

factors within the proposed RCWP project area and identify the strategy and parameters to be used to identify the changes in water quality attributable to the installation of BMPs. Wherever possible, identify and quantify changes in land use, land use patterns and farming practices that will affect the quantity, quality or timing of nonpoint source pollutants reaching an aquatic system and detail information as to number and location of sampling stations and the frequency of sample collection.

(3) *Socioeconomic Impacts.* Identify the positive and negative impacts on the landowners in the project area and estimate the community or off-site benefits expected of the project if completed as planned.

(4) *Institutional Aspects.* Identify and clearly define the role and responsibility for each participating agency including, where appropriate fiscal and manpower commitments.

(5) *Educational Aspects.* Clearly define the approach(es) to be used to inform and educate individual landowners. Include procedures for periodic evaluation of this effort so the mid-course corrections can be made if needed.

(6) *Quality Assurance.* To insure that the data collected is usable to make National projections, a quality assurance program must be included that is consistent with that of the EPA Region within which the project is located.

(7) *Data Storage.* The data collected on comprehensive monitoring projects must be available to USDA and EPA RCWP user groups.

(e) *Reporting.* Reports for these projects are to be made at least annually to the NCC based on guidance sent to the SCC by the Administrator, FSA.

(f) *Funding.* Funding for the comprehensive monitoring will be provided from RCWP funds and other authorizations.

§700.42 Program evaluation.

(a) The RCWP will be evaluated annually by the USDA. The evaluation will be based on the reports provided in these regulations and on special studies undertaken by USDA or EPA as part of the RCWP program.

(b) The USDA Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs and

Commodity Program will have the responsibility for coordinating the program evaluation and preparing an annual report for transmittal to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of EPA. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and the Director of Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget, USDA, and the Assistant Administrator for Water and Waste Management, EPA will assist in this effort.

§700.43 Public benefits when installing BMP's.

All BPM's implemented under this program shall be in compliance with regulations promulgated under part 799 on environmental quality and related environmental concerns or similar regulations issued by a technical agency. Persons responsible for any aspect of performing BMPs shall carry out their responsibilities in such a way as to promote public benefits:

(a) By improving or preserving environmental quality and ecological balance.

(b) By preventing or abating pollution and other environmental degradation.

(c) Benefiting the community by means such as preserving open space or enhancing the appearance of the area.

(d) Benefiting wildlife and other desirable life forms.

(e) Preserving historic, archaeological, or scenic sites, wetlands, ecologically critical areas and prime farmland.

(f) Avoiding the creation of hazards to persons or animals.

(g) Avoiding actions that may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species and flood plains.

PART 701—CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

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AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 590d, 590g-590o, 590p(a), 590q, 1501-1510, 1606, 2101-2111, 2201-2205; 48 U.S.C. 1469d(c).

SOURCE: 45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

§ 701.1 Background.

(a) Through the conservation and environmental programs administered by the Department of Agriculture, the Federal Government will share with farmers, ranchers, and other eligible private landowners in the United States and the applicable territories and possessions of the United States, the cost of carrying out:

- (1) Approved soil and water conservation and pollution abatement practices, including related wildlife conservation practices.
- (2) Approved forestry practices.

(3) Emergency conservation measures, in accordance with the provisions of this part and such modifications there of as may hereafter be made.

(b) Cost-sharing may be made available to eligible program participants by the Farm Service Agency for:

(1) Soil and water conservation and pollution abatement practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

(2) Forestry practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program or Forestry Incentives Program.

(3) Practices to correct damage to land or conservation practices caused by natural disaster under the Emergency Conservation Program.

(4) Installation of water conservation measures under the Emergency Conservation Program during periods of severe drought.

(c) Information on the practices for which costs will be shared, the exact specifications and rates of cost-sharing for such practices, and the eligibility requirements for participating in the programs, may be obtained from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation county committee (hereinafter referred to as "county committee") for the county in which the farm, ranch or other eligible land is located or from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation State committee (hereinafter referred to as "State committee"), for the State in which such county is located.

§ 701.2 Definitions.

(a) *County conservation review group* consists of the county committee; the county extension agent; a representative of the Soil Conservation Service; a representative of the U.S. Forest Service; a representative of the Farmers Home Administration; a representative of the State forestry agency or its equivalent, when the representative accepts an invitation to be a member of the group; and a representative of the conservation district in the county, where the governing board of the district accepts an invitation to designate a representative (if there is more than one district in the county, the governing boards of the districts may jointly designate only one person to represent all of the districts). The county con-

servation review group shall have the responsibilities as provided for in §§ 701.10 and 701.35.

