffer (CP28) to restored wetland (CP27) ratio. The number of acres for the CP28 may be less than the maximum 3 to 1 ratio, or the average maximum width may be less than 150 feet. Buffers cannot contain restored wetlands. Buffer areas must be restored to either a grassland ecosystem with grass and shrubs or a woodland ecosystem with tree cover. NRCS will use soil survey and/or TRYGG or Marschner Native Vegetation maps to identify acceptable buffer vegetation.

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657 will be used for CP27 including wetland seeding mixes. Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 or Restoration of Declining Habitat Code 643 will be used for CP28 using a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses and 1 forb. Vegetation will be restored as closely to the original natural plant community as possible for CP27. Cost share is allowed for one weed and/or insect control treatment within 24 months after the planting of trees/shrubs if approved by the COC and it is a part of the conservation plan. See Examples for applying these practices next page.

FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Scenario 1: Pothole intersects Tract 1 and 2

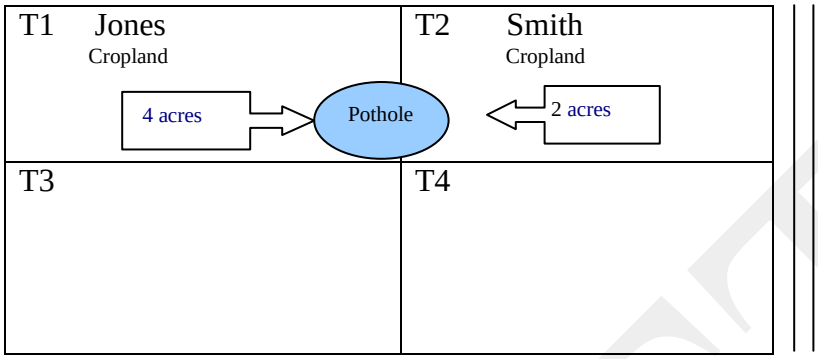


Illustration Not to Scale

- Tract 1 is owned by Farmer Jones
- Tract 2 is owned by Farmer Smith
- The cropped wetland contains 4.0 acres on Tract 1
- The cropped wetland contains 2.0 acres on Tract 2
- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met.
- Contract possibilities
  - Farmer Jones could place the 4.0 acres of cropped wetlands in tract 1 under contract with the minimum/maximum buffer. The portion of cropped wetland located on tract 2 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the 2.0 acres of cropped wetland under contract with the minimum/maximum buffer. The portion of cropped wetland that is located on tract 1 would not be required to be placed under contract.
  - Both farmer Jones and Smith could place their portions of the wetland under contract with the minimum/maximum buffer.

Notes:

Scenario 2: Pothole intersects Tract 1 and 2

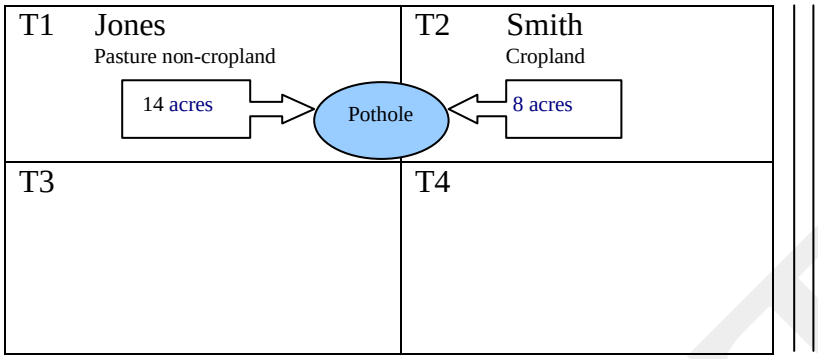


Illustration Not to Scale

- Tract 1 is owned by Farmer Jones
- Tract 2 is owned by Farmer Smith
- The wetland contains 14.0 acres on Tract 1
- The cropped wetland contains 8.0 acres on Tract 2
- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met on tract 2 but not tract 1 as it does not meet cropping history requirements. Tract 1 is considered pastureland.
- Contract possibilities
  - The 14.0 acres of wetland on tract 1 is ineligible to be placed under contract, it does not meet crop history requirements.
  - Farmer Smith could place the 8.0 acres of cropped wetland under contract with the minimum buffer width of 30 feet surrounding and adjacent to the restored wetland and a maximum buffer of 24 acres (3:1 buffer to restored wetland ratio).
  - Farmer Smith must restore the wetland hydrology to the maximum extent possible as determined by NRCS.

