UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency Washington, DC 20250

Notice CRP-598

For: State and County Offices

Voluntary Modification of CRP Contract for Critical Feed Use

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs

1 Overview

A Background

On May 27, 2008, USDA announced that certain acreage enrolled in CRP would be available for hay and forage after the ending of the primary nesting season. Beginning June 2, 2008, CRP participants may request to voluntarily modify CRP contracts for critical feed use, such as haying and grazing.

Prices for most field crops have advanced to record or near record levels in recent months reflecting strong demand, tight supplies, and competition for acres. The increased demand for commodities and resulting higher prices has impacted the livestock industry.

The path of future crop prices is projected to moderate somewhat in the next year as production increases in the United States and globally. However, assuming no global recession, demand is not expected to slow down noticeably.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- policy for contract modifications for critical feed use
- software instructions for modifications to CRP contracts
- CRP-1M Addendum, CRP-1 Modification to Allow Critical Feed Use (Exhibit 1).

Disposal Date	Distribution
December 1, 2008	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices

2 Policy

A Voluntary Modification to the CRP Contract

CRP participants may request a voluntary modification to the CRP contract, using CRP-1M Addendum to allow critical feed use, such as haying or grazing, of the CRP acreage. See Exhibit 1 for CRP-1M Addendum.

B Eligible Producers

CRP participants may use their CRP acreage for a critical feed use or may lease the privilege to any other individual.

C Eligible Acreage

Acreage eligible for critical feed use includes acreage devoted to practices:

- CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes
- CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses
- CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat Corridors
- CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat
- CP10, Vegetative Cover Grass Already Established
- CP18B, Establishment of Permanent Vegetation to Reduce Salinity
- CP18C, Establishment of Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover.

Note: Acreage is eligible 12 months after the cover is fully established.

D Ineligible Acreage

Acreage ineligible for critical feed use includes acreage devoted to:

- useful life easements
- land within 120 feet of a stream or other permanent waterbody
- any practice not listed in subparagraph C.

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2 Policy (Continued)

E Haying Provisions

CRP participants that modify the CRP contract to include having as a critical feed use must:

- remove all hay from CRP acreage before November 10, 2008
- limit having of CRP acreage to 1 cutting
- not hay and graze the same acreage
- leave at least 50 percent of each field unhayed
- not conduct the having activity during the primary nesting season
- re-establish, at the participant's expense, any cover destroyed or damaged as a result of critical feed use.

F Grazing Provisions

CRP participants that modify the CRP contract to include grazing as a critical feed use must:

- remove the livestock from the CRP acreage before November 10, 2008
- not hay and graze the same acreage
- leave at least 25 percent of each field ungrazed for wildlife or graze all of the CRP acreage at no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate, as determined by NRCS or TSP
- not conduct the grazing activity during the primary nesting season
- re-establish, at the participant's expense, any cover destroyed or damaged as a result of critical feed use.

G Modified Conservation Plan

CRP participants that request to hay or graze as a critical feed use must obtain a modified conservation plan from NRCS or TSP to provide for haying or grazing in a manner that is consistent with the conservation goals of CRP.

H Administrative Fee

Participants requesting to modify the CRP contract for critical feed use will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$75 before COC approval of CRP-1M Addendum. See subparagraph 3 F for application fee collection.

No payment reduction will be assessed for any producer requesting to modify the CRP contract for critical feed use.

2 Policy (Continued)

I Compliance Reviews/Spotchecks

To ensure that CRP cover is not damaged, wildlife and associated habitat is protected, and participants are complying with the modified conservation plan for critical feed use, COC's shall conduct spot checks on at least 10 percent of CRP-1's, including CREP, approved for feed critical use.

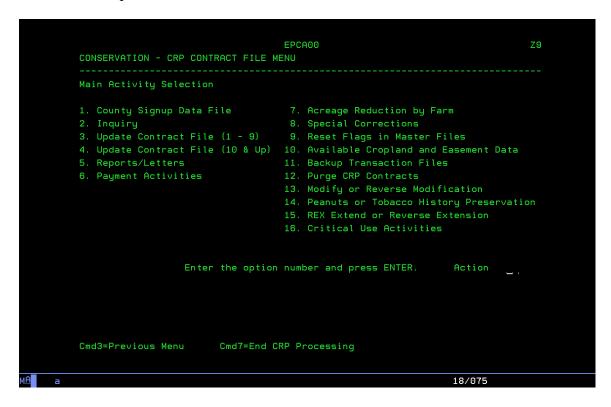
3 Software

A Recording Critical Use Activity

County Offices shall record critical feed use activity through the System 36.

B Main CRP Contract Selection Screen

This is an example of the main CRP selection menu.