(b) *Farm* or *ranch* means that area of land considered as a farm under the regulations governing reconstitution of farms, allotments, and bases, part 719 of this chapter, as amended, and, for the forestry incentives program, "farm" or "ranch" means eligible land (or ownership tracts) as provided in § 701.30.

(c) *National conservation review group* consists of representatives of the Farm Service Agency; Soil Conservation Service; U.S. Forest Service; Science and Education Administration; Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service; Farmers Home Administration; Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Office of Budget Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Environmental Protection Agency; and Office of Management and Budget. The national conservation review group is responsible for recommending changes in program administrative procedures and policy guidelines, and evaluations of program effectiveness and operating arrangements.

(d) *Program year* means the Federal fiscal year for accounting purposes.

(e) *State* means any one of the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and (1) In the case of the Agricultural Conservation Program and the Emergency Conservation Program, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and (2) In the case of the Forestry Incentives Program, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Territories and possessions of the United States.

(f) *State conservation review group* consists of the State committee, the State Director of Extension; the State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service; a representative of the U.S. Forest Service; a representative of the Farmers Home Administration; a representative of the State forestry agency, or its equivalent, when the representative accepts an invitation to be a member of the group; a representative of the State Soil Conservation Committee, or its equivalent, when the

representative accepts an invitation to be a member of the group; and a representative of the State Water Quality Agency, or its equivalent when it accepts an invitation to be a member of the group. The State conservation review group has the responsibility provided for in § 701.11.

(g) *State forestry committee*, or its equivalent, consists of the State forester or equivalent State official, who serves as chairperson; and a head or representative at the State level of the following USDA agencies: Farm Service Agency; U.S. Forest Service; Science and Education Administration; Farmers Home Administration; Soil Conservation Service. At the discretion of the committee, State and local interests may also be involved. The function of the State forestry committee is to coordinate forestry budget proposals, agency roles in education, technical assistance, technology transfers, and forestry incentives.

(h) In the regulations in this part and in all instructions, forms, and documents in connection therewith, all other words and phrases specifically relating to FSA operations shall, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires, have the meanings assigned to them in the regulations governing reconstitution of farms, allotments and bases, part 719 of this chapter, as amended.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 46998, Oct. 22, 1982; 53 FR 15657, May 3, 1988]

Subpart—Agricultural Conservation Program

§ 701.3 Program objective.

(a) The objective of the Agricultural Conservation Program (hereinafter referred to in this subpart as the “program”) is to assure the continued supply of food and fiber necessary for the maintenance of a strong and healthy people and economy, and to provide for environmental conservation or enhancement.

(b) This will be accomplished through a program that has been formulated and is to be carried out, taking into consideration:

(1) The need to control erosion and sedimentation from agricultural land

and conserve the water resources on such land.

(2) The need to control pollution from animal wastes.

(3) The need to facilitate sound resource management systems through soil and water conservation.

(4) The need to encourage voluntary compliance by agricultural producers with Federal and State requirements to solve point and non-point sources of pollution.

(5) National priorities reflected in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and other congressional and administrative actions.

(6) The degrees to which the measures contribute to the national objective of assuring a continuous supply of food and fiber necessary for the maintenance of a strong and healthy people and economy.

(7) The type of conservation measures needed to improve water quality in rural America.

(8) The types of conservation measures needed that have significant energy conserving benefits.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 939, Jan. 8, 1982]

§ 701.4 State funds.

Funds available for practices to be performed under the program will be distributed among the States in accordance with conservation needs as determined by the Secretary.

§ 701.5 County funds.

The State committee will allocate the funds available for practices among the counties within the State consistent with the program objective, and will give particular consideration to the furtherance of special projects, watershed conservation projects, resources conservation development projects, approved State water quality plans, and other conservation and pollution abatement projects sponsored by local people and organizations.

§ 701.6 Availability of funds.

(a) The provisions of the program are subject to such legislation as the Congress of the United States may hereafter enact; the paying of the cost-shares provided herein is contingent

upon such appropriation as the Congress may provide for such purpose; and the amounts of such cost-shares will be within the limits finally determined by such appropriation.

