



CRP Participant _____ CRP-1 Contract No. _____
 Tract No: _____ Field No(s) _____

Definition

In the final year of the CRP contract, CRP cover may be destroyed on certain acreage, before the contract expires on September 30, to prepare a seedbed for the following crop.

Fall Seeded Crops

To prepare for a fall-seeded crop during the final contract year, CRP cover may be destroyed beginning July 1 of that year. This is applicable in areas where planting these crops normally occurs before October 1. The participant must:

- Request approval from FSA for Early Land Preparation before destroying the CRP cover by filing a CRP-1-G addendum.
- Obtain an approved conservation plan from NRCS for the destruction of the cover when the method of destruction could cause adverse environmental impacts.
- Obtain an approved conservation compliance plan for highly erodible land (HEL) if an existing HEL plan or system is not in place, or if the existing plan calls for the field to be in grass and needs to be changed to reflect the new cropping system.
- May mechanically remove cover and make commercial use of CRP acreage with a 25 percent reduction of the annual rental payment. If no commercial use is made of the forage, the cover may be removed without a payment reduction. The participant must pay for a field visit by the COC to verify the destruction of the cover.
- **NOTE:** Burning of the forage / bales is not an authorized method of destruction.

Participants may use a variety of cover destruction methods in order to prepare a seedbed for a fall-seeded crop prior to the expiration of a CRP-1. These methods include:

- Application of herbicides.
- Use of tillage implements.
- A combination of herbicide and tillage.
- When herbicides are used, the conservation plan will follow NRCS policy which

prohibits employees from recommending specific pesticide products and application rates.

- Burning of the fields or the bales is **not** an authorized method of destruction of the cover in order to prepare a seedbed.

Participants will be considered in violation of the CRP-1 if a fall seeded crop is not planted in a normal manner.

Spring Seeded Crops

Early land preparation requirements for spring-seeded crops are significantly different. The CRP cover may be chemically destroyed after the primary nesting season (after August 1). Mowing and removal of forage may be performed prior to the application of chemicals, if needed, if the mowing is performed after August 1. No commercial use can be made of the forage and the participant must pay for a field visit by the COC to verify the destruction of the forage. Destruction of the cover by any other means is not permitted until after the contract expires on October 1. **NOTE:** Burning of the forage / bales is not an authorized method of destruction. Seedbed preparation (tillage) must not occur prior to the expiration of the CRP contract. The participant must also:

- Obtain an approved conservation plan for the application of the chemicals from NRCS or a TSP when the method of destruction could cause adverse environmental affects
- Obtain an approved conservation compliance plan for highly erodible land (HEL) if an existing HEL plan or system is not in place, or if the existing plan calls for the field to be in grass and needs to be changed to reflect the new cropping system.
- Request approval from FSA for Early Land Preparation before destroying the CRP cover by filing a CRP-1G addendum.

Haying, grazing or other commercial use of the vegetation is not allowed prior to the expiration of the CRP contract.

Ineligible Acreage

All CRP cover may be destroyed in the final year of CRP-1 for early land preparation, according to the procedures in this job sheet, except for acreage that is:

- Devoted to CP5, CP5A, CP8, CP8A, CP9, CP13, CP13A, CP13B, CP13C, CP13D, CP14, CP16, CP21, CP22, CP23, CP27, CP28, CP29 and CP30
- Practices on which a useful life easement is filed
- Determined appropriate for water quality protection. Areas of current CRP vegetation that are adjacent to receiving waters should be identified to be left in place, cover not destroyed, to serve as buffers, trap strips, and/or field borders.

- Located within an average width of 120 feet of a stream or other permanent water body to ensure continued habitat for wildlife
- Considered to be a wetland by NRCS.
- Required to serve as a wetland buffer according to the practice standard in the FOTG to protect the functions and values of a wetland.
- Located within an EPA-designated wellhead protection area
- Subject to frequent flooding as determined by NRCS or TSP.

Scheduled Application:

Field No(s)	Acres	Scheduled Land Preparation Date

Participant _____ Date _____

NRCS _____ Date _____

FSA _____ Date _____

SWCD _____ Date _____

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large Print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202)-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave. SW. Washington D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

