

Landowner: _____

Tract: _____

CRP CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is responsible for administering the rules of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). All questions related to CRP contract requirements, payment, or modifications should be directed to the FSA office where your contract originated.

CRP policy requires participants to do some type of “disturbance” to certain CRP practices during specific years of the contract. Required Management Practices are designed to enhance the cover value. This job sheet describes Herbicide Application as a required management activity.

Once established, grassland fields need to be managed so that the grasses do not crowd out the forbs and/or legumes over time. In the absence of disturbance, the composition of grassland communities will change over several years through normal plant succession. The vegetative structure changes as annual forbs and legumes are replaced by perennial grasses, and eventually, woody plants. Changes also occur structurally as litter accumulates and vegetation density increases. These changes may lead to a decline in diversity and reduced wildlife benefits.

PRIMARY NESTING SEASON

CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract. This rule prevents injury to nesting and fledgling birds. The dates have varied over time, but the current primary nesting season for new CRP contracts is May 15 through August 1. CRP participants are also required to control invasive and weed plant species before they produce viable seed. Spot clipping or spot spraying may be done during the primary nesting season with prior approval from the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION

The Herbicide Application CRP Required Management practice enhances wildlife habitat value by encouraging a diverse forb/legume community. A

herbicide application may suppress grasses, inhibit woody plant growth, reduce plant residue, and increase sunlight penetration next to the ground. A diverse mix of forbs and legumes in grasslands are beneficial to birds, insects such as butterflies, along with other wildlife.



SPECIFICATIONS

The following are specifications for required management spraying on CRP acreage.

CAUTION: This practice may have an extremely negative impact on CRP Cover if not implemented accurately. Specific timing and rates of application must target specific grasses or broadleaf plants.

The landowner is responsible for assuring CRP will not be adversely affected by herbicide application.

- Spraying will be done according to label recommendations, and meet all state and federal laws.
- Spray recommendations will be made by industry professionals once the identified plant species targeted are identified and dates of application outlined.
- Whole field spraying shall not be performed during the primary nesting season for grassland birds identified in the CRP contract.

- Spraying shall not be planned in the following areas:
 1. Areas where herbicide application will have minimal affect or potentially cause a negative impact on existing cover.
 2. Areas planted to trees.
 3. Areas planted to trees and shrubs.
 4. Sites that include smooth brome grass in the mix.
- Always control noxious weeds by spot spraying or clipping. This will reduce the potential for unintentional establishment of these species. Do not spread weed seeds from field to field with equipment.
- It is highly recommended, but is not required, that spraying be delayed until after August 15, reducing the chance of harming fledgling birds and other young wildlife.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the following primary components when planning for herbicide application:

- Evaluate the proposed site to determine what the intended objective of the herbicide application is.
- Select herbicides that will minimize negative impacts to an existing high quality cover of forbs and native grasses.
- Use discretion if soil conditions are wet so that compaction and damage to sod is not a concern.

Guidelines for spraying Cool Season Stands:

1. Identify the plants targeted for suppression.
2. Determine what date the spraying will occur which is either April 1-May 14 OR September 1-October 1.

Guidelines for spraying Warm Season Stands:

1. Identify the plants targeted for suppression.
2. Determine what date the spraying will occur which is either April 15-May 14 OR August 2-August 15.

CRP Field Number	Targeted Plant to Suppress	Timeframe Spraying Will Occur	Herbicide Formulation/ Rate*	Other Identified Concerns

*Documentation of the actual herbicide product application method, rate, and timing implemented by the client must be submitted to NRCS.

NOTES: