February 24, 2015

IOWA INSTRUCTION 300-383 – CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)
PRACTICE CP-42

IA383.0 PURPOSE

This Iowa Instruction is provided to establish criteria for working with producers who express a desire to establish pollinator habitat using the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice CP-42.

IA383.1 SCOPE

These instructions will be followed by NRCS employees when working with producers who want to establish pollinator habitat.

IA383.2 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Iowa Instruction will be posted on the Iowa NRCS Employee Website, which can be accessed under the Topics/People/NRCS Employees/Iowa NRCS eDirectives or at this link Iowa NRCS eDirectives website.

IA383.3 EXHIBITS

See attachments.

/s/Jon Hubbert, Acting
Jay T. Mar
State Conservationist

Attachments

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Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
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Voice (515) 284-4769 – FAX (855) 261-3544

1. PURPOSE:

This Iowa Instruction is provided to establish criteria for working with producers who express a desire to establish pollinator habitat using the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practice CP-42.

2. BACKGROUND:

These instructions will be followed by NRCS employees when working with producers who want to establish pollinator habitat. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recognizes the important functions that pollinators have in the production of food and fiber. NRCS supports the establishment of habitat suitable for pollinators in a manner that also maintains the quality of the soil and water resources. With this in mind, the following guidance is to be used when planning with producers who desire to establish pollinator habitat using the Continuous CP-42 practice.

3. PROCESS:

In fields where *all* soil map units are 5% slope or less:
Pollinator habitat may be established on a field when **all** soils within the field have a slope that is 5% or less. These areas may be established using only the forb component of the seeding mix. Grass component may be included in the seeding mix but is not required.

In fields where *one or more* of the soil map units is greater than 5% slope:
The pollinator habitat seeding for any areas of the field that include soil map units consisting of slopes greater than 5%, must include 10 seeds per square foot of native grasses for those areas of the field (grass component must equal 25% of the seeding mix). For seeding ease for fields with one or more areas of soils containing slopes greater than 5%, it is recommended to seed all of the field to the mix that includes 10 seeds per square foot of native grasses rather than having multiple mixes throughout the field. However, a landowner may choose to select more than one mix to meet the slope requirement and or producer objectives.

Note: Slope for the soil map unit will be determined using the average slope listed in the Field Office Technical Guide for the soil map unit.

Criteria for all seeding mixes:
Forty Seeds per square foot is the minimum to be planted. Short native grasses such as little blue stem and side oats grama are preferred. Switch grass shall not be a part of the seeding mix. In addition, 30 seeds per square foot of the 9 flowering species (3 in each blooming season) of wildflowers, forbs or shrubs, with one being a legume shall be planted. Prescribed burning favors the production of the forbs and will be the preferred Mid Contract Management practice. The native seed calculator or introduced seeding calculator may be used to develop the

seeding mixes for each site. Because the pollinator habitat seeding does not meet the Conservation Cover Standard (327) it must be planned and reported as Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645).

Approved By: /s/Jon Hubbert, Acting Date: February 24, 2015

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Attachments:

CP-42 Pollinator 10 Short Grass
CP-42 Pollinator 10 with Some Tall
CP-42 Pollinator No Grass