Notes:

Scenario 3: Pothole intersects Tract 1 and 2

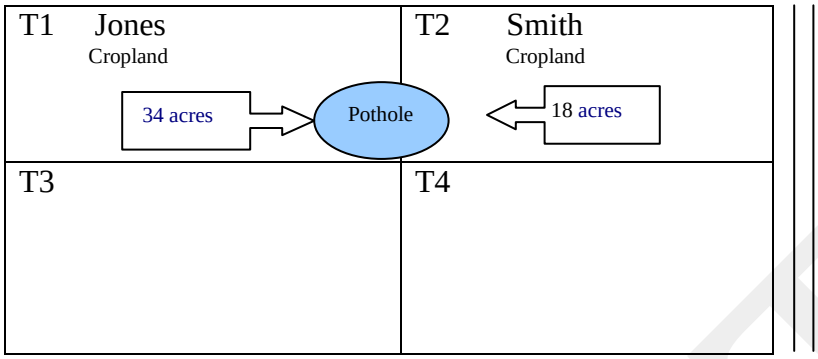


Illustration Not to Scale

- Tract 1 is owned by Farmer Jones
- Tract 2 is owned by Farmer Smith
- The cropped wetland contains 34.0 acres on Tract 1
- The cropped wetland contains 18.0 acres on Tract 2
- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met.
- Contract possibilities – NONE

This cropped wetland exceeds 40 acres in size (52 acres) the maximum cropped wetland size allowable in CP-27 is 40 acres.

Notes:

Scenario 4 The linear wetland intersects tracts 1,2, 3 & 4

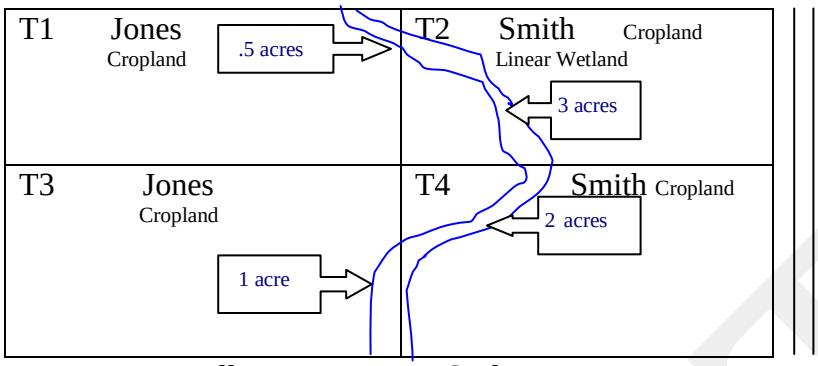


Illustration Not to Scale

- Tracts1 and 3 are owned by Farmer Jones
- Tracts 2 and 4 are owned by Farmer Smith
- The cropped wetland on tract 1 is 0.5 of an acre
- The cropped wetland on tract 2 is 3.0 acres
- The cropped wetland on tract 3 is 1.0 acres
- The cropped wetland on tract 4 is 2.0 acres
- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met.
- Contract possibilities:
  - Farmer Jones could place the portion of the cropped wetland on tract 1 under contract while the remaining cropped wetland on tracts 2 through 4 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Jones could place the portion of the cropped wetland on tract 3 under contract while the remaining cropped wetland on tracts 1, 2 and 4 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Jones could place the portion of cropped wetlands contained on tract 1 and 3 under contract while the remaining cropped wetland acres on tracts 2 and 4 would not be under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of the cropped wetland on tract 2 under contract while the remaining cropped wetland on tracts 1, 3 and 4 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of the cropped wetland on tract 4 under contract while the remaining cropped wetland on tracts 1, 2 and 3 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of cropped wetland on tracts 2 and 4 under contract without the cropped wetland acres located on tracts 1 and 3.
  - All four tracts could have a contract for the portion of the linear cropped wetland contained within the boundaries of the tract.

