

CRP Mid Contract Management

Iowa Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service

July 2012
Des Moines, Iowa

Purpose

Mid contract management (MCM) will be conducted on certain Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices. The purpose of MCM is to manage established plant communities in order to maintain an early successional stage. Management will:

- Increase plant community species and structural diversity.
- Provide wildlife habitat for those species that use early successional stage vegetative habitat.
- Provide habitat for declining species.
- Remove duff and control woody vegetation.

Where it applies

MCM applies to the listed CRP practices.

- CRP contracts beginning with 26th CRP sign-up are required to include an MCM component in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO).
- CRP contracts prior to 26th sign-up are not required to do MCM, but participants may voluntarily request to revise their CPO to include MCM.
- MCM activities must be completed before year 7 of a 10 year contract and before year 10 of a 15 year contract.
- MCM, voluntary or required, is cost shared by FSA at a 50 percent rate.
- CRP contracts used for biomass are not required to perform MCM. Biomass contracts follow CPO.
- Apply to the vegetative cover, but not to areas planted to trees or shrubs that may have been established at participants own expense to enhance erosion control, water quality, wildlife, and other types of cover, unless required by the District Forester or NRCS.
- MCM must not be performed during the CRP nesting or brood rearing season, May 15-August 1.
- Fall disking can be completed once - either Oct. 1-May 14 or Aug. 2-Sept. 30.
- CP10 and CP11 MCM options apply only to contracts enrolled prior to March 14, 2011.

Mid Contract Management (MCM) Guidance

- Eligible MCM options include: burning, spraying, disking, and interseeding.
- Managed haying or grazing with 25 percent rental rate payment reduction may be used to reduce duff prior to spraying, disking, or interseeding MCM options. Request this option from the local FSA office prior to use.

- Time periods for managed haying and grazing.
 - For Managed Haying: August 2 to September 30.
 - For Managed Grazing Split Option:
 - Early: April 1 to May 14
 - Late: August 2 to September 30
- NRCS standards and specifications (327, 338, 595, 647) will be used to apply MCM options.

MCM Options

Participants must choose ONE MCM option from those listed under their CRP practice.

MCM will be applied to approximately 1/3 of the acres in fields in the years listed, except for the following:

- Burning may be applied to a portion OR the entire contract, based on the burn plan.
- For fields of 20 acres or less, MCM may be applied to the entire field in the chosen year.
- For CP-33, MCM is applied to all acres twice during the contract. All acres will be treated both in contract years 3 and 6.

Special Notes

- Spraying has been removed from options associated with wetland practices and water quality practices.
- When spraying vegetation, treatment should be applied at the lowest label rate.
- Spraying natives forbs and grasses, whether interseeding or not, should only be done in narrow strips, less than 2 feet wide, interspersed with much wider non-sprayed strips.
- Spraying products such as glyphosate at rates that do not kill but only suppress vegetation as a form of chemical mowing is not recommended by NRCS staff since this practice tends to produce herbicide resistant weed species.
- A written Burn Plan that meets the technical specifications of the Iowa NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 338 - Prescribed Burning must be developed at participant expense prior to conducting a burn.
- USDA no longer develops the actual burn plan in Iowa.
- USDA is not responsible for liability associated with burning CRP cover.
- MCM may be done during the blooming periods IF needed. But NOT during primary nesting season (May 15-Aug. 1)



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