

For: State and County Offices

**Accepting and Rejecting Grassland CRP Signup 206 Offers**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

All eligible CRP offers received during grassland CRP signup 206 were evaluated based on the summary score of 7 ranking factors. Over 3 million acres were offered in signup 206. The Secretary has determined nearly 1.44 million acres are acceptable and may be enrolled with a start date of October 1, 2024, for program year 2025. The national average annual rental rate per acre for the acceptable acreage is \$16.63 per acre.

The maximum possible grassland CRP ranking score was 195.

Offers with a ranking score of 82 or greater were determined basically acceptable.

As a result of this selection, acreage under some CRP-1's that are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2024, will not be re-enrolled. Producers on these acres may need:

- technical assistance preparing expiring CRP acreage for crop production
- information about:
  - conservation compliance requirements
  - early land preparation policies
  - enrolling in continuous CRP, or ARC/PLC, if applicable.

The authority to conduct a CRP signup under Section 3831 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) ends on September 30, 2024. At this time, this authority to administer CRP has not been extended and all CRP obligations related to this signup must be approved before **September 30, 2024**.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2025	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices

## Notice CRP-1033

### 1 Overview (Continued)

#### B Purpose

This notice provides:

- instructions for accessing a list of accepted and rejected offers by administrative county for each offer submitted for grassland CRP signup 206
- form letters to notify producers of the status of their offer (Exhibit 1)
- additional guidance on policies about:
  - acreage revisions
  - withdrawing offers
  - succession-in-interest
  - signature requirements
  - conservation planning
  - establishing grazing infrastructure practices
  - 25 percent county cropland limitation
  - CRP and ARC/PLC
- key completion dates
- counties at or over 20 percent of the 25 percent county cropland limitation (Exhibit 2).

### 2 Offer Selection Overview

#### A Selection Process

All eligible grassland CRP signup 206 offers submitted using the Conservation Online System (COLS) by COB June 28, 2024, or processed from a register in COLS by July 8, 2024, have been ranked.

Refer to paragraph 4 for information about erroneous and omitted offers.

All offers were ranked using the national ranking plan according to:

- Notice CRP-1030
- the grassland CRP ranking factors using the formula:  
ranking score = F1 + F2 + F3 + F4 + F5 + F6 + F7

## Notice CRP-1033

### 2 Offer Selection Overview (Continued)

#### A Selection Process (Continued)

- the maximum possible ranking score is 195 points, which was developed using:
  - 170 points maximum for ranking factors F1 through F6
  - 25 points maximum for cost factor F7.

Scoring parameters for F1 through F7 are in Notice CRP-1030.

#### B National Ranking Cutoff Score

Offers with a ranking score greater than or equal to the national ranking cutoff level of 82 points were determined basically acceptable. All other offers were rejected.

**Exceptions:** In several counties, the total number of cropland acres determined acceptable, plus the cropland acres currently enrolled in CRP scheduled to expire after September 30, 2024, and cropland enrolled in ACEP-WRE, would have exceeded the applicable 25 percent county cropland limitation.

In these counties, the grassland CRP signup 206 acres determined acceptable, when combined with the existing cropland enrolled in CRP as of October 1, 2024, and cropland enrolled in ACEP-WRE cropland acreage, were limited to the applicable 25 percent county cropland limit for that county. As a result, some additional offers were rejected. The effective ranking cutoff level in these counties will be higher than the national ranking cutoff level.

**Note:** See subparagraph 10 B for information on local preference.

#### C Environmental Benefits Index Cutoff Score for Wyoming Big Game Conservation Pilot Area

Offers with an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) score greater than or equal to 70 points were determined basically acceptable for the following Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming counties only:

- Idaho
  - Bonneville
  - Clark
  - Fremont
  - Jefferson
  - Madison
  - Teton
- Montana
  - Beaverhead
  - Carbon
  - Gallatin
  - Madison
  - Park
  - Stillwater
  - Sweetgrass
- Wyoming
  - Carbon
  - Freemont
  - Hot Springs
  - Lincoln
  - Park
  - Sublette
  - Sweetwater
  - Teton.

### 3 Accessing and Reviewing Offer Ranking Reports

#### A Accessing Offer Ranking Reports

Offer ranking reports will be provided in a State Excel spreadsheet by administrative county. The State Excel spreadsheet will be available at FPAC-FSA-CD-County [Sharepoint](#). All offices will be able to access the SharePoint site. All lists will be in Excel format, and State Office specialists will download a copy of the State's report and provide the list to County Offices.

**Notes:** The offer ranking report includes a "Status" column which indicates whether the offer was determined acceptable or rejected. Offers are rejected if one of the following conditions applies:

- the offer is less than the ranking cutoff score
- the county in which the offered land is physically located has reached or exceeds the 25 percent county cropland limit.

#### B Reviewing Offer Ranking Reports

Before notifying producers of the results of the offer selection, County Offices must compare the offer data in the offer ranking report for each offer listed with the corresponding CRP-1 and CRP-2G data to ensure:

- all eligible offers submitted are listed in the report
- the data on each offer record listed in the report is correct.

Offers with incorrect ranking factors, rental rates, or other data which could affect ranking scores will be handled as erroneous offers according to paragraph 4.

#### C Mail Merging Accepted and Rejected Reports

This year, each offer's primary contact information has been added to the accepted and rejected reports for each administrative county. This information may be used by County Offices to create mail merges to auto fill information for accepted letters, rejected letters, and labels for envelopes. Instructions on using this information for mail merge have been provided on the Conservation Division [Sharepoint](#).

