

Section 1 Continuous Signup Basic Eligibility Criteria

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Tennessee State Farm Service Agency
Nashville, TN. 37203

<p>Agricultural Resource Conservation Program 2-CRP</p>	<p>TN Amendment 10</p>
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Approved by: State Executive Director

Amendment Transmittal

A Reason for Amendment

To provide definition and clarification for marginal pasture land.

Page Control Chart		
TC	Text	Exhibit
	TN Page 6-4 and 6-4.1, dated 6/12/07 (add)	

Section 1 Continuous Signup Basic Eligibility Criteria**112 Eligibility Requirements****A Eligibility Requirements for Cropland**

Purpose: To provide guidance on the definition of marginal pastureland and policy for enrolling marginal pastureland under the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP).

BACKGROUND

Marginal pastureland is determined to be eligible for enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) when established to CP22 Forest Riparian Buffer. Marginal pasture is eligible land without cropping history as follows:

- 1) Area must meet the definition provided herein for marginal pasture.
- 2) Area is determined by NRCS to be suitable as a forest riparian buffer. Areas are located adjacent to permanent stream corridors, excluding corridors considered gullies or grassed waterways.
- 3) After riparian forest buffer establishment, the area will be considered capable of substantially reducing sediment that otherwise would be delivered to the adjacent stream or water body.

Marginal pasturelands are those areas with environmental limitations with the primary cover of native and/or introduced grasses and/or legumes that are used or suitable for the grazing of livestock.

POLICY

Based on the above criteria, marginal pastureland may be considered any grassland, fenced or not, occurring along a stream or permanent water body suitable for establishment to a forest riparian buffer and capable of filtering sediment and meeting one of the following two conditions:

1. Predominantly land capability classes IIs, III, or above.
2. Currently experiencing a significant environmental problem. Grasslands in land capability classes I, IIe, and IIw may be eligible if they meet the criteria below.

Significant environmental problems include:

1. Streambank erosion.
2. Overgrazing.
3. Scour erosion.

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112 Eligibility Requirements (Continued)

A Eligibility Requirements for Cropland (Continued)

4. Sand blows/depositional problems.
5. Other applicable problems associated with erosion or sedimentation as documented.

Land offered in classes I, IIe, or IIw meeting the criteria of an existing environmental problem must have the problem documented in the case file. Documentation may include technical assistance notes or photographs identifying estimated percent ground cover, grazing heights, annual bank sloughing losses, etc. This practice requires the establishment of trees.

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