United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

June 11, 2010

IOWA INSTRUCTION 300-381 – CRP CP-39 SITE SELECTION AND RESTORATION GUIDANCE FOR IOWA

IA387.0 PURPOSE

This Iowa Instruction provides additional instructions for implementing CRP CP-39 wetlands practices in Iowa.

IA387.1 SCOPE

These instructions will be followed by NRCS employees when planning and designing CP-39 Water Treatment Wetlands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

IA387.2 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Iowa Instruction will be posted on the Iowa NRCS Employee Website, which can be accessed at http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/ under the Iowa NRCS eDirectives System section.

IA387.3 EXHIBITS

See attachment.

Richard Sims
State Conservationist

Attachment

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(IA Instruction 300-381 First Edition – June 2010)

IOWA INSTRUCTION 300-381 – CRP CP-39 SITE SELECTION AND RESTORATION GUIDANCE FOR IOWA

1. PURPOSE:

   This Iowa Instruction provides information for implementing CRP CP-39 wetlands practices in Iowa.

2. BACKGROUND:

   The attached guidance was developed by the NRCS State Office at the request of and in cooperation with the Iowa Farm Service Agency.

3. PROCESS:

   The attached guidance is to be followed by NRCS employees when planning and designing CP-39 Water Treatment Wetlands in the Conservation Reserve Program.

Richard Sims 06/11/2010

Approved By: Date:

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The purpose of this CRP practice is to develop a constructed wetland to treat effluent from row crop agricultural drainage systems. The constructed wetland system is designed to reduce nutrient and sediment loading and provide other water quality benefits while still providing for wildlife habitat.

I. Site selection:

1. CP-39 wetland does not have to have crop history; CP-28 buffer does have to meet crop history requirements.

2. Wetland drainage area must have a minimum of 25% row crop.

3. Wetland has to be capable of having tile from cropland in the contributing drainage area surface outletted into the wetland to facilitate improvements to water quality. Wetland should receive a minimum of 50% of the tile installed in the cropland.

4. The CP-39 wetland can be an existing, prior converted, farmed wetland, farmed wetland pasture, or a wetland created on a non-hydric soil.

5. The CP-39 wetland must be capable of providing the purposes for which it will be enrolled. The primary purpose of the wetland is to remove nitrates and phosphates from subsurface and surface water prior to entering a surface water body such as river, stream, or lake.

6. The surface area of the CP-39 wetland should be equal to a minimum of 1% of the tile drained cropland acreage.

7. The CP-28 buffer should be a minimum of two times and it can be up to a maximum of four times the acreage of the CP-39 wetland.

II. Restoration Guidance:

1. All CP-39 wetlands will be designed with a water control structure to allow active management of the water level within the wetland. The active water level management is intended to allow for dewatering of the wetland as needed to manage wetland vegetation. These can be in–line tile valves, tile intake risers with boards, an earthen berm with a pipe structure with drawdown boards or a similar structure suitable to the site. All water control structures must meet NRCS standards.

2. The CRP wetland must have all tile intakes within the wetland removed and capped to prevent them from draining the wetland during the life of the contract. The tile intake can be replaced by an in-line water control structure if no other water control structure is planned for the wetland. All tiles 8 inches or smaller within the CP-39 wetland will have sections broken and/or removed to restore hydrology to the site. If the tile serves as an outlet for upstream properties and it cannot be surface outletted, it will be replaced with non-perforated tile. Tile greater than 8 inches does not need to be broken or replaced with non-perforated tile.

3. Surface runoff from cropland may, but does not have to be discharged through the wetland. It can be located adjacent to or "off-channel" so it only receives water from immediate drainage area; larger drainage runoff can bypass wetland, i.e. can be an isolated, depressional, or non flow through wetland.

III. Examples - Site locations for CP-39:

- Pasture corridor along intermittent stream.
- End of grassed waterway/surface drain, perhaps one that has a nick point and needs some sort of structure at the end which could be constructed as a wetland.
- A site where a small drainage area capable of supporting a wetland is adjacent to a larger drainage area and the tile from the larger area could be diverted into the adjacent wetland.
- Potholes where adjacent cropland drainage can be day-lighted into wetland.