## Notice CRP-1033

### 4 Errors, Omissions, and Appeals

#### A Software

COLS software was disabled COB July 8, 2024, to accommodate national offer ranking analysis. The software will be reopened for processing errors, omissions, and appeals.

Offers not successfully submitted using COLS by COB June 28, 2024, or processed from a register by July 8, 2024, are considered omitted offers. See 4-CRP for procedure for automated processing of erroneous and omitted offers.

Offers with incorrect ranking factors, rental rates, or other data which could affect ranking scores will be handled as erroneous offers.

See 1-APP for handling appeals.

**Important:** Late-filed offers are **not** omitted offers. Both CRP-1 and CRP-2G must be completed and signed by an eligible producer and received in the County Office by COB July 8, 2024, to constitute an offer. CRP-1 or CRP-2G alone does **not** constitute an offer.

When processing errors, omissions, and appeals, State Offices must submit offers to the National Office through the [Contracts and Applications SharePoint](#). Entries on SharePoint must include the following:

- CRP-2G
- COLS “View Offer”/ Enrollment Data.

State and County Offices **must** ensure that offers posted to SharePoint through errors, omissions, and appeals are in a “Submitted” status before uploading the entry.

Once the user completed the SharePoint entry, the user should create an alert for the entry. This alert will notify the user that the offer has been updated by the National Office.

#### B Procedure

Erroneous and omitted offers must be processed according to 2-CRP, paragraph 339. Offers not successfully submitted using COLS by COB June 28, 2024, or processed from a register no later than July 8, 2024, are considered omitted offers. See 4-CRP for procedure for automated processing of erroneous and omitted offers. See 1-APP for handling appeals.

**Important:** Late-filed offers are **not** omitted offers. Both CRP-1 and CRP-2G must be completed and signed by an eligible producer and received in the County Office by COB July 8, 2024, to constitute an offer. CRP-1 or CRP-2G alone does **not** constitute an offer.

## Notice CRP-1033

### 5 Policies About Acceptable and Rejected Offers

#### A Acreage Revisions and Measurement Service

Producers with acceptable offers that request an in-field measurement are required to pay for measurement service to determine the actual acreage being enrolled. A measurement service must be performed by the County Office and paid for by the producer according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 401 B, and 2-CP.

If acreage adjustments to the offer result from the measurement service, the revised offer must be modified in COLS software according to paragraph 4.

**Note:** The boundary of the acreage offered must **not** change.

#### B Withdrawing Acceptable Offers

Producers with acceptable offers have **10 calendar days** from the date of CRP-23 (Exhibit 1) to notify the County Office if they want to continue with the offer to participate. Partial withdrawals are **not** acceptable. If a producer fails to respond in **10 calendar days**, or chooses not to continue with the offer, the County Office must notate the producer's notification and include the notation in the producer's CRP folder. Liquidated damages do not apply.

**Note:** Producers are not required to notify the County Office in writing. However, the County Office must note the producer's response in the CRP folder. See 2-CRP, paragraph 341.

#### C Succession-in-Interest Policy

Refer to 2-CRP, paragraph 338 for succession-in-interest policy for offers.

#### D Signature Requirements

See 2-CRP, paragraph 335 for requirements on obtaining signatures.

#### E Changing CRP-2 Data on Rejected Offers

Producers must **not** be allowed to change any CRP-2G data, including the rental rate per acre offered or ranking considerations, after the offer is determined rejected.

## 6 Interim Conservation Plans

### A Authority for Interim Conservation Planning

The Interim Conservation Plan (Exhibit 3) is authorized for use **only** in Grassland CRP signup 206.

### B Interim Conservation Plan and Interim Conservation Plan Addendum

The Interim Conservation Plan and Interim Conservation Plan Addendum (Exhibit 4) will be used for Grassland CRP signup 206 CRP-1's when the conservation plan cannot be timely completed before contract approval.

Using the Interim Conservation Plan and Interim Conservation Plan Addendum does not negate the requirement for completing environmental evaluations and necessary consultations according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 367 F, and 1-EQ for final conservation plan approval. Producers will be informed through the Interim Conservation Plan Addendum that they will not engage in any type of ground-disturbing activity until they receive an approved final conservation plan, FSA-848A is approved, and the environmental compliance evaluation is completed. Failure to comply with this requirement can result in CRP-1 termination.

**Important:** The above policy does not apply to any other type of CRP except grassland CRP. FSA-848 agreements for all other CRP types must follow the policy stated in 2-CRP, paragraph 500 and must be completed in the C/S software by **September 30, 2024**. All environmental compliance evaluations must be completed before contract approval for both general and continuous CRP.

County Offices will ensure items 1 through 3 on the Interim Conservation Plan are completed. NRCS is responsible for completing items 4 through 6. The Interim Conservation Plan and Interim Conservation Plan Addendum will be signed and dated by at least one CRP-1 participant, NRCS representative, and COC or CED after completion, no later than **September 30, 2024**.

County Offices will reproduce the Interim Conservation Plan and Interim Conservation Plan Addendum locally using the version dated July 31, 2024. No modifications to the Interim Conservation Plan or Interim Conservation Plan Addendum are authorized.

The deadline for NRCS to complete and return the Interim Conservation Plans and Interim Conservation Plan Addendums or final Conservation Plans, as applicable, to FSA is **September 16, 2024**.