(b) Funds available for the Agricultural Conservation Program may be made available as needed for practices to be performed under the Naval Stores Conservation Program, in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations.

§ 701.7 Eligible person.

An eligible person is a farmer or rancher who as an individual, partnership, association, corporation, estate, trust, or other business enterprise, or other legal entity (excluding districts which have taxing authority, Federal agencies, States and State agencies, but not excluding political subdivisions of a State) and, as an owner, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper, participates in the operation of a farm or ranch.

§ 701.8 Eligible land.

(a) The program is applicable to:

- (1) Privately-owned lands;
- (2) Land owned by a State or political subdivision of a State;
- (3) Lands owned by corporations which are partly owned by the United States;
- (4) Lands temporarily owned by the United States or a corporation wholly owned by it, which were not acquired or reserved for conservation purposes, including lands administered by the Farmers Home Administration, the U.S. Department of Defense, or by any other government agency designated by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations;
- (5) Any cropland farmed by private persons which is owned by the United States or a corporation wholly owned by it;
- (6) Indian lands, except that where grazing operations are carried out on Indian lands administered by the Department of the Interior, such lands are within the scope of the program only if covered by a written agreement approved by the Department of the Interior giving the operator an interest in the grazing and forage growing on the land and a right to occupy the land

in order to carry out the grazing operations; and

(7) Noncropland owned by the United States on which practices are performed by private persons where such practices directly conserve or benefit nearby or adjoining privately-owned lands of the persons performing the practices and such persons maintain and use such federally-owned noncropland under agreement with the Federal agency having jurisdiction thereof.

(b) The program is not applicable to:

- (1) Noncropland owned by the United States which was acquired or reserved for conservation purposes, or which is to be retained permanently under Government ownership, including, but not limited to, grazing lands administered by the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or by the Bureau of Land Management (including lands administered under the Taylor Grazing Act), or the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, except as indicated in paragraph (a)(7) of this section.
- (2) Nonprivate persons for performance of practices on any land owned by the United States or a corporation wholly owned by it.

§ 701.9 Conservation practices.

Conservation practices as specified by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, FSA, are made available nationally under the Agricultural Conservation Program and may be included in the State and county programs. Practices shall not be primarily production oriented or have little or no conservation or pollution abatement benefits. The practices are designed to be consistent with the agricultural conservation policy stated in section 7 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, and national program policy, and are developed primarily to meet a definite need to accomplish one or more of the following:

- (a) Establish long-lasting protective cover.
- (b) Improve or sustain existing protective cover.
- (c) Conserve or safely dispose of water.
- (d) Benefit wildlife.

§ 701.10

(e) Establish or improve stands of forest trees.

(f) Give protection against soil erosion.

(g) Prevent or abate agricultural-related pollution of water, land, and air.

(h) Meet special State or county conservation needs.

(i) Encourage energy conservation practices.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 939, Jan. 8, 1982]

§ 701.10 County programs.

(a) A program shall be developed in each county by the county committee, in consultation with the county conservation review group, in accordance with the National and State development guidelines and policies provided. At least one public meeting per year shall be held for this purpose.

(b) The county program shall be that approved by the State committee and the Secretary or designee.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 46998, Oct. 22, 1982]

§ 701.11 State programs.

(a) The State committee, in consultation with the State conservation review group, shall develop recommendations for the State program. The chairperson of the State conservation review group may also invite others with conservation or water quality interests to participate in such deliberations. At least one public meeting per year shall be held for this purpose.

(b) The State program shall consist of the guidelines and practices selected by the State committee after considering the recommendations submitted by the county committee to the State review group and approved by the Secretary or designee.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 46999, Oct. 22, 1982]

§ 701.12 Selection of practices.

The practices to be included in the State or county program shall be only those practices for which cost-sharing is essential to permit accomplishment of the program objective.

§ 701.13 Levels and rates of cost-sharing.

(a) The maximum level of cost-sharing for each practice shall be the percentage of the average cost of performing the practice considered necessary to obtain the needed performance of the practice, but at a level such that the participant will make a significant contribution to the cost of performing the practice.

(b) Levels of cost-sharing under annual agreements for each practice shall not be in excess of 75 percent of the average cost of carrying out the practice as determined by the county committee. However, where the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, determines a higher level of cost-sharing is necessary to provide adequate incentive for producer to carry out a conservation practice, the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, may specifically authorize a higher level. (See § 701.19 for special provision for low-income farmers.)