Notes:

Scenario 5 The linear wetland intersects tracts 1, 2, 3 & 4

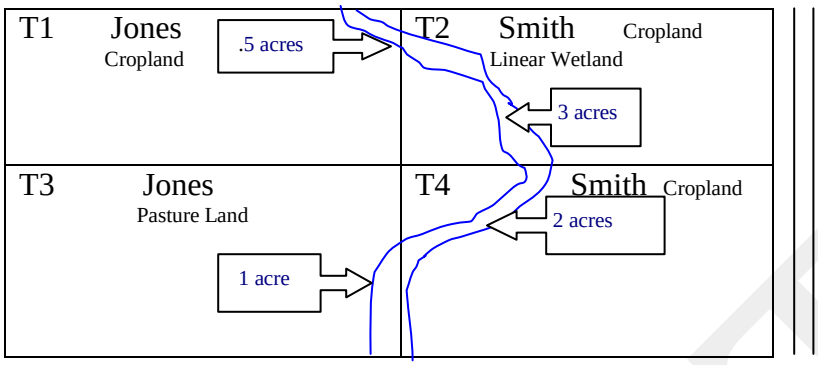


Illustration Not to Scale

- Tracts1 and 3 are owned by Farmer Jones
- Tracts 2 and 4 are owned by Farmer Smith
- The wetland on tract 1 is 0.5 of an acre
- The wetland on tract 2 is 3.0 acres
- The wetland on tract 3 is 1.0 acres
- The wetland on tract 4 is 2.0 acres
- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met on tracts 1, 2, and 4. Tract 3 is ineligible because it is devoted to pasture land.
- Contract possibilities:
  - Farmer Jones could place the portion of the cropped wetland on tract 1 under contract while the remaining cropped wetland on tracts 2 through 4 would not be required to be under contract.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of cropped wetland on tract 2 under contract without the cropped wetland acres located on tracts 1, 3 and 4.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of cropped wetland on tract 4 under contract without the cropped wetland acres located on tracts 1, 2 and 3.
  - Farmer Smith could place the portion of cropped wetland on tracts 2 and 4 under contract without the cropped wetland acres located on tracts 1 and 3.
  - Tracts 1, 2, and 4 could have a contract for the portion of the linear cropped wetland contained within the boundaries of the tract.

Notes:

Scenario 6 The pothole in the SE corner of Tract 4

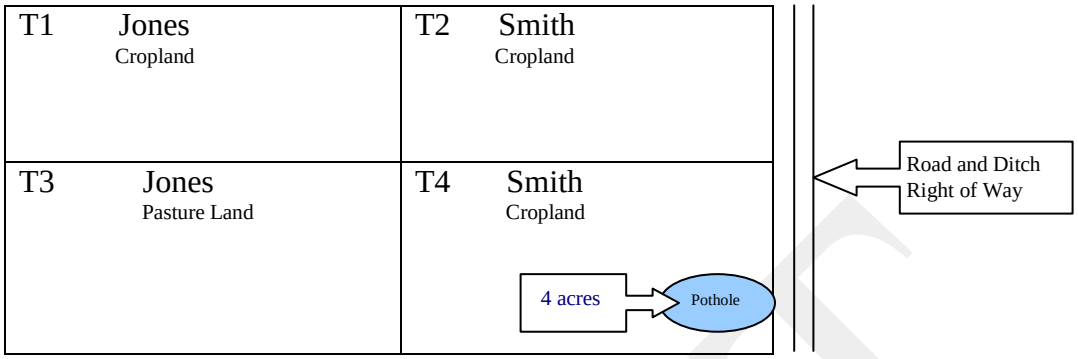


Illustration Not to Scale

- Assume all other eligibility requirements have been met.

  The pothole totally contained in tract 4 adjoins a road right of way (ditch). It is not possible to place the minimum buffer around the area that adjoins the ditch. Previously it was determined that this was ineligible because the minimum buffer around the entire cropped wetland could not be met. This cropped wetland acreage is eligible for the program with the minimum buffer being established, where possible, around the cropped wetland.

Notes:

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Farmable Wetlands Program
Farmable Wetlands Buffer

CP27/28

Version 8/09

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Resource Concerns or Eligibility
Restore wetlands and vegetation to maximum extent possible

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Each cropped wetland area offered includes areas of "PC", "W", "FW" or "FWP" that are equal to or less then 40 acres in size?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *Offer does not include cropped wetland areas of "PC", "W", "FW" or "FWP" or only has a cropped wetland that exceeds 40 acres in size.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

Hydrology can be restored on the offered acres?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

An adequate buffer that will effectively remove sediments, nutrients and pollutants can be established?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

Notes:

Unsuitable Site:

☐ *State reason(s);

Extent of eligible area:

Size of cropped wetland (CP27) Acres

(The maximum per tract acreage for CP27 is 40 acres.) Attach map delineating each cropped wetland area to be offered.