**Notice CRP-1033**

**6 Interim Conservation Plans (Continued)**

**B Interim Conservation Plan and Interim Conservation Plan Addendum (Continued)**

County Offices will follow this table to complete the offer process for grassland CRP Signup 206 using the Interim Conservation Plan and Interim Conservation Plan Addendum.

<b>Step</b>	<b>Action</b>
1	<p>The Interim Conservation Plan will contain the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• producer’s name or names</li> <li>• State and county codes and administrative location</li> <li>• CRP-1 number, after assigned in Conversation Contract Maintenance System (CCMS)</li> <li>• estimated number of acres under contract</li> <li>• CRP practice number, CP88 (Permanent Grasses and Legumes)</li> <li>• NRCS technical practice standard for the applicable practice, such as 528, prescribed grazing.</li> </ul> <p>FSA will complete items 1 through 3 on the Interim Conservation Plan. NRCS will complete items 4 through 6. Job sheets/implementation requirements and designs are not required.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> County Offices will reproduce the Interim Conservation Plan dated July 31, 2024, locally. No modifications are authorized.</p>
2	<p>At least one CRP-1 participant, NRCS representative, and COC or CED will sign the Interim Conservation Plan.</p> <p>If a CRP-1 participant does not sign the Interim Conservation Plan or if an Interim Conservation Plan cannot be completed by NRCS, the County Office will void the offer by writing “VOID” across the CRP-1. Stop. Do not continue to step 3.</p>
3	<p>At least one CRP-1 participant and COC or CED will sign and date the Interim Conservation Plan Addendum.</p>
4	<p>All signatories to CRP-1 will sign CRP-1 by COB <b>September 30, 2024</b>.</p>
5	<p>County Offices will enter the COC approval date and effective start date of CRP-1 in COLS and CLICK “COC Approval” to submit to CCMS for the assigned CRP-1 number. COLS will display the CRP-1 number assigned.</p>
6	<p>County Offices will enter the CRP-1 number assigned by CCMS on the Interim Conservation Plan and approved CRP-1.</p>
7	<p>County Offices will report the use of Interim Conservation Plans for each CRP contract by accessing the <a href="#">FSA Conservation - 2024 Interim Plan Report SU206 Grassland CRP - All Items (sharepoint.com)</a>.</p>



Notice CRP-1033

6 Interim Conservation Plans (Continued)

B Interim Conservation Plan and Interim Conservation Plan Addendum (Continued)

Step	Action
8	<p>Immediately upon CRP-1 approval, County Offices must process the initial FSA-848A for CP88 according to 6-CRP. County Offices must enter at least 1 cost share (C/S) component code for the applicable practice into CSS.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> State Offices must provide the component code to the County Office.</p> <p>COC or CED must sign and approve FSA-848A. Producer’s signature is not required.</p>
9	<p>Do not notify the CRP participant of C/S approval. Notification will be provided after FSA-848A is completed following approval of the final conservation plan and completion of the Environmental Compliance Evaluation. See step 19.</p>
10	<p>NRCS completes the final conservation plan (including engineering plan) and reviews the final conservation plans and supporting documents (job sheets/implementation requirements and designs) with the CRP participant.</p>
11	<p>If the CRP participant agrees to the final conservation plan, proceed to step 12.</p> <p>If the CRP participant does not want to continue with the final conservation plan, COC will terminate the approved CRP-1 according to 2-CRP, paragraph 573. Liquidated damages and refunds will not apply. <b>Stop.</b></p>
12	<p>NRCS obtains all signatures on the final conservation plan, including engineering plan if applicable, CPA-52, and supporting documents, and provides them to FSA by COB <b>December 15, 2024.</b></p>
13	<p>FSA completes environmental review according to 1-EQ.</p>
14	<p>COC or CED approves the final conservation plan by <b>January 19, 2025.</b></p>
15	<p>County Offices will access the existing record from the <a href="#">CD SharePoint</a>.</p>
16	<p>County Offices will revise CRP-1, as applicable, based on the final conservation plan requirements according to 2-CRP, paragraph 546, and 5-CRP, Part 2, Section 2.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> County Offices will set the effective start date of the revised CRP-1 as October 1, 2024.</p>
17	<p>County Offices will obtain all producer signatures on the revised CRP-1.</p>
18	<p>COC or CED approves the revised CRP-1.</p>
19	<p>County Offices will complete FSA-848A based on the final conservation plan requirements, as applicable, and according to 6-CRP. COC or CED will sign and approve the revised FSA-848A.</p>
20	<p>County Offices will notify the CRP participant of C/S approval using the CRP C/S approval letter according to 2-CRP, paragraph 501.</p>

**7 Final Conservation Plans**

**A State Conservation Planning Policy**

FSA State Conservation Program Specialists will work with the appropriate NRCS State CRP Program Manager or NRCS State Resource Conservationist to update or develop conservation planning requirements for CP88 (Permanent Grasses and Legumes).

Planning requirements:

- must align with NRCS conservation planning policy and include State specifics on conservation planning for CP88
- will define plan deliverables, such as maps, implementation requirements, practice designs, forage balance information, etc.

**Note:** State Offices will provide training and distribute planning requirements to County Offices.

Implementation requirements (IR):

- are State-developed templates that conservation planners use to provide site-specific information and instructions necessary to install or implement a conservation practice
- may be a single document or a series of documents with a cover sheet that outlines the documents contained within.

**Note:** IR templates may be in various electronic formats, are often fillable, and may contain:

- routines for auto-fill and formulas for auto-calculations
- standard drawings, specifications, operations, and maintenance information or other design information.

