



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

August 1, 2012

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA180-12-3

SUBJECT: CPA – 2012 VARIANCES DUE TO SPECIAL CONDITIONS
(DROUGHT)

PURPOSE. To describe variances which may be granted to producers due to drought conditions experienced in 2012.

EXPIRATION DATE. September 30, 2013

The following variances (AC; actively applying a conservation system with a temporary variance for special conditions) may be granted to producers as a result of the drought conditions experienced in Iowa this summer. These variances may be applied on tracts selected during the 2013 crop years. Document the request for the selected variance on the IA-CPA-15 form.

Note: This variance may only be granted to producers who requested relief prior to carrying out their forage harvesting operations and the request has been documented as per the National Food Security Act Manual (NFSAM) Part 520.15(e).

SCENARIO 1:

Purpose: This variance allows for harvesting **corn silage or baling drought damaged row crops for emergency forage**. A winter cereal cover crop will need to be established to provide for adequate cover during the spring critical erosion period. The cover crop will be no-till seeding in the fall and not be destroyed until after April 1 the following spring. The cover crop will be seeded as soon after forage harvest when weather conditions are favorable for germination but no later than November 1. The cover crop may be grazed during the winter but a minimum of four inches of forage height must be maintained at all times.

Application: This variance applies where the producer has been applying **no-till planting methods as specified in the conservation compliance plan** and on areas where permanent practices to control ephemeral gully erosion would normally not be needed. Producer will be considered to be Actively Applying an Acceptable Conservation system when the actual residue amounts are less than the planned amounts, the producer has met the terms above and no-tills the 2013 crop.

SCENARIO 2:

Purpose: This variance allows for **grazing drought damaged row crops**. Row crops can be grazed as long as the ground is not disturbed by tillage and a minimum of 50% of the ground is covered by crop residue in the spring. A grazing plan is established that prevents the excess removal of residue. If tillage is normally allowed in the Compliance Plan, tillage will not be completed until after April 1.

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Application: This variance applies where both no-till or mulch tillage is specified in the conservation compliance plan.

SCENARIO 3:

Purpose: This variance provides a one year extension to establish meadow due to the severe drought conditions in 2012.

Application: This variance applies where the conservation compliance plan specified that a field or conservation treatment unit be seeded to vegetative cover this spring and the seeding failed due to the drought conditions.

For additional information regarding this issue, please contact Marty Adkins, State Resource Conservationist, at 515 323-2211 or martin.adkins@ia.usda.gov.

/s/

Jon Hubbert

Acting State Conservationist