Size of buffer (CP28): Avg. width ft. and Acres

Minimum width is 30 feet of buffer immediately surrounding and adjacent to the CP-27 restored wetland. The maximum buffer size may not exceed the larger of a maximum average width of 150 feet or 3 times the size of the wetland (3:1 buffer to wetland ratio).

CCRP Practice

CP29 Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer

The purpose of this practice is to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystems of the water body. By restoring native plant communities, characteristics for the site will assist is stabilizing stream banks, reducing flood damage impacts, and restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat.

Eligibility for practice CP29 and/or CP30 sites will be evaluated through the following process.

1. There needs to be an identified existing resource concern. This means that there are currently livestock present on the site **or** that there has recently been livestock on the site **and** the degree of over-grazing (or improper management) has removed or destroyed vegetation to the extent that a water quality or wildlife problem exists.
2. When an identified water quality or wildlife resource concern exists it must **also** be determined that removal of the livestock by itself will not solve the resource problem. This means that the site has been degraded to the extent that the vegetation has been removed or damaged and that natural regeneration is unlikely to occur. Natural regeneration doesn't need to be "native" vegetation. In MN most sites are capable of regenerating to brome grass, reed canarygrass, cottonwood trees or a combination of these and others which would solve water quality issues and provide some if not the optimum wildlife habitat.

This practice is limited to marginal pastureland areas that **are not** suitable for tree planting. NRCS or TSP determines that the marginal pastureland is not suitable to be devoted to trees. If the marginal pastureland is determined to be suitable for tree planting it is not eligible for CP29 (It may be eligible for CP22).

The NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 and Table 2 in particular will be used for seeding purposes using a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses and 1 forb. Shrubs may also be used in the practice. Vegetative establishment by burning, mechanical or chemical manipulation and natural regeneration is not allowed. Perennial native vegetation must be planted to meet the requirements of this practice.

The minimum acceptable width is 20 feet. A wildlife habitat buffer may be applied up to a maximum average width of 120 feet if needed to accomplish the purpose of the practice. NRCS or a TSP must document the need for a minimum design specification in excess of 120 feet in writing.

Determine whether the land is suitable to be devoted to a wildlife habitat buffer, the wildlife habitat buffer is needed and feasible and the marginal pastureland is capable, once the practice is established, of substantially reducing pollutants in the adjacent stream or other water body.

Marginal Pastureland Eligibility Requirements
The eligibility requirements for marginal pastureland are found in 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Paragraph 112C, page 6-7. Discussion of marginal pastureland and trees is found in 2-CRP (Rev. 4) Paragraph 112D, page 6-9.

Continued next page

Additional Guidance for Watering Facilities

This practice allows for cost sharing the establishment of alternative watering facilities and fencing only when livestock are present on the site and the enrollment into CCRP removes the source of livestock water. Fences will be established according to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Fencing Code 382. There are 2 options for alternative water sources; 1. water facilities such as troughs and tanks, and 2. water developments for example dug, bored or drilled wells or springs or ponds. The choice of alternative water source will be the **lowest cost option** suitable for the situation. Alternative water sources will be designed according to the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Watering Facilities Code 614. All landowners receiving cost share assistance on watering facilities will be encouraged to develop a separate prescribed grazing plan on their grazeable non-CRP acres.

Sites are not eligible if the existing vegetation is already established and removing the livestock (by itself) would solve the resource problem.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer

CP29
Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY:
FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Resource Concern for Eligibility
Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Offered acres are marginal pastureland with livestock currently present and/or over-grazing or improper management has caused a water quality and\or wildlife habitat resource concern?

☐ Yes ☐ No **Concern:** ☐ Water Quality ☐ Wildlife Habitat

Will the removal (exclusion) of livestock solve the resource concern?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Will on-site natural re-vegetation solve the resource concern?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the offered acreage marginal pastureland and is it located immediately adjacent and parallel to one of the following locations?

☐ Yes ☐ No

(If yes, check appropriate box below).

- ☐ **A.** Perennial Stream
- ☐ **B.** Seasonal Stream (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt). Stream identified by:
  - ☐ 1. USGS maps
  - ☐ 2. County soil survey maps verified by an on-site visit
  - ☐ 3. On-site visit and approval of the ARC if stream is unmapped
- ☐ **C.** Sinkholes
- ☐ **D.** Permanent water body containing water throughout the year in all years (i.e. lakes, ponds, etc.)