7 **Final Conservation Plans (Continued)**

**B Conservation Plan Development**

A final conservation plan and all supporting documentation will be completed by NRCS, signed by the participant(s), and returned to FSA no later than **December 15, 2024**. A final conservation plan and all supporting documentation is the approved conservation plan completed after an interim plan has been in effect for a CRP-1. If the participants do not agree to the terms of the final conservation plan and supporting documentation, the CRP-1 will be terminated. Liquidated damages and refunds will not apply.

Grassland CRP participants must follow a conservation plan developed according to 2- CRP, Part 11. NRCS or the technical service provider (TSP) has the technical responsibility to develop conservation plans and the supporting documentation. County Offices will provide to NRCS or TSP documents for accepted grassland CRP offers that are necessary for NRCS to complete conservation plans according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 269 D. Documentation should be referred to NRCS immediately but no later than 5 workdays from notification by the producer that the producer wants to continue with the offer.

The conservation plan must be planned according to Exhibit 5.

**C Cost Share Approval Authority**

Certain components for practice CP88 (Permanent Grasses and Legumes) are eligible for C/S according to Exhibit 5.

Approvals for the following components must be as follows:

- water developments
- water facilities
- pipelines
- livestock crossings.

<b>IF C/S amount per contract, per component is...</b>	<b>THEN approval authority is...</b>
\$4,000 or less	COC.
\$4,001 to \$7,500	STC.
More than \$7,500	DAFP.

## Notice CRP-1033

### 8 Environmental Reviews

#### A County Office Requirements

County Offices must complete required environmental consultations, according to 1-EQ, immediately upon notification from NRCS or TSP if potential impacts have been identified.

#### B Cultural Resource Surveys Requirements

In situations where initial consultations have resulted in the need for a cultural resource survey, County Offices must load the contract information into the [Conservation Division SharePoint](#). Cultural resource survey needs not loaded into the SharePoint will not be considered for funding.

### 9 Establishing CRP Practices and Other Conservation Measures

#### A Policy

Installation requirements for grassland CRP are included in Exhibit 5.

Certain participants must install infrastructure to address resource concerns and facilitate grazing distribution. All conservation plans must be consistent with:

- the offer
- NRCS practice standards for the component.

#### B Timing for New Installations

2-CRP, subparagraph 426 B provides that participants may begin installing approved practices:

- after submitting the offer to the County Office
- when notified that CRP-1 has been approved.

Participants must be notified that starting a practice before final approval of CRP-1 is at the participant's own risk.

**Important:** C/S can **only** be approved when environmental reviews are completed according to 1-EQ and CRP-1 is approved. C/S will be paid when NRCS or TSP has certified that installation of the infrastructure meets NRCS's Practice Standard for the component.

## Notice CRP-1033

### 9 Establishing CRP Practices and Other Conservation Measures (Continued)

#### C Timing for Reoffered CRP Acreage

After the new CRP-1 is approved, participants who offered existing CRP acreage may immediately begin installing approved practices without being in violation of the existing CRP-1. Participants must be notified that starting a practice before final approval of new CRP-1 is at the participant's own risk.

### 10 County Cropland Limitation

#### A Applying County Cropland Limit

The National Office has applied the 25 percent county cropland limitation based on the physical location of the acreage offered. The ranking reports referenced in paragraph 3 will reflect which offers have been rejected because of the 25 percent county cropland limitation.

The 25 percent county cropland limitation is applied to each applicable, separate sub-County Office based on the cropland in the sub-county area. The following counties are divided into 2 or more sub-county areas.

State	Sub-county	State	Sub-county
Iowa	East Pottawattamie	Minnesota	East Otter Tail
	West Pottawattamie		West Otter Tail
			East Polk
			West Polk
Maine	Houlton		North Saint Louis
	Aroostook		South Saint Louis
	Fort Kent	Ohio	East Lucas
		West Lucas	

#### B Local Preference

Exhibit 2 provides a list of counties at or over 20 percent of the 25 percent county cropland limitation.

Any county listed in Exhibit 2 will not have omitted offers ranked by the COLS software. For tie breaking, the National Office ranked offers with identical EBI scores in the following order:

- local preference
- ascending rent
- ascending offer acreage.

**11 CRP and DCP Cropland Policy**

**A Sufficient DCP Cropland**

Before notifying any producer that an offer was determined acceptable, the County Office must ensure that the offered CRP acreage, excluding marginal pastureland, does not exceed the farm's effective DCP cropland plus double-cropped acres minus base acres. Base acres may need to be reduced because of participation in CRP.

**B Restoration of Base Acres**

When base acres are restored from CRP (expired, voluntarily terminated, or early released only), a farm must have sufficient effective DCP cropland to accommodate the restoration of those base acres. Enrollment in ARC/PLC is not allowed when the sum of the base acres exceeds the effective DCP cropland plus double-cropped acres.

**C ARC/PLC Election of Restored Base Acres**

If the restoration of base acres results in the addition of a covered commodity's base acres where base acres did not exist before the election, a manual CCC-866-1 must be completed before the restoration and within 30 calendar days from the notification to complete an election. See 1-ARCPLC (Rev 1), paragraph 41.

**Note:** The election must be completed before loading the restored base acres into Farm Records as software requires the entry of an election when base acres are added to a farm.

