

State Technical Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Conservation Update

1. Conservation Authorities

The Food Security Act of 1985, Section 1231(a), as amended, provided the authority to enroll land in CRP through September 30, 2012. No legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority, to date. Therefore, County Offices have been instructed to not:

- Process offers for CRP/CCRP;
- Approve CRP/CCRP contracts.

County Offices may continue to accept offers for CCRP on or after October 1st; however, due to the lack of authority, the County Office shall not process or approve the offer.

For CRP-1's approved prior to October 1, 2012, County Offices are authorized to issue annual rental payments, PIP and SIP incentive payments and cost-share.

2. 2012 Annual Rental Payments

To date, Minnesota County Offices have issued over 71,300 annual rental payments resulting in close to \$106 million in payments. These figures show Minnesota is at 99.92 percent complete for FY2012.

3. CRP – FY13 Expiring acreages

Currently, MN has approximately 1.4 million acres under CRP/CREP/CCRP/FWP contracts.

The breakdown for 9/30/2013 expiring contracts is as such:

GENERAL SIGNUP		CONTINUOUS SIGNUP		TOTAL	
ACRES	NUMBER	ACRES	NUMBER	ACRES	NUMBER
113,817	2,787	15,711	2,059	129,529	4,846

The breakdown for CRP contracts expiring in the next 4 years is as such:

Expiration Yr	General Signup		Continuous Signup		Total	
	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number
9/30/2013	113,817	2,787	15,711	2,059	129,529	4,846
9/30/2014	188,133	2,523	19,026	2,008	207,158	4,531
9/30/2015	67,075	1,607	33,603	3,104	100,677	4,711
9/30/2016	13,143	618	77,141	6,590	90,283	7,208
TOTAL	633,670	11,784	189,282	18,523	822,953	30,307

4. CRP – FY12 Expired Acreage

In Fiscal Year (2012), over 290,000 acres expired from under a CRP-1 agreement. As of November 1, 2012, National Reports indicated that Minnesota enrolled or re-enrolled approximately 148,000 acres into both CRP and CCRP in FY2012. Based on these numbers, approximately 50 percent (%) of the 2012 expired acreage will either be brought back into crop production or enrolled or maintained in other conservation type programs.

With the potential for thousands of acres returning to crop production in FY 2013, FSA and NRCS are working in a joint effort to notify all landowners and/or operators whose CRP acreage expired in 2012 concerning the need to obtain a NRCS Conservation Plan for Highly Erodible Land (HEL), if applicable. This information will be issued by postcard mailed through the State Office.

5. Minnesota State Acres for Wildlife (SAFE) Agreement

Last February, the CRP Subcommittee recommended and the Minnesota State Technical Committee approved a recommendation to amend the current Minnesota SAFE proposal to incorporate language for authorizing managed harvesting and grazing or emergency haying/grazing, if authorized and included in the conservation plan. This request was submitted to DAFP.

The Minnesota State FSA Office has received notification that this request has been approved. Therefore, FSA will be issuing a MN Amendment to the 2-CRP (Rev. 5) Handbook incorporating the authorization into the practice specifications.

6. FY 2012 Haying and Grazing Report

Due to the Extreme Drought Conditions experienced across the Nation, the Deputy Administrator of Farm Programs authorized the released of eligible practice acres for Emergency Haying and Grazing (EmH&G) of CRP acreage for Counties in a D0 drought category. With State Technical Committee recommendation and FSA State Committee approval, States were authorized to expand the list of eligible practices to include wetland related practices for EmH&G.

As requested by the State Technical Committee, the actual acres hayed or grazed under the emergency provisions is as follows:

State Reports

29-Oct-12

Managed Harvesting for Livestock - Contracts	517	Managed Harvesting for Livestock - Acreage	23,604.0
Managed Harvesting for Biomass - Contracts	0	Managed Harvesting for Biomass - Acreage	0.0

Emergency Haying Contracts - CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, CP18B & CP18C	1341	Emergency Haying Acres - CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, CP18B & CP18C	37,009.0
Emergency Haying Contracts - CP8A	17	Emergency Haying Acres - CP8A	30.6
Emergency Haying Contracts - CP23	381	Emergency Haying Acres - CP23	12,621.9
Emergency Haying Contracts - CP23A	48	Emergency Haying Acres - CP23A	1,138.2
Emergency Haying Contracts - CP27	76	Emergency Haying Acres - CP27	270.0
Emergency Haying Contracts - CP28	116	Emergency Haying Acres - CP28	800.2
Emergency Haying Contracts - CP37	7	Emergency Haying Acres - CP37	164.8
Emergency Haying Contracts - CP41	0	Emergency Haying Acres - CP41	0.0
Emergency Haying Contracts - CP25	329	Emergency Haying Acres - CP25	5,775.7

Total Emergency Haying Contracts	2315	Total Emergency Haying Acres	57,810.2
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- CP1 Introduced Grasses
- CP2 Native Grasses
- CP4B Wildlife Habitat - Corridors
- CP4D Wildlife Habitat
- CP10 Grass Already Established
- CP18B Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity
- CP18C Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetation
- CP8A Grass Waterway
- CP23 Wetland Restoration - Floodplain
- CP23A Wetland Restoration - Non-Floodplain
- CP27 Farmable Wetland
- CP28 Farmable Wetland Buffer
- CP37 Duck Nesting Habitat
- CP41 Flooded Prairie Wetland
- CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat

State Reports

29-Oct-12

Managed Grazing Contracts	28	Managed Grazing Acreage	1,097.7
Restrictive Grazing Contracts	0	Restrictive Grazing Acres	0.0
Permissive Grazing Contracts	0	Permissive Grazing Acres	0.0
Incidental Grazing Contracts	1	Incidental Grazing Acres	11.1

Emergency Grazing Contracts - CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, CP18B & CP18C	126	Emergency Grazing Acres - CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, CP18B & CP18C	5,491.7
Emergency Grazing Contracts - CP8A	0	Emergency Grazing Acres - CP8A	0.0
Emergency Grazing Contracts - CP23	19	Emergency Grazing Acres - CP23	743.5
Emergency Grazing Contracts - CP23A	2	Emergency Grazing Acres - CP23A	58.8
Emergency Grazing Contracts - CP27	5	Emergency Grazing Acres - CP27	23.8
Emergency Grazing Contracts - CP28	4	Emergency Grazing Acres - CP28	37.4
Emergency Grazing Contracts - CP37	2	Emergency Grazing Acres - CP37	26.6
Emergency Grazing Contracts - CP41	0	Emergency Grazing Acres - CP41	0.0
Emergency Grazing Contracts - CP25	15	Emergency Grazing Acres - CP25	332.1

Total Emergency Grazing Contracts	173	Total Emergency Grazing Acres	6,713.9
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