Ineligible Practice:

☐ Any box checked "NO" above

Site Suitability (from site visit):

An area at least 20 feet wide is suitable and available for an adequate wildlife buffer?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

The site is not considered a remnant prairie and is suitable for seeding or plowing?

☐ Yes ☐ No**

Unsuitable Site:

☐ *The site is unsuitable or unavailable for a wildlife buffer.

☐ **The site is considered a remnant prairie and is unsuitable for seeding or would need to be plowed.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of wildlife buffer area* acres

***The buffer width will be a minimum of 20 feet and will not exceed an average maximum width of 120 ft**

CCRP Practice

CP30 Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer

The purpose of this practice is to remove nutrients, sediment, organic matter, pesticides, and other pollutants from surface runoff and subsurface flow by deposition, absorption, plant uptake, denitrification, and other processes, and thereby reduce pollution and protect surface water and subsurface water quality while enhancing the ecosystems of the water body. The practice will enhance and/or restore hydrology and plant communities associated with existing or degraded wetland complexes. The goal is to enhance water quality, reduce nutrient and pollutant levels, and improve wildlife habitat. The presence of livestock would be a prerequisite for initial eligibility.

Eligibility for practice CP-29 and\or CP-30 sites will be evaluated through the following process.

1. There needs to be an identified existing resource concern. This means that there are currently livestock present on the site **or** that there has recently been livestock on the site **and** the degree of over-grazing (or improper management) has removed or destroyed vegetation to the extent that a water quality or wildlife problem exists.

2. When an identified water quality or wildlife resource concern exists it must **also** be determined that removal of the livestock by itself will not solve the resource problem. This means that the site has been degraded to the extent that the vegetation has been removed or damaged and that natural regeneration is unlikely to occur. Natural regeneration doesn't need to be 'native' vegetation. In MN most sites are capable of regenerating to brome grass, reed canarygrass, cottonwood trees or a combination of these and others which would solve water quality issues and provide some if not the optimum wildlife habitat.

The minimum acceptable width is 20 feet. A wetland buffer may be applied up to a maximum average width of 120 feet if needed to accomplish the purpose of the practice. NRCS or a TSP must document the need for a minimum design specification in excess of 120 feet in writing.

The NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 will be used for seeding and planting purposes using a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses and 1 forb. Trees and shrubs can also be established on this practice following the NRCS Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment. Vegetative establishment by burning, mechanical or chemical manipulation and natural regeneration is not allowed. Perennial native vegetation must be planted to meet the requirements of this practice.

Marginal Pastureland Eligibility Requirements
The eligibility requirements for marginal pastureland are found in 2-CRP Paragraph 112C, page 6-7.

Additional Guidance for Watering Facilities
This practice allows for cost sharing the establishment of alternative watering facilities and fencing only when livestock are present on the site and the enrollment into CCRP removes the source of livestock water. Fences will be established according to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Fencing Code 382. There are 2 options for alternative water sources; 1. water facilities such as troughs and tanks, and 2. water developments for example dug, bored or drilled wells or springs or ponds. The choice of alternative water source will be the **lowest cost option** suitable for the

situation. Alternative water sources will be designed according to the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Watering Facilities Code 614. All landowners receiving cost share assistance on watering facilities will be encouraged to develop a separate prescribed grazing plan on their grazeable non-CRP acres.

Sites are not eligible if the existing vegetation is already established and removing the livestock (by itself) would solve the resource problem.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer

CP30
Version 4/07

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____
FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Resource Concern for Eligibility
Water Quality

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Offered acres are marginal pastureland with livestock currently present and/or over-grazing or improper management has caused a water quality and\or wildlife habitat resource concern?

☐ Yes ☐ No **Concern (check one)** ☐ Water Quality ☐ Wildlife Habitat

Will the removal (exclusion) of livestock solve the resource concern?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Will on-site natural re-vegetation solve the resource concern?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the offered acreage marginal pastureland and is it located immediately adjacent and parallel to one of the following locations?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

(If yes, check appropriate box below).

- ☐ **A.** Perennial Stream
- ☐ **B.** Seasonal Stream (contains water for only part of the year but more than just during and/or after rainfall or snowmelt). Stream identified by:
  - ☐ 1. USGS maps
  - ☐ 2. County soil survey maps verified by an on-site visit
  - ☐ 3. On-site visit and approval of the ARC if stream is unmapped
- ☐ **C.** Wetland determined to be Cowardin classification of select one
- ☐ **D.** Sinkholes
- ☐ **E.** Permanent water body containing water throughout the year in all years (i.e. lakes, ponds, etc.)