## Notice CRP-1033

### 12 Action

#### A County Office Requirements for Processing Acceptable and Rejected Offers

To process acceptable and rejected grassland signup 206 offers, County Offices must:

- set workload priorities and plan office activities to devote all available resources to CRP
- access and review the offer data according to paragraph 3 and 2-CRP, paragraph 341
- review all offer data and eligibility and immediately notify producers of their acceptable and rejected offers according to this notice using CRP-23 and CRP-26 (Exhibit 1), as applicable and signed by the CED

**Notes:** Decisions issued by CED using CRP-26 must include appeal rights to COC according to 1-APP.

As a cost savings measure, County Offices must consider notifying producers by scanning and e-mailing CRP-24 and CRP-26 with return receipt. If return receipt is not received by the County Office within 10 calendar days, County Offices must contact producers or mail CRP-24 and CRP-26 to producers. The original scanned notification form will be retained with the offer.

When scanning and e-mailing CRP-26 to producers, include the web address for the fact sheet about continuous signup located at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/FactSheets/crp-continuous-enrollment-period-factsheet.pdf>.

When mailing CRP-26, include the fact sheet about continuous CRP signup provisions. See subparagraph D for additional procedure for rejected offers.

- upon request, release all general information used to calculate payment rates and ranking scores.

**Note:** Do **not** release information about individual offers or producers restricted by 2--INFO.

## Notice CRP-1033

### 12 Action (Continued)

#### B Interim Conservation Plans

County Offices will:

- follow the provisions of this notice, including the instructions in paragraph 6
- reproduce the Interim Conservation Plan (Exhibit 3) and Interim Conservation Plan Addendum (Exhibit 4) locally using the version dated July 31, 2024.

**Note:** No modifications to the Interim Conservation Plan or Interim Conservation Plan Addendum are authorized.

- contact their State Office specialist responsible for CRP with any questions.

State Offices will:

- follow the provisions of this notice
- ensure that County Offices follow the provisions of this notice
- provide components for the applicable practices to the County Office to load into CSS to process FSA-848A's
- contact the regional environmental coordinator with any environmental compliance and consultation related questions.

#### C County Office Requirements for Preparing CRP-1 for Approval

To prepare CRP-1 for approval, County Offices will:

- refer accepted offers and supporting documentation to NRCS for planning after an affirmative response from the producer that they intend to continue enrolling in grasslands CRP
- coordinate with NRCS to ensure planning requirements and deadlines are met
- complete and document environmental reviews and consultation, as necessary
- review 2-CRP, Part 12 for activities to complete before approving CRP-1
- approve CRP-1 and applicable cost-share agreement(s) in CSS no later than September 30, 2024
- notify producers of CRP-1 approval using CRP-24.



**Notice CRP-1033**

**12 Action (Continued)**

**D County Office Requirements for Assisting Producers with Rejected Offers**

County Offices, with NRCS assistance, will assist producers whose offers were not determined acceptable with:

- technical assistance for bringing acreage back into production, if applicable
- conservation compliance provisions
- understanding how their offer could have been adjusted to be more competitive
- information about enrolling in continuous CRP or ARC/PLC, if applicable.

**E Key Completion Dates**

The following table provides guidance on actions and key completion dates.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
County Offices must review offers on the ranking reports and conduct eligibility and data reviews according to subparagraph 3 B and 2-CRP, paragraph 341, to detect any erroneous and omitted records.	Immediately upon receipt of this notice and not later than August 23, 2024.
County Offices must begin notifying producers with acceptable and rejected offers.	Immediately upon completing actions required in paragraph 3, no later than noon ET on August 23, 2024.
County Offices provide documents necessary to complete conservation plans according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 341 D, to NRCS or TSP.	Within 5 business days of notification by producer that the producer wants to continue with the offer.
Interim conservation plans must be completed and approved by NRCS and returned to FSA.	No later than September 16, 2024.
CRP-1's and FSA-848's must be approved by CED or COC and entered in COLS.	No later than COB September 30, 2024.  <b>There is no statutory authority to approve contracts after COB September 30, 2024.</b>
Final conservation plans must be completed and approved by NRCS and returned to FSA.	No later than December 15, 2024.
Final conservation plans must be approved and final FSA-848A's completed and approved.	No later than January 19, 2025.

12 Action (Continued)

F State Office Action

State Offices will:

- set workload priorities and plan office activities to devote all available resources to CRP
- provide components for the applicable practices to the County Office to load into CSS to process FSA-848A's for interim conservation plans
- contact the regional environmental coordinator with any environmental compliance and consultation related questions
- submit questions to Patrick Lewis, acting grassland CRP program manager
- ensure that all County Offices:
  - review and properly follow the processes in this notice
  - begin notification to producers immediately upon completing required actions as provided in this notice.

**Note:** Report County Offices that have not started notifying producers according to subparagraph A and provide the reason to Patrick Lewis, Acting Program Manager, CD, by e-mail to [patrick.lewis@usda.gov](mailto:patrick.lewis@usda.gov) no later than noon ET on August 23, 2024.

Additional grassland CRP signup 206 summary information will available at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/reports-and-statistics/conservation-reserve-program-statistics/index>.

Letters Notifying Producers of Offer Acceptance

A CRP-23 Notice of Acceptable Offer



Farm Production and Conservation

Farm Service Agency

State/county name or organizational unit, Mail stop code and/or room number, P.O. Box or Street Address, City, State, ZIP Code

NOTICE REGARDING ACCEPTABLE CRP OFFERS

Date: (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Dear: \_\_\_\_\_

This notice is to inform you that your offer on tract \_\_\_\_\_ under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been determined acceptable by FSA.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Technical Service Provider (TSP) must develop a conservation plan, approved by the Conservation District and FSA, and signed by all signatories on the CRP contract offer to participate in the CRP. So that we may continue to process your offer, you should continue to work with NRCS or TSP to obtain the required plan on the acreage which is subject to the offer. Your offer cannot be approved by the County Committee without an approved conservation plan.