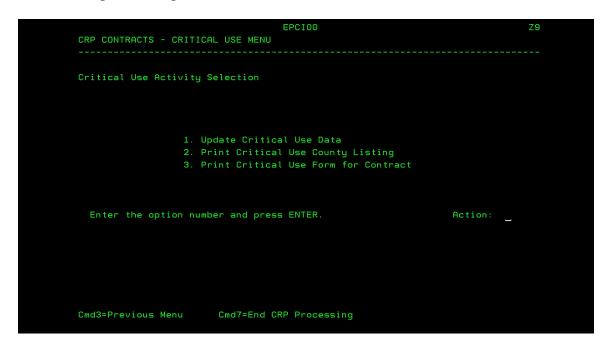


County Offices will select option 16, "Critical Use Activities", from the main CRP selection menu.

3 Software (Continued)

C CRP Critical Use Activity Selection Screen

This is an example of the Critical Use Menu. From the Critical Use Menu, County Offices shall select option 1, "Update Critical Use Data".



D CRP Contract Selection Screen

This is an example of the CRP contract selection screen. On this screen the user will enter the number of the CRP contract that is applying for critical use.

017 CRP CONTRACTS - Select Cor	BREMER - CRP 20 ntract V			erm Z7
E	Enter CRP Contra	oct Number: _		
		5 (V N)		
Is there another CRP C	ontract to ente	er? (Y or N)		
Cmd3=Previous Screen	md7=End CRP Pro	cessing Er	nter to Continue	

3 Software (Continued)

E Critical Use Data Screen

This is an example of the Critical Use Data Screen. Information from the CRP contract will be displayed on the screen.

```
017 BREMER - CRP 2000
                                               Update
CRP CONTRACTS - CRITICAL USE DATA
                                      Version: AA01 04-11-2008 09:00 Term Z9
Contract Number:
                    8
                             Signup: 26
                                               Program Year:
                                                              2005
Farm Number:
               2715
                      CRP-1 Rental Rate: 99.00
                                                                        100.0
                                                  Acres Approved:
Physical State: IOWA
                                 Physical County:
                                                   BREMER
Original Start Date: 10-01-2004
                                Contract End Date: 09-30-2014
Date of Application: 05-03-2008
                                     Date of COC Approval: 07-05-2008
                 Critical Use Acres: 100.0
       Amount Critical Use Fee Paid: 74.00
                          Cmd24=Delete
Cmd3=Previous Screen
                      Cmd7=End CRP Processing
                                                Enter to Continue
```

County Offices shall enter the number of critical use acres, the date the application was submitted, the date the County Office approved the application, and the amount of the application fee collected in whole dollars.

After all entries have been made, the County Office will print CRP-1M Addendum.

F Application Fee Collection

County Offices shall follow 3-FI, paragraph 62, to deposit collected fees. This process will be automated in a future software release. A future notice will provide instructions for the automated process.

4 Action

A County Office Action

County Offices shall read and follow the provisions of this notice.

B State Office Action

State Offices shall ensure that County Offices follow instructions in this notice.

Example of CRP-1M Addendum, CRP-1 Modification to Allow Critical Feed Use

CRP-1M Addendum (05-27-08)	U.S. DEPARTMENT Commodity Cre		1. ST. & CO. Code	2. Contract No.
CRP-1 MODIFICATION TO ALLOW CRITICAL FEED USE		3. Farm No.	4. Acres	
5. TERMS TO ALLOW CRITIC	CAL FEED USE			
This contract modification is ent Conservation Reserve Program of participants identified below to a 2008 only. It is possible that of allowed under authorities availal those other opportunities, should	contract number in Item 2 above utilize forage on the acreage coher modifications for other year ble to the Secretary. Participat	ve. By signing this contract mod overed by Item 4 above. This all rs could occur and it is possible	lification, the CCC agrees lowance applies to 2008 or that haying and grazing fo	to allow the ally and activities in r later years may be
The participant(s), in return, agr	rees to:			
	nservation plan to include hayinechnical Service Provider (TSP	ng and/or grazing, as determined?).	d by the Natural Resources	Conservation
 Remove all hay or live Limit haying of CRP Not hay and graze the 	estock from CRP acreage before acreage to one cutting. esame acreage.	,	a result of participating un	der this authority.
If grazing, leave at lea		grazed for wildlife or, in the alter	rnative, graze all of the CR	P acreage at no mo
 If the actual acreage h intentions), notify the 	county FSA office identified in	y NRCS or 18P. than originally indicated in Iten in Item 11 below of the actual nu proval, and as a condition for, th	ımber of acres and location	
It is so agreed and understoo 6. Participant Name (Printed)	od.	Participant Signature		Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
o. Participant Name (Printed)		Participant Signature		Date (MM-DD-1111)
7. Participant Name (Printed)		Participant Signature		Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
8. Participant Name (Printed)		Participant Signature		Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
9. Participant Name (Printed)		Participant Signature		Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
	ative 10b. Date (A	MM-DD-YYYY) 11. County F	SA Office Name and Addres	s (Including Zip Code
10a. Approval by CCC Representa				
10a. Approval by CCC Representa				
10a. Approval by CCC Representa			e No. (Including Area Code)	
minutes per response, inclu	Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995	13. Fax No. (Including Area Code): or the collection of information is information collection is ex	n without prior OMB stimated to average 5

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