



# North Dakota State Technical Committee Review of CRP Mid-Contract Management Activities



## CRP Mid-Contract Management Activities

# Topics to be covered

- Current Approved Management Activities for CRP
- Comparison to neighboring states
- Possible changes to acreage limitations
- Defining certain implements that are eligible



# Management Activities

- Litter Removal – Clip & Remove
  - Remove and destroy clipped vegetation
  - FSA must witness destruction of residue
  - Best results are to mow and rake.
  - Mowing and raking to be done between August 2 and September 1

# Management Activities

- **Disking**

- Depth should not exceed 2 – 4 inches
- A minimum of 30% residue will remain on soil surface
- May be completed prior to April 15, or between August 2 and September 1
- May occur after managed or emergency haying/grazing

# Management Activities

- Disking (Continued)
  - Will not be conducted for areas
    - With concentrated flows, such as waterways
    - Subject to wind erosion
    - With slopes greater than 15%
    - During periods of low soil moisture
    - With a high risk of noxious weed colonization

# Management Activities

- Heavy Harrow

- Harrow is to be set to break down as much residue as possible
- May be completed prior to April 15 or between August 2 and September 1.
- If more than 1 pass is necessary to break down the residue, the additional harrowing operations should be at right angles to the prior operation

# Management Activities

- **Lawson Aerator**
  - Completed prior to April 15 or between August 2 and September 1.



# Management Activities

- Inter-seeding Legumes or Forbs
  - Limited to stands containing a canopy cover of 15% or less legumes or forbs
  - Managed haying, burning. Mowing is needed to remove excessive residue prior to tillage and seeding
  - Inter-seeding may be conducted without tillage on sandy sites with approval from NRCS

# Management Activities

- Inter-seeding Legumes or Forbs (Continued)
  - Broadcast seeding is only allowed if tillage is completed prior to seeding.
  - Seeding will be completed the same year as removal of cover after August 2 or before May 1 of the following year.

# Management Activities

- Prescribed Burning

- This management option may not be appropriate where safety risks exist
- Where necessary, burning permits must be obtained prior to conducting a prescribed burn
- Must be completed prior to April 15 or between August 2 and September 1

# Management Activities

- Chemical Herbaceous Vegetation Control
  - This management option is used to control specific species such as invasion of Siberian elm, Russian olive, etc, or cattail choked wetlands.
  - Chemical application can be completed at time best for control, but outside of the PNS
  - Does not apply to noxious weeds

# Management Activities

- Fabric Management
  - Tree Practices
  - Widen weed barrier openings to allow additional 6 inches of stem diameter growth.
  - Or completely remove fabric

# Management Activities

- Light Harrow
  - CP42 – Pollinator Habitat
  - Completed prior to April 15 or between August 2 and September 1

# Acreage Limitations & Management Intervals

- Acreage limitations for all management activities, except for prescribed burning and inter-seeding of legumes/forbs is limited to:
  - Fields 20 acres or less may have the activity performed on 100% of the acreage
  - For larger fields, including contiguous fields totaling more than 20 acres, may manage up to 50% of the field or contiguous field(s).

# Acreage Limitations & Management Intervals

- Management Activities are to take place during contract years 5 and/or 6 for a 10 year CRP contract.
  - Managed haying or grazing conducted in contract years 3 through 7 will have met the minimum management activity requirement.
    - We have allowed the entire acreage to be managed hayed or grazed in a single year, no acreage limitation.

# Acres Limitations & Management Intervals

- For 15 year contracts, Management Activities may be planned for more than 1 interval.
  - All planned activities are to be completed by the end of year 9.

# Acres Limitations & Management Intervals

- In no case shall the required management activity take place in the final 3 years of the CRP contract.



# Management Activity Problems

- Producers have a hard time remembering they need to conduct a mid-contract management activity.
- If the CRP practice is wetland related, managed or emergency haying/grazing is not permitted, so they must conduct a different management activity

# Management Activity Problems

- Producers rely on FSA to send letters informing them of the required management activity.
- FSA has failed to send reminder letters to all producers.
  - This has caused maintenance defaults, in which the producer has a standard payment reduction applied to their annual CRP rental payment.

# Management Activity Problems

- The acreage limitation causes problems at times, as producer forget they are limited to conducting the management activity on only 50% of the field if larger than 20 acres.
  - Payment reductions are to be applied to the annual rental payment when this occurs

# Neighboring State's Management of CRP

- South Dakota

- Allows management activities on 100% of acres in a given year.
- May conduct activity over 2-year period if CPO allows for this.
- 10-year contract – 1 time in years 4, 5 or 6
- 15-year contract – 2 times in years 4, 5, or 6 and year 10, 11 or 12

# Neighboring State's Management of CRP

- Montana

- Allows management activities on 100% of acreage if the field is 80 acres or less.
- If field exceeds 80 acres, management activity may be performed on up to 60% of the acreage in 1 year, with the balance to be completed in the following year.
- If Managed Haying or Routine Grazing is the activity, only 50% of the acreage can be managed in a given year.



# Neighboring State's Management of CRP

- Minnesota
- 10 year contract
  - Acreage of field less than 20 acres – 100% in year 5 or 6
  - Acreage of field greater than 20 acres – 50% in year 3/4 and 50% in year 5/6.
- 15 year contract
  - Acreage of field less than 20 acres – 100% in year 8 or 9
  - Acreage of field greater than 20 acres – 50% in year 5/6 and 50% in year 8/9

# Acreage Limitation – Changes?

- Does the State Technical Committee want to recommend a change in the acreage limitation for mid-contract management activities to the ND State FSA Committee?
- Keep in mind that not every acre of CRP in North Dakota will be in the same year of the contract at a given time.