Starting certain work (including, but not limited to, site preparation, grading, or ground disturbance) to install prescribed conservation practices prior to contract approval may result in the loss of program eligibility. This is because implementation of CRP is considered a Federal action by applicable laws, and FSA must first complete an environmental review before any federal action occurs, including the approval of a CRP contract and related cost share for conservation practice installation. Do not begin any activities that could have an adverse environmental impact or could limit the choice of reasonable alternatives before the environmental review has been completed, and you have been notified in writing of contract approval.

You have 10 days from the date of this letter to notify this office whether you want your acceptable offer to participate in CRP to be referred to NRCS or TSP for conservation plan development. If we do not hear from you within the 10-day period, your offer will be rejected.

The same acreage cannot be enrolled under CRP and Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC). The total of the CRP and ARC/PLC acres on a farm cannot exceed the total eligible land for the program on the farm. The owner of the land offered for CRP may be required to reduce all or a portion of ARC/PLC acreage before CRP-1 will be approved. Please contact the \_\_\_\_\_ County FSA Office for more information.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive Director

CRP-23 (08-09-24)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Letters Notifying Producers of Offer Acceptance (Continued)

B CRP-26 Notice of Unacceptable Offer



Farm Production and Conservation

Farm Service Agency

State/county name or organizational unit
Mail stop code and/or room number
P.O. Box or Street Address
City, State, ZIP Code

NOTICE OF UNACCEPTABLE OFFER

Date: (MM-DD-YYYY)

Dear:

Thank you for your offer to place land in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Your offer on tract number to participate in the (signup type) CRP was not accepted because:

- Environmental Benefits Too Low
Grassland Ranking Score Too Low
Land Determined Ineligible
Payment Rate Offered Exceeded the Maximum Payment Rate
County Cropland Limitation Has Been Reached
Existing Restrictive Easement
1-Year Ownership/Operatorship Eligibility Not Met
Ineligible Cropping History
Landowner/Tenant Provision Not Met
Other
Offer exceeds maximum available acreage allocation for the practice.

If you feel that all the facts have not been considered in your case, you may:

You need to provide factual information and reasons why you believe this determination is not correct.

Although your offer was not accepted, you may be eligible for the continuous sign-up of high priority conservation practices such as filterstrips, riparian buffers, grass waterways, shelter-belts, field wind breaks, living snow fences, contour grass strips, salt tolerant vegetation, or shallow water areas for wildlife. I have enclosed a copy of a FSA continuous signup fact sheet. Please contact our office if you are interested.

It may be possible that your offer may be modified to increase the likelihood of acceptance in a future signup by:

- increasing the environmental benefits score for general signup or
increasing the grassland ranking score for grassland signup.

\*(Insert appeal rights to COC according to 1-APP)

Sincerely,

County Executive Director

Enclosures

CRP-26 (06-05-23)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**Counties at or Over 20 Percent of the 25 Percent County Cropland Limitation**

The following counties are at or over 20 percent of the 25 percent county cropland limitation if all acceptable offers for general and grasslands CRP signup are approved.

<b>State</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Current Percent of County Cropland Enrolled in CRP/ACEP-WRE</b>
Texas	Andrews	25.38%
Colorado	Baca	25.02%
Oregon	Gilliam	24.96%
Texas	Bailey	24.95%
Michigan	Chippewa	24.83%
Colorado	Pueblo	24.64%
Colorado	Crowley	24.54%
New Mexico	Harding	24.33%
Texas	Cochran	23.84%
Washington	Douglas	23.74%
New Mexico	Quay	23.71%
Nebraska	Kimball	22.99%
Kansas	Morton	22.95%
Colorado	Kiowa	22.92%
Idaho	Bannock	22.79%
Kansas	Hamilton	22.29%
Louisiana	Tensas	21.92%
Oregon	Sherman	21.70%
Louisiana	Concordia	21.68%
Idaho	Power	21.59%
Texas	Gaines	21.58%
Texas	Swisher	21.53%
Mississippi	Grenada	20.95%
New Mexico	Curry	20.86%
Colorado	Prowers	20.84%
Texas	Hockley	20.65%
Colorado	Bent	20.38%
Texas	Lamb	20.29%
Mississippi	Oktibbeha	20.09%

**Interim Conservation Plan**

The following is an example of the Interim Conservation Plan.

<b>Grassland CRP Signup 206 (7-31-24)</b>			
<b>INTERIM CONSERVATION PLAN</b>			
<b>1. Producer Name</b>	<b>2. State/County Code</b>	<b>3. Contract No.</b>	<b>4. Acres Under Contract</b>
<b>5. CRP Practice(s):</b> (Example: CP88)			
<b>6. The appropriate NRCS Technical Practice Standard for the practice is attached.</b>			
<b>7. Producer Signature/Date</b>	_____	_____	<b>Date</b>
<b>8. NRCS Representative Signature/Date</b>	_____	_____	<b>Date</b>
<b>9. CCC Representative Signature/Date</b>	_____	_____	<b>Date</b>
<p><b>Note: All final conservation plans for all types of signup for all States are scheduled to be completed by December 15, 2024. Final conservation plans may vary from the Interim Conservation Plan.</b></p>			

**Interim Conservation Plan Addendum**

The following is an example of the Conservation Plan Addendum.