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *Any box checked "NO" above

Site Suitability (from site visit):

An area at least 20 feet wide is suitable and available for an adequate wetland buffer?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

The site is not considered a remnant prairie and is suitable for seeding or plowing?

☐ Yes ☐ No**

Unsuitable Site:

☐ *The site is unsuitable or unavailable for a wildlife buffer.

☐ **The site is considered a remnant prairie and is unsuitable for seeding or would need to be plowed.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of wetland buffer area* _____ acres

***The buffer width will be a minimum of 20 feet and will not exceed an average maximum width of 120 ft.**

CCRP Practice

CP31 Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands

The purpose of this practice is to establish a stand of trees that will:

- control sheet, rill, scour, and other erosion
- reduce water, air, or land pollution
- restore and enhance the natural and beneficial functions of wetlands
- promote carbon sequestration
- restore and connect wildlife habitat

The acreage offered must be within the recognized 100-year flood plain of a river or stream with permanent flow. Use local floodplain maps or soil survey information to determine the existence and location of the 100-year floodplain. NRCS will determine the location and boundaries of the above areas.

Natural regeneration is **NOT** permitted under this practice.

Trees planted should be primarily bottomland hardwood trees. NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612 will be used to design this practice. Softwood trees must comprise less than 25% of the total number of trees to be planted. Enrolled offers must have a minimum of 3 native hardwood tree or shrub species planted.

Species selected must be suitable and adapted to the site conditions, soils and climate and to the purpose of the practice.

Cost share is allowed for one weed and/or insect control treatment within 24 months after the planting of trees/shrubs if approved by the COC and it is a part of the conservation plan.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands

CP31
Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY:

FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Resource Concerns for Eligibility
1. **Water Quality**
2. **Wildlife Habitat**
3. **Reduce Pollution**
4. **Promote Carbon Sequestration**
5. **Enhance Wetlands**

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Offered acres are located within the 100-year flood plain*? ☐ Yes ☐ No*

***Of a permanent river or stream.**

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The offered acres are not located within a 100-year flood plain.

Site Suitability (from site visit)

Offered acres can support bottomland hardwood trees*?

***Softwoods must be less than 25% of the total number of trees planted.**

☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

Unsuitable Site:

☐ **The offered acres will not support bottomland hardwood trees.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of eligible area acres

CCRP Practice

CP33 Habitat Buffers For Upland Birds

The purpose of this practice is to provide food and cover for quail and upland birds in cropland areas. Secondary benefits may include reducing soil erosion, increasing soil and water quality, protecting and enhancing the on-farm ecosystems.

Apply this practice around field edges of eligible cropland that is suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of wildlife habitat for primarily quail and upland bird species. Upland habitat buffers will be established to adapted species of native warm season grass, legumes, forbs, and limited shrub and tree plantings.

Location Eligibility:
This practice is only eligible in Houston and Fillmore counties.

Size Requirements:
The minimum average width is 30 feet, with a maximum average width of 120 feet. Buffers will be established to the extent needed to support the targeted species, but generally should be located around the entire perimeter of the field, or at a minimum, in areas where runoff enters or leaves the field.

The NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 will be used for seeding and planting purposes using the recommended seeding/planting specifications found in the CP-33 Habitat Buffers For Upland Birds Job Sheet.

Management Activity:
This practice shall have periodic management activities performed according to the conservation plan and the CP-33 Habitat Buffers For Upland Birds Job Sheet.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Habitat Buffers For Upland Birds

CP33
Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY:
FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Resource Concern for Eligibility
Quail or Upland Bird Habitat

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

Offered acres are in eligible locations in Houston or Fillmore counties?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Offered acres are adjacent to eligible cropland field edges and are adaptable to the establishment of wildlife habitat for primarily quail and upland bird species.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Ineligible Practice:

☐ ***The offered acres are not located in Houston or Fillmore counties.

Site Suitability (from site visit):

An area at least 30 feet wide is suitable and available for an adequate buffer?

☐ Yes ☐ No*

The site is not considered a remnant prairie and is suitable for seeding or plowing?

☐ Yes ☐ No**

Notes:

Unsuitable Site:

☐ ***The site is unsuitable or unavailable for a buffer.

