



Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Compliance

TALKING POINTS

- Conservation compliance requires producers to have a conservation plan approved by NRCS if they plant annually tilled crops on highly erodible soil and prohibits producers from planting on converted wetlands or converting wetlands for crop production.
- In addition to identifying crop insurance premium subsidy as a covered benefit, the Farm Bill provides special timelines, priority for technical assistance and mitigation authority to help certain producers meet the new requirements.
- Producers who convert a wetland after enactment of the 2014 Farm Bill (Feb. 7, 2014) risk losing their eligibility for crop insurance premium subsidy. This can also affect eligibility for other USDA programs, consistent with the continuing conservation compliance requirements in effect prior to the 2014 Farm Bill.
- Producers not in compliance can still purchase crop insurance, but they will not be eligible to receive the government paid premium subsidy.
- Some mitigation options are available for producers who wish to convert wetlands for agricultural commodity production purposes. Producers should contact their local NRCS office to discuss options available to them.
- Producers subject to conservation compliance for the first time because of crop insurance recoupling will receive priority for technical assistance when needed.
- Persons who do not have a valid form AD-1026 on file with FSA must complete and file one by June 1, 2015, to be eligible for any crop insurance premium subsidy in the 2016 reinsurance year.
- June 1 was established to allow producers adequate time to file an AD-1026 with FSA and have that information be provided to RMA before the beginning of the reinsurance year (July 1).
- Producers only complete the AD-1026 once, unless there are operational changes or activities that may affect compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.
- In fall 2014, USDA will publish a conservation compliance interim final rule that will provide details on the new conservation compliance requirements and exemptions as it relates to eligibility for crop insurance premium subsidy.