<p><b>CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGN-UP Grassland CRP Signup 206, FY2025 CONTRACTS: INTERIM CONSERVATION PLAN ADDENDUM</b></p>	
<p>_____ PRODUCER NAME</p>	<p>_____ FARM NUMBER</p>
<p>_____ STATE</p>	<p>_____ COUNTY</p>
<p>_____ TRACT NUMBER</p>	<p>_____ FIELD NUMBER(S)</p>
<p>The attached Interim Conservation Plan is general in nature, but is intended to allow your contract period to begin upon approval of the CRP-1 while a final conservation plan is developed for your land that will be enrolled under your Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract. It is possible that your Interim Conservation Plan requires nothing more than continuing certain practices you may already be engaged in. You need to review the attached plan and the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Technical Practice Standard and bring any questions to the attention of NRCS or your other Technical Service Provider (TSP), as applicable.</p>	
<p>Personnel from the NRCS, or other TSP, will conduct a field visit to evaluate the CRP practice(s) you offered, and develop and provide for your signature a final conservation plan with site-specific requirements unique to your CRP offer no later than December 15, 2024. For grasslands CRP signup offers for new land, the onsite field visit and evaluation will determine the present condition of the acreage offered. If the land is already enrolled in CRP, the on-site visit will evaluate the present condition of the practice. In addition, NRCS or other TSP will identify any sites pecific planting requirements or treatments required to meet the selected CRP practice and related technical specifications. After the field visit, the interim conservation plan will be modified, as necessary and appropriate.</p>	
<p>The following applies to current CRP participants seeking to re-enroll land in CRP. By signing this addendum, you acknowledge that the on-site field visit as described above may result in a finding that you are not in compliance with the provisions of your current CRP contract, i.e., your contract set to expire on September 30, 2024. Should such a finding be made, FSA may, at its discretion, terminate your CRP contract or take such other action as FSA deems appropriate. Should FSA decide to terminate your CRP contract, refunds of payments and liquidated damages will not apply, as determined appropriate by FSA.</p>	

**Interim Conservation Plan Addendum (Continued)**

The attached Interim Conservation Plan may be revised when the final plan is completed after the field visit; however, you will be still be required to comply with the CRP contract, including the Interim Conservation Plan, as a condition for being considered eligible for payments for the CRP during this interim period. Specifically, you will be eligible for payment from the first day of the month following the date the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee approves your contract, including this Interim Conservation Plan, provided you comply with all the terms and conditions of the contract. The final conservation plan will be consistent with the interim plan, as appropriate, and will include the terms of the CRP contract to which you have agreed. You must not engage in any type of ground-disturbing activity on the land under contract until you receive a final conservation plan; failure to comply with this requirement may result in termination of the CRP contract, together with a demand for refund of any payments received and the imposition of liquidated damages. Further, please be aware that starting the CRP practice in ways not involving ground disturbance during this interim period and before approval of the final conservation plan is at your, the producer’s, own risk. Cost share payments during this interim period are not authorized. Cost share payments under the final conservation plan will only be paid for eligible activities that occur after the final conservation plan has been finalized and agreed to.

If you have any concerns with the Interim Conservation Plan, then you may contact your local NRCS office or other TSP and request that they work with you to develop a final plan prior to your contract start date. However, please be aware that the timeline for final plan development is dependent on field office workload and other factors, and that this may result in delays that would make it unlikely for your contract to be approved by September 30, 2024. Offers for enrollment submitted for contracts not approved by September 30, 2024, will be voided.

By signing below, you acknowledge receipt of this Interim Conservation Plan Addendum to your CRP contract, and agree to comply with the terms and conditions hereof as well as all of the terms and conditions of the basic CRP contract and its Appendix.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Producer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of CCC Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date



**National CRP Practices, CP88 Permanent Grasses and Legumes**

**A Purpose**

The purpose of this practice is to maintain existing vegetative cover of either introduced or native grasses and legumes on eligible land.

**B Program Policy**

Conservation plans must include 1 of the following NRCS Practice Standards to protect health of the grassland plant community, soil, and water resources on existing permanent introduced or native grasses and legumes on eligible land. NRCS or TSP must determine, based on a site visit, that the grassland is suitable to be hayed or grazed according to NRCS Practice Standard 528 or 511 as applicable.

NRCS Practice Standard	Authorized Use and Planning Criteria
Prescribed Grazing (NRCS Practice Standard 528)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used to manage acres for grazing</li> <li>• grazing is not restricted during the primary nesting season</li> <li>• C/S is authorized for supporting practices listed in subparagraph E</li> <li>• may include practices and grazing management techniques to protect soil health and wildlife habitat by limiting bare ground conditions caused by livestock trails and concentration areas.</li> </ul>
Forage Harvest Management (NRCS Practice Standard 511)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used to manage acres for forage production or harvesting for seed</li> <li>• land must remain in permanent cover</li> <li>• haying and mowing activities are prohibited during the PNS</li> <li>• C/S is authorized for supporting Firebreak (NRCS Practice Standard 394) according to subparagraph E</li> <li>• may include practices and management techniques to protect soil health and wildlife habitat.</li> </ul>

National CRP Practices, CP88 Permanent Grasses and Legumes (Continued)