(c) Levels of cost-sharing under long term agreements shall not be in excess of 75 percent nor less than 50 percent of the average cost for each practice as determined by the county committee.

(d) For the purpose of establishing rates of cost-sharing, the average cost of performing a practice may be the average cost for a county or a part of a county, as determined by the county committee.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 939, Jan. 8, 1982]

§ 701.14 Starting of practices.

Costs will not be shared for practices or components of practices that are started before a formal approval is given by the county committee.

[47 FR 939, Jan. 8, 1982]

§ 701.15 Method of approval.

The county committee will determine the extent to which Federal funds will be made available to share the cost of each approved practice, taking into consideration the county allocation, the conservation and environmental problems in the county, the land involved, and the practices for

which requested cost-sharing is considered by the county committee as most needed. The method approved shall provide for the issuance of notices of approval showing for each approved practice the number of units of the practice for which the Federal Government will share in the cost and the amount of the cost-share for the performance of that number of units of the practice. To the extent practicable, notices of approved practices shall be issued before performance of the practice is started. No practice may be approved for cost-sharing except as authorized by the county program, or in accordance with procedures incorporated therein. Available funds for cost-sharing shall not be allocated on a pro-rata basis, but shall be directed to the accomplishment of the most enduring benefits attainable.

(a) Cost-sharing may be approved under annual agreements or long-term agreements.

(b) Annual agreements may be approved in all counties. Long-term agreements are limited to farms or ranches which are within Soil Conservation Districts (or comparable districts) through which the Soil Conservation Service provides planning and technical services, except:

(1) Farms and ranches located within a county designated for the Great Plains Conservation Program are only eligible for long-term agreements that cover part of a farm. Long-term agreements that cover whole farms shall not be approved in these counties.

(2) Farms and ranches not located within a Soil Conservation District (or comparable district) may be eligible for a long-term agreement, provided conservation plans of operations are developed by the farmer or rancher in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service and approved by an appropriate State official or, in cases where an appropriate State official is not available, approved by the Soil Conservation Service.

§ 701.16 Long-term agreements.

(a) The period of a long-term agreement will be for not less than three (3) program years nor more than ten (10) program years. The county committee and the signatories to the agreement in consultation with the Soil Conserva-

tion Service representative, will mutually determine the period of the agreement.

(b) The long-term agreement will be based on a conservation plan of operations for the farm or ranch or portion thereof which has been approved by the Soil Conservation District (or comparable district) or, for farms or ranches not located in a Soil Conservation District (or comparable district), by an appropriate State Official or the Soil Conservation Service, as applicable.

(c) The long-term agreement will provide that the farmer or rancher will carry out those measures in the conservation plan of operations which are determined to be essential to meeting the basic conservation needs of the farm or ranch, or portion thereof, whether or not cost-sharing is approved for such measures.

(d) The owner of the farm or ranch will be required to be a signatory to a long-term agreement, whether or not that person contributes to the cost of approved practices thereon.

(e) Any signatory to a long-term agreement who is not an owner of the farm or ranch must provide assurance of control of the land for the duration of the period of the agreement.

(f) The level of cost-sharing, as provided in § 701.13, in effect for practices in all years of a long-term agreement shall be the level in effect for the beginning year of the agreement. The rate of cost-sharing for payment purposes for such practice will be based on the average cost of performing the practice at the time the practice is performed.

(g) A long-term agreement may be cancelled for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement if, after consulting with the Soil Conservation District (or comparable district) board or, if none exists, with a representative of the Soil Conservation Service, the county committee and State committee find that the seriousness of the irregularities warrant such action. If the agreement is cancelled, the signatories to the agreement are jointly and severally responsible for refunding all cost-shares paid and will forfeit all rights to further payments under the

agreement. In such a case, no other refund or forfeiture provisions of these regulations apply.

(h) A long-term agreement may be revised in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, by mutual agreement between the signatories to the agreement and the county committee based on approved changes in the Conservation plan of operations for the farm or ranch.

(i) An eligible person who acquires control of land under an approved agreement may elect to become a successor in interest under such agreement.

