

North Dakota State Technical Committee FSA Update – March 2018

FSA Updates

March 28, 2018



Topics to be covered

- Secretary Perdue's Visit
- CRP Signup/Offer Suspension
- State Tech Sub-Committee Meetings Regarding Primary Nesting Season
- Mid-Contract Management of CRP
 - Need to realign MCM activities

Secretary Of Agriculture

- On March 9, 2018, Secretary Of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, visited Fargo and one of his stops was the ND State FSA Office.
- He was greeted by USDA employees as he drove into the parking lot.



Secretary of Agriculture



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United States Department of Agriculture
Service Agency



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CRP Signup Suspension

- On October 6, 2017, FSA County Offices were notified that they shall not accept continuous CRP signup offers until notified otherwise.
 - The authority for accepting continuous CRP offers was suspended as of October 1, 2017.
 - There are exceptions...

CRP Signup Suspension

- CRP Grasslands and CREP offers may be accepted, processed and approved at this time.
- When will FSA be allowed to accept offers under a continuous signup, other than CREP II and CRP Grasslands?
 - No indication has been given.



Primary Nesting Season

- Due to the drought of 2017 and that Montana's Primary Nesting Season (PNS) ends on July 15th, there was a lot of discussion to explore the possibility of changing North Dakota's PNS ending date to July 15th.
- North Dakota's PNS is from April 15 to August 1.



PNS Sub-Committee

- Members of a State Tech Sub-Committee met on January 31st and February 22nd to discuss the possibility of changing the ending date of the PNS applicable to CRP.
- There was good discussion between the members, but in the end, the PNS period will remain as is.



PNS Sub-Committee

- One out-come of the PNS Sub-Committee was a possible MOU between partners that would be supportive of allowing haying and grazing of CRP in the PNS due to emergency conditions.



New Sub-Committee

- For CRP Contracts approved since 2004, there is a requirement to conduct at least one mid-contract management (MCM) activity during the life of the contract.
- After the original MCM activities were developed and approved by the State Tech Committee and the FSA State Committee, more conservation practices were created.



New Sub-Committee

- Furthermore, in 2016, the FSA National Office reviewed the MCM activities and some of the activities were not approved.
 - Chemical herbaceous vegetation control
 - Fabric management (trees)*
- We have been waiting for official word on the approval/disapproval of the MCM activities.



New Sub-Committee

- FSA has requested another sub-committee be formed to re-align MCM activities.
- WDC approved MCM activities are:
 - Litter Removal – clip/remove/destroy
 - Disking – vertical tillage equipment also
 - Heavy Harrow
 - Lawson Aerator
 - Inter-Seeding Legumes/Forbs
 - Prescribed Burning
 - Light Harrow