☐ ****The site is considered a remnant prairie and is unsuitable for seeding or would need to be plowed.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of buffer area* acres

***The buffer width will be a minimum of 30 feet and will not exceed an average maximum width of 120 ft.**

CCRP Practice

CP37 Duck Nesting Habitat

The purpose of the practice is to enhance duck nesting habitat on the most duck-productive areas and to restore the functions and values of cropped wetland ecosystems that have been devoted to agricultural use. Only those areas designated as having the potential to produce greater than or equal to 25 breeding duck pairs per square mile, as identified on the CRP CP37 eligibility map, are eligible for enrollment.

Eligible sites are defined as either:

A. Eligible Cropped Wetlands Capable of Being Restored or Enhanced

Those eligible wetlands which have been manipulated, either entirely or partially, and which meet CRP cropland eligibility requirements along with the associated upland buffer areas. All hydric soils, as identified on the county hydric soils list, which have been cropped and meet CRP requirements are eligible for restoration. For soil complexes that are listed as having hydric soil components an in-field review will determine the extent of each site eligible as a cropped wetland. The following matrix gives general hydric soil criteria:

SYMBOL	CRITERIA	TYPICAL LANDSCAPE LOCATION
1	Organic soils	Sites may be depressional or non-depressional
2B2, 2B3	Saturation	Sites typically non-depressional - flats, drainage-ways, bogs, seeps. May include small depressional inclusions.
3	Ponded	Sites are depressional.
4	Flooding	Sites frequently flooded for long - very long duration.

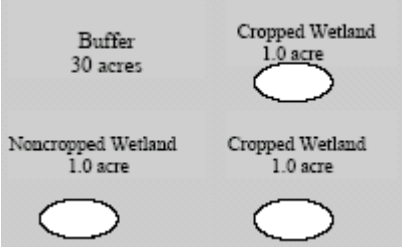
B. Cropland Associated with Non-cropped Wetlands

Cropland associated with non-cropped wetlands may be enrolled as part of a CP37 buffer area. Note: The non-cropped wetlands are not eligible for enrollment into practice CP37. Non-cropped wetland acreage is limited to the designated wetland area as determined by NRCS. Any land, including the non-cropped wetland area and any associated cropland, within the offered area that does not meet CRP eligibility requirements is not eligible for enrollment but must be included in the CRP conservation plan and be managed according to CRP requirements.

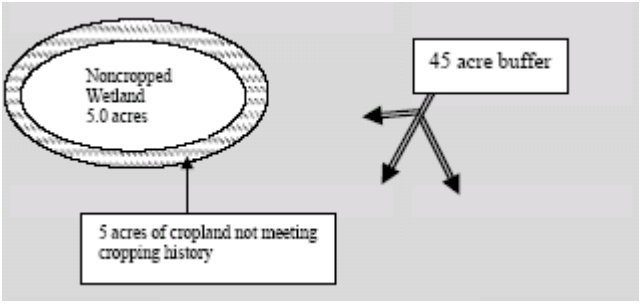
The total eligible acreage for CP37 can be determined by calculating either or both acreages of non-cropped wetlands and cropped converted wetlands. The CP37 buffer acreage shall be a minimum of 4:1 not to exceed a maximum of 10:1 ratio of upland buffer to wetland area (both non-cropped and cropped). See the following examples for additional information.

Example 1: The offered acreage is located in an area that has a breeding duck potential of greater than 25 breeding pairs per square mile. The offered acreage has 2 acres of cropped

wetlands and 1 acre of non-cropped wetlands. The maximum amount of upland buffer that may be enrolled is 30 acres (3 acres of wetlands times a 10-acre buffer).



Example 2: The offered acreage is located in an area that has a breeding duck potential of greater than 25 breeding pairs per square mile. The offered acreage has 5 acres of non-cropped wetlands. Five acres of cropland immediately adjacent to the non-cropped wetland does not meet the cropping history and is not part of the non-cropped wetland acreage. The maximum amount of upland buffer that may be enrolled is 45 acres (5 acres of wetland times a 10-acre buffer minus 5 acres for the cropland not meeting cropping history). **Note:** The cropland not meeting cropping history is not eligible for enrollment in CP37, but must be included as part of the conservation plan.



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

When wetland restoration is a portion of this practice the degree of restoration will be defined by the landowner and USDA. The goal of wetland restoration projects is to restore the original hydrology of the site. Practice feasibility, economic cost, off-site limitations along with other considerations may limit the extent of hydrology that can be restored. Has a last alternative sites will be eligible when the cessation of cropping and the subsequent establishment of CRP vegetation is accomplished.