(j) An agreement will be terminated with respect to land for which loss of control has occurred and where the person acquiring control of such land elects not to become a successor in interest under the agreement. If the loss of control is for reasons beyond the control of the signatories to the agreement, the county committee will determine whether or not any cost-shares previously paid shall be refunded, but in no event shall the refund be greater than would be required in cases where loss of control is voluntary. If the loss of control is voluntary on the part of the signatories to the agreement, the signatories will be jointly and severally responsible for refunding all cost-shares paid and will forfeit all rights to further payments, with respect to the land for which control is lost. However, a refund will not be required for cost-shares where, the county committee and the State committee determine, after consulting with a representative of the Soil Conservation Service, that failure to perform the remaining practices in the agreement will not impair the effectiveness of the practices which have been performed and that the completed practices have provided conservation benefits consistent with the cost-shares which have been paid.

(k) An agreement may be terminated by the county committee, after considering the recommendation of the Soil Conservation District (or comparable district) board or, if none exists, with a representative of the Soil Conservation Service, if such action is in the public interest. The county committee will

determine the amount of cost-shares previously paid that shall be refunded.

(l) An agreement may be terminated by the county committee upon the written request of the participant(s) to an agreement where no cost-shares have been paid for any of the scheduled practices and where the participant(s) does(do) not intend to perform any of the scheduled practices.

§ 701.17 Replacement, enlargement, or restoration.

The establishment or installation of a practice, for the purposes of the program shall be deemed to include the replacement, enlargement, or restoration of a practice for which cost-sharing has been allowed if the practice has served for its normal lifespan, or if all of the following conditions exist:

(a) Replacement, enlargement, or restoration of the practice is needed to solve the problem.

(b) The failure of the original practice was not due to the lack of proper maintenance by the current operator.

(c) The county committee believes that the replacement, enlargement or restoration of the practice merits consideration under the program to an equal extent with other practices.

§ 701.18 Pooling agreements.

Farmers, ranchers, or eligible land-owners in any local area may agree in writing, with the approval of the county committee, to perform designated practices which, by conserving or improving resources of the community, will solve a mutual conservation, pollution, or other environmental problem on the land of the participants. For purposes of eligibility for cost-sharing, practices carried out under such an approved written agreement shall be regarded as having been carried out on the land of the persons who performed the practices.

§ 701.19 Special provisions for low-income farmers and ranchers.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in § 701.13(c), the county committee may approve, in the case of low-income farmers and ranchers as defined in this section, level of cost-sharing of up to 80 percent of the average cost of performing practices.

(b) A low-income farmer or rancher is one who, as determined by the county committee, is a small producer whose livelihood is largely dependent on the farm or ranch and whose prospective income and financial resources for the current year are such that the farmer or rancher could not reasonably be expected to perform needed conservation practices at levels of cost-sharing applicable to other persons in the county.

(c) In approving requests for cost-sharing the county committee shall give special consideration to requests filed by low-income farmers and ranchers.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 939, Jan. 8, 1982]

§ 701.20 Encumbering land.

In order to receive cost-share assistance for a conservation practice in a Salinity Control Project area, a person participating in the program shall agree, as a condition of eligibility to receive such assistance, that a recordable encumbrance may be filed by FSA with respect to the land on which the conservation practice is installed. Such encumbrance shall reflect the amount of the cost-share assistance which is received by the program participant for the practice and shall continue until such time as the established lifespan for the practice has expired. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this requirement may be waived by the county committee if such committee determines, with the concurrence of the State committee and after consultation with appropriate Federal, State and local authorities, that the land will not likely be converted to a non-agricultural use within the next five years.

[48 FR 33847, July 26, 1983]

§§ 701.21—701.22 [Reserved]

§ 701.23 Maximum cost-share limitation.

For each program year the total amount which may be received by any person under this subpart for approved practices shall not exceed \$3,500 except that (a) the total amount received for approved practices, including those carried out under pooling agreements,

shall not exceed \$10,000 and (b) the total amount received under an ACP long-term agreement (LTA) shall not exceed the annual payment limitation (\$3,500) multiplied by the number of years of the LTA.

[52 FR 19716, May 27, 1987]

§ 701.24 Completion of practices.

Cost-sharing for the practices contained in this part is conditioned upon the performance of the practice in accordance with all applicable specifications and program provisions.

§ 701.25 Time of filing payment application.

