9/14/09
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United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

SEP 10 2009

SUBJECT: CPA – Conservation Stewardship Program

TO: State Conservationists File Code: 180-11-14
Directors, Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas

To achieve the conservation goals of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) in this initial year of implementation, I hereby exercise my authority to grant a national waiver to requirements in 7 CFR 1470.6 (a), which state:

"To be eligible to participate in CSP, at the time of application, an applicant must meet all the following requirements:

(1) Be the operator in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm records management system for the agricultural operation offered for enrollment in the program. Potential applicants not in the FSA farm records management system must establish records with FSA prior to application. Potential applicants whose records are not current in the FSA farm records management system must update those records with FSA prior to application;"

For applications received during the initial CSP ranking period of August 10, 2009, to September 30, 2009, applicants will be given the opportunity to establish or update their farm records at the local FSA office through October 30, 2009. NRCS field staff will now be allowed to manually set application status to "Eligible" in ProTracts, and proceed with ranking applications through the Conservation Measurement Tool.

Virginia L Murphy for
Dave White
Chief

cc:
Virginia (Ginger) L. Murphy, Associate Chief, NRCS, Washington, D.C.
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