**B Program Policy (Continued)**

NRCS Practice Standard	Authorized Use and Planning Criteria
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (NRCS Practice Standard 645)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used to manage acres for wildlife habitat when the objective of the participant and land is not being hayed or grazed</li> <li>• land must remain in permanent cover</li> <li>• conservation plan must be modified to include Prescribed Grazing (NRCS Practice Standards 528) or Forage Harvest Management (NRCS Practice Standard 511) according to this notice, if the participant chooses to hay, harvest for seed production, or graze during the life of the contract</li> <li>• C/S is authorized for supporting Firebreak (NRCS Practice Standard 394) according to subparagraph E</li> <li>• may include practices and management techniques to achieve the desired upland wildlife habitat condition</li> <li>• supporting NRCS Practice Standards may include, but are not limited to, the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forage and Biomass Planting (NRCS Practice Standard 512)</li> <li>• Range Planting (NRCS Practice Standard 550)</li> <li>• Conservation Cover (NRCS Practice Standard 327)</li> <li>• Firebreak (NRCS Practice Standard 394).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> C/S is only authorized for supporting Firebreak (NRCS Practice Standard 394) according to subparagraph E.</p>

**C Size Requirements**

There are no size requirements or minimums for CP88.

**National CRP Practices, CP88 Permanent Grasses and Legumes (Continued)**

**D Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice must:

- promote common grazing related activities
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring and breaking or native sod
- be included and required in the approved conservation plan
- be maintained for the life of the CRP-1.

**E C/S Policy**

The following NRCS Practice Standards may be eligible for C/S:

NRCS Practice Standard	Practice Name	NRCS Practice Standard	Practice Name
338	Prescribed Burning	533	Pumping Plant
342	Critical Area Planting	561	Heavy Use Protection Area
378	Pond	574	Spring Development
382	Fence	575	Animal Trails and Walkways
394	Firebreak	614	Watering Facility
472	Access Control	642	Water Well
516	Livestock Pipeline		

C/S eligibility must be determined according to the following table:

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
permanent internal fencing	internal fencing is needed to facilitate a livestock grazing system  <b>Note:</b> A single stand electric fence is not permanent fence.	authorized.
ponds, wells, spring developments, pipelines, and water facilities	substantiated as needed by COC for the purpose of providing a water source for livestock  <b>Note:</b> COC must only approve the minimum number of water sources needed.	
access control	needed to control access to an area to maintain the quantity and quality of natural resources, or seasonal or permanent livestock exclusion  <b>Example:</b> Gates between rotation grazing paddocks.	

National CRP Practices, CP88 Permanent Grasses and Legumes (Continued)

E C/S Policy (Continued)

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
fuel break	to control and reduce the risk of the spread of fire by treating, removing, or modifying vegetation, debris, and detritus	authorized.
trails and walkways	to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide or improve access to forage, water, working/handling facilities, and/or shelter</li> <li>• improve grazing efficiency and distribution</li> <li>• protect ecologically sensitive, erosive, and/or erosive sites</li> </ul>	
prescribed burning	to improve plant production quantity and/or quality by managing fuel loads to achieve desired conditions	
corrals, feedlots, ornamental fences, holding pens, cattle guards, and boundary fencing		<b>not</b> authorized.

**Note:** See subparagraph 7 C for C/S approval authority.

F Practice Requirements

The following are requirements for the practice:

- limit C/S to the minimum level of treatment necessary to support common grazing practices
- chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be:
  - Federally, State, and locally registered
  - applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements
  - noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests must be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.

**National CRP Practices, CP88 Permanent Grasses and Legumes (Continued)****F Practice Requirements (Continued)**

Conservation Planners may plan installation of components throughout the first 36 months of the CRP-1. All components of CP88 must be completely installed within 36 months from approval of the CRP-1. COC's may request one 12-month extension of this requirement from DAFP.

Meritorious requests for authority to continue CRP-1, on which the approved component has not been completed within 36 months of the effective date of CRP-1, may only be approved by DAFP. COC and STC may submit requests to DAFP, only if both COC or CED and STC determine the request is justified based on documented and verifiable facts of the individual case. All cases submitted to DAFP must include the following:

- complete explanation of how such a CRP-1 will be able to achieve the environmental benefits for which it was ranked and accepted for enrollment in CRP
- a complete case file according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 5 C.

COC must document extensions of time to install the approved component in the COC minutes and, at a minimum, include the following:

- participant name
- farm number
- agreement number from FSA-848
- practice
- detailed description of reason for extension.

County Offices will record all COC- or CED-approved extensions in CSS within 5 workdays of approval of the extension of time to seed or install the approved component.

COC or CED will notify the participant in writing within 5 workdays of COC or CED determination. If an extension is authorized, COC or CED will also notify the participant of the extended deadline.

**G Practice Management**

If the participant destroys the practice during the life of the CRP-1 or failure is caused by the participant, and the COC terminates, the participant(s) must refund all annual rental payments, C/S payments, interest, and liquidated damages according to 2-CRP, paragraph 574.

**National CRP Practices, CP88 Permanent Grasses and Legumes (Continued)****H Environmental Concerns**

Consider wildlife and other environmental concerns, especially federally threatened or endangered species and crucial habitat, when establishing protective measures.

**I Practice Maintenance**

The practice must be maintained without additional C/S for the life of CRP-1. C/S must be refunded according to 2-CRP (Rev. 6) paragraph 571 if either of the following applies:

- producer destroys the practice during the life of CRP-1
- failure is **not** caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

**J Management Activity**

The practice has no required management activities as required in 2-CRP (Rev. 6), paragraph 428.

**K Program Development**

Follow this subparagraph to develop the county program:

- county programs must provide the requirements that are conditions for C/S
- STC may establish these requirements.

**L Technical Responsibility**

Technical responsibility for this practice is assigned to NRCS or TSP.