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KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-13-60

SUBJECT: LTP–Conservation Reserve Program—Sign-up 45

Purpose. To provide additional guidance regarding Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-up 45

Expiration Date. September 30, 2014

Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be accepting offers for CRP General Sign-up 45 from May 20, 2013, to June 14, 2013. Kansas FSA and Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided state-wide CRP General Sign-up 45 training to all employees on May 7, 2013, via webinar. Additional information for Kansas NRCS employees is contained in this bulletin.

Deadline

The NRCS will have all conservation planning activities and conservation plan of operation (CPO) development completed and delivered to FSA no later than **Friday, August 16, 2013.**

Joint FSA and NRCS Training Recording

The afternoon session of the FSA and NRCS state-wide CRP General Sign-up 45 training provided on May 7, 2013, was recorded and is available at the following link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v75c_S5WbzU

Technical Guidance Documents

All Kansas NRCS CRP technical guidance documents have been updated for CRP General Sign-up 45 and are valid for subsequent sign-ups until amended. Changes to the technical guidance documents were discussed during the May 7 training which may be viewed using the link above.

(more)

DIST: A, F, S, Volkman, FSA

NRCS-CPA-52

The NRCS updated Form NRCS-CPA-52, Environmental Evaluation Worksheet, with a release date of April 2013. The updated form includes the new NRCS resource concerns that were released earlier in fiscal year (FY) 2013. Other edits to the form are minor in nature and do not require additional comment.

Conservation Planning in Toolkit

Conservation planners should refer to [Toolkit Task Guide #33](#) regarding the use of CRP scenario data provided by FSA. The geospatial boundaries of the approved CRP applications will be available to planners for use in Customer Service Toolkit.

The NRCS conservation practice narratives are stored in the Conservation Practice Standards (CPS) database and are available in the Customer Service Toolkit. CP narratives have been developed for CRP using the naming standard of "CRP" followed by a numeric value (i.e., CRP01, CRP02) and shall be used for CRP conservation planning and CPO development. A copy of all CP narratives is also available in Microsoft Excel format on the Kansas NRCS SharePoint site at Shared Documents>Business Tools>Toolkit. Each Customer Service Toolkit user will need to do a Reload Domain Data to update the CP narratives on their workstation. The Reload Domain Data option is in Customer Service Toolkit under the File menu.

Note: Narratives for CRP in Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) habitat areas have been developed and shall be used when planning in LPC habitat areas.

WebTCAS Timekeeping for the CRP Program

All activities associated with the CRP, including all planning and contracting activities, shall be recorded to the CRP program in WebTCAS.

CRP Soil Rental Rates

FSA county offices have been instructed to post updated soil rental rates in the public display area of the U.S. Department Agriculture (USDA) Service Center. The NRCS employees may refer to the public display area or work with the local FSA office to obtain a copy.

Contact: Please forward feedback and questions through established channels to Chad G. Volkman, Resource Conservationist, at 785-823-4568 or chad.volkman@ks.usda.gov.

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DANIEL H. MEYERHOFF
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