Initial wetland restoration feasibility assessments must be completed by a qualified individual and must consider avoiding impacts to adjacent properties, utilities, or other infrastructures unless approvals, permits or consents are attainable. This assessment must include an evaluation of the depth, width and extent of the existing drainage system and its impact on the site's hydric soils. When enrolling areas it is important to document the baseline hydrologic conditions **prior** to restoration. After the CRP contract expires the land will revert to the original wetland determination. The landowner can manipulate the hydrology only back to the baseline condition.

Wetland acreage eligibility will be determined independent of USDA wetland determinations or the FWS National Wetland Inventory although these sources should be used as references when

determining eligibility. These areas will typically be considered as Farmed Wetland (FW), Wetlands Farmed Under Natural Conditions (W), or Prior Converted Cropland (PC). The CP37 practice must also enroll a buffer between a minimum ratio of 4 acres of upland to 1 acre of wetland (or converted wetland). The maximum buffer will not exceed a ratio of 10 acres of upland to each acre of wetland or converted wetland enrolled. All upland buffer acres will enhance wildlife habitat. The vegetation of upland acres will be established based on the native ecosystem as determined by using the soil survey, native vegetation maps (TRYGG or Marschner maps) or other accepted source.

Wetlands will be restored using the NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657. Seeding mixes for the wetland zone can be found in the 657 standard. Buffer areas for sites developed under a grassland ecosystem will be seeded according to NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 or Restoration of Declining Habitats 643 using a mixed stand with a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses and 1 forb. Buffer areas for sites under a woodland ecosystem will use NRCS Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612. When restoring woodland ecosystems, plant hard mast species along with other species suitable for the wet nature of the site. Native ecosystems can be determined by the soil survey or by the native vegetation maps (TRYGG or Marshner maps).

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Duck Nesting Habitat — **CP37** Version 4/07

APPLICANT: COUNTY: **Resource Concern for Eligibility Restoration of Wetlands**
FSA TRACT NO.: FSA FIELD NO.:

Practice Eligibility (Need and Feasibility):

1. Restorable wetland acres are located outside the 100-year floodplain?
☐ Yes ☐ No*

2. The area offered includes hydric soils, altered or manipulated wetlands or prior converted cropland? (Additional map documentation must identify each eligible site).
☐ Yes ☐ No**

3. The area offered includes non-cropped wetlands eligible to be buffered?
☐ Yes ☐ No**

4. The area offered contains at least the minimum buffer to wetland ratio of 4:1 acres.
☐ Yes ☐ No***

Ineligible Practice:

☐ *The offered acres are not located outside the 100-year floodplain.
☐ **The area offered does not include hydric soils or areas of altered or manipulated wetlands and/or prior converted cropland.
☐ ***A minimum buffer to wetland ratio of 4:1 is not possible (See CP23A as an alternative).

Site Suitability (from site visit)

Document whether native vegetation is herbaceous or woodland.

Notes:

Extent of CP-37 practice area:

Size of eligible cropped wetland(s) Acres

Size of non-cropped wetland(s) Acres

Total area of cropped and non-cropped wetland(s) Acres

Continued next page

Size of ineligible associated lands including cropped and non-cropped areas that do not meet CRP eligibility requirements and are not designated as wetlands

******acres

****These areas must be included in the conservation plan and are subject to being managed according to CRP requirements. These areas count toward the allowable buffer area.**

Eligible Upland Buffer Area: *****Acres

***Subject to a minimum of a 4:1 buffer to wetland ratio to a maximum of 10:1 buffer to wetland ratio.**

Total size of Eligible CP-37 practice Acres

Table 3: Wetland Classifications for CCRP Eligibility

	HERBACEOUS	SCRUB-SHRUB	FORESTED
SEASONALLY FLOODED	PEMC	PSS(1-5)C	PFO(1,2,4,5)C
SEMI-PERMANENTLY FLOODED	PEMF	PSS(1-5)F	PFO(1,2,4,5)F
INTERMITTENTLY EXPOSED	PEMG	PSS(1-5)G	NA
PERMANENTLY FLOODED	PEMH	NA	NA

Note: There are 15 Wetland categories according to the USFWS Wetland Classification System (refer to the following website: http://wetlands.fws.gov/mapcodes.htm). The four categories listed above are used **only** for the following CRP practices: CP21, CP22 and CP30.