

SUBJECT: LTP - CRP CP18 Saline Practice for The Northern
and Southern Plain States

Date: 08 JAN 1999

TO: State Conservationists, NRCS

File Code: 300-11

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This memorandum (Memo) is in reference to the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), (CRP Notice No. 316, regarding CP18b and CP18c practices, and the guidance sent out in a memo dated July 31, 1998, to Scott Hoag and Shirley Gammon, concerning the interpretation of CRP Notice No. 316 by FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Further clarification of the CRP notice and my guidance is required based upon additional information and concerns raised by Oklahoma and other NRCS State Offices. The concern raised was that many soils have a sodium absorption ratio greater than 12 due to the concentration of sodium salts in the soil profile, but could be adequately treated by providing a permanent, deep rooted vegetation to lower the water table.

In consultation with FSA and NRCS Soil Scientists at the National level and National Center, NRCS has determined that: the sodium absorption ratio of 0 to 12 may not be defensible as a characteristic for determining saline seeps. Therefore, this characteristic is being removed as a requirement.

The basic eligibility criteria for CP18b and CP18c will consist of the following:

- High water table with a soil electrical conductivity (EC) greater than 4mmhos/cm within 8 feet of the surface some of the time (often within 3 feet of the surface)
- Ground water usually 4000 micromhos or greater.
- Soil pH less than 9.
- Sodic soils not having the presence of a high water table are excluded from eligibility for this practice.

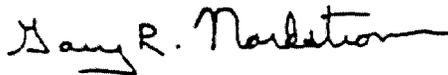
Note: The EC determination must be made in the field by qualified individuals using the appropriate equipment (EC meters).

Craig Derickson, Acting, et.al.

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Documentation of information used in making the eligibility determination (including tests reports, or soil survey information on saline chemical and physical properties of the soils, etc.) used in making the determination is required and must be on file in the case file for review, appeals and or audits.

If you have additional questions, please contact Malcolm L. Henning at (202) 720-1872.



GARY R. NORDSTROM
Director
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cc:

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