Purpose

Bottomland Timber Establishment is a planting of Bottomland Hardwoods beneficial to wildlife in floodplains.

Bottomland Timber Planting minimizes scour, sheet, rill and other soil erosion, and provides wildlife habitat, promotes carbon sequestration, and enhances wetland functions and values. Trees established or managed in Bottomland Timber Planting can also provide timber and/or wood fiber products after contract expiration.

General Provisions

This practice is eligible in the Continuous CRP. Producers can enroll at any time if landowner and land eligibility requirements are met. Contract length is from 10 to 15 years.

Payments for this practice include annual rental payment based on a soil rental rate, an annual maintenance payment, and 50% cost share for installation of practice.

This practice has a 23,000 statewide acreage cap.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this practice the land must have a cropping history (4 of 6 years from 1996 – 2001) and the site must be within the 100-year floodplain of a perennial river or stream.

Specifications

This practice will be installed according to the Tree/Shrub Planting (612) Standard in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

Cottonwoods may be planted as a nursery crop to enhance viability of the other hardwood seedlings. Cottonwoods are planted at a 12x12 foot spacing with hardwoods planted at a 12x24 foot spacing.

For plantings without a nursery crop, at least 302 hardwood tree seedlings per acre (12x12 foot spacing) must be planted, not to exceed 436 hardwood tree seedlings per acre (10x10 foot spacing). Hardwood shrub planting shall be a rate of 680 per acre (8x8 foot spacing). Seed planting (acorns) are not permitted. Seedling shall be 1-2 year old bare root stock.

A minimum of 3 mast (fruit/nut) producing trees and/or shrubs must represent at least 75% of the planting. If needed to enhance the wetland development or wildlife habitat, a maximum of 25% of the planting may be softwood species (pine and baldcypress). At least one species must produce a hard mast (acorn or nut).

Tree species selected for planting will be adapted to the site conditions and meet FOTG standards. Only high quality stock will be used, and must be properly cared for and planted according to TN. Division of Forestry guidelines.

Subsoiling may be required to break up compacted subsurface layers (plowpans or agripans) as deemed necessary.

No Mid Contract Management Required.

Natural Regeneration is NOT permitted.

Johnsongrass and other weeds must be controlled for survival and establishment of tree seedlings. Mechanical control alone (e.g. mowing) is not authorized.

An approved temporary cover may be required if the contract is approved outside a designated planting period and where erosion may occur.

The applicant and conservation planner must select from the approved list of hardwood species available at the local FSA office.

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