# CRP Practice Acres (grasses)



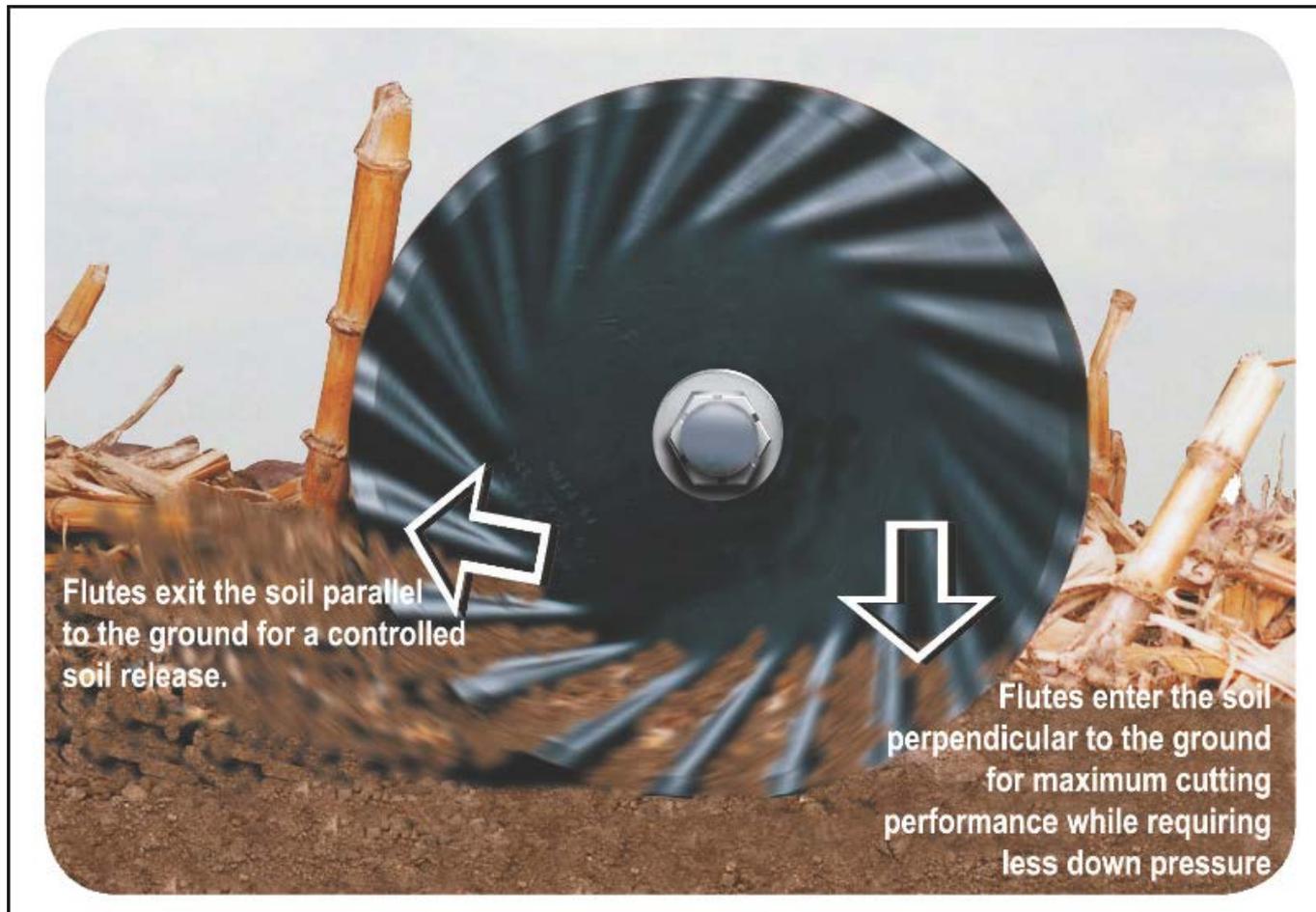
Practice	Acres	Practice	Acres
CP1	166,852.6	CP2	19,077.7
CP8A	88.1	CP4D	291,477.8
CP10	312,470.5	CP18B	12,117.0
CP18C	89,672.8	CP21	7,800.7
CP23	138,450.3	CP23A	48,335.4
CP25	11,431.6	CP27/41	35,349.3
CP28	85,702.2	CP37	149,935.0
CP38B-23A	870.7	CP38B-27	26.2
CP38B-28	36.4	CP38B-37	1,903.8
CP38E-1	33,285.5	CP38E-10	73,763.8
CP38E-18C	647.9	CP38E-2	7,163.7
CP38E-25	99.5	CP38E-4D	16,184.4

# Implements

- Some producers would like to use “vertical tillage” equipment when performing the light disking.
- Does it manipulate the residue enough to be an effective CRP management tool?
- Will the implement harm the grass stand?



# Vertical Tillage Implement



# Vertical Tillage Implement



# Vertical Tillage Implement



# Vertical Tillage Implement



# Vertical Tillage Implement



# Vertical Tillage Implement