Payment of cost-shares will be made only upon application submitted on the prescribed form to the county office by a date established by the county committee. Any application for payment may be rejected if any form or information required of the applicant is not submitted to county office within the applicable time limit.

§ 701.26 Other program provisions.

Other provisions as contained in §§ 701.1 and 701.2 and in the subpart, General Provisions, apply to the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Subpart—Forestry Incentives Program

§ 701.27 Program objective.

The objective of the Forestry Incentives Program (hereinafter referred to in this subpart as the "program") is to help assure a future supply of timber. This will be accomplished by encouraging landowners to apply forestry practices for the following:

- (a) Production of softwood and hardwood timber and other forest-resources associated therewith to increase afforestation of suitable open lands.
- (b) Reforestation of cutover and understocked forest lands.
- (c) Timber stand improvement.
- (d) Intensive multipurpose management.
- (e) Protection of forest resources.

§ 701.28 [Reserved]**§ 701.29 Designated counties.**

The State committee in consultation with the State Forester, will designate the counties or parts of counties in which the program will be operated. The following will be considered in making the selections:

- (a) The total acreage in the county devoted to desirable types of softwood and hardwood timber.
- (b) The estimated area in the county that is under eligible ownership.
- (c) The estimated acreage suitable for the production of forest products.
- (d) The availability of funds.
- (e) The enhancement of other forest resources.

§ 701.30 Eligible person, land, and ownerships.

(a) An eligible person is a private individual, group, Indian Tribe or other native group, association, corporation excluding corporations whose stocks are publicly traded, or other legal entity which owns eligible land. Firms principally engaged in the manufacture of wood products are not eligible. However, forest landowners who manufacture forest products on a part-time or irregular basis, are eligible.

(b) Eligible land is “nonindustrial” private forest land capable of producing at least 50 cubic feet of wood per acre per year.

(c) Eligible farms are those not exceeding a total of 1,000 acres of eligible private nonindustrial forest land in the United States or any commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States. The State Committee with the concurrence of the State Forester may approve cost-sharing with landowners owning more than 1,000 but not more than 5,000 acres of eligible forest land where it is deemed to be to the public’s significant benefit.

(d) Significant public benefits are primarily those resulting from cost-effective timber production, with related benefits to aesthetics, recreation, other resource values, watershed protection and erosion reduction.

§ 701.31 Program funds.

(a) *State and counties.* Each designated State and county will receive a

share of the funds provided nationally for the program. Funds will be distributed on the basis of the forest production opportunities in each State, considering the acreage of private non-industrial forest lands, the number of eligible owners, the potential productivity of such lands and the need for reforestation, timber stand improvement, other forestry management needs, and the enhancement of other forest resources. The Director, Conservation and Environmental Protection Division, FSA, will allocate funds after consultation with representatives of the U.S. Forest Service and a committee of not less than five State foresters or equivalent State officials selected by a majority of the State foresters or equivalent State officials. The State committee will consult with the State forester when determining the allocation of such funds to the designated counties.

(b) A limitation on the amount of funds which may be obligated under long-term agreements shall be established by the State committee in accordance with guidelines provided by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations.

§ 701.32 Eligible practices and cost-share requirements.

(a) Cost-sharing may be available for the following National practices and authority:

(1) *Practice FP1.* Planting Trees.

(2) *Practice FP2.* Improving a Stand of Forest Trees.

(3) *Practice authority—SF Practice.* Special Forestry Practices. The Director, Conservation and Environmental Protection Division, FSA, after consultation with the Forest Service, may approve special forestry practices needed to solve a significant and unique local condition for which the National practices are not adequate. Such practices may be approved for inclusion in a county program after consultation with the program development group, and the recommendation of the county committee, the service forester, the State committee and the State forester.

(b) A forest management plan is required as a condition of cost-sharing.

The plan will be developed in consultation with the landowner, approved by the service forester, and will contain information for accurate evaluation of practice effectiveness. The participant will be required to perform those measures in the plan which are essential to the effectiveness of the practice for which costs are shared. In the development of the plan, consideration will be given to wildlife, watershed protection, recreation, erosion control, aesthetics, and other associated forest resources values as well as cost-effective timber production.

§ 701.33 The National program.

The National program is based on recommendations developed by the Director, Conservation and Environmental Protection Division, FSA, in consultation with representatives of the U.S. Forest Service and the committee of State foresters provided for in § 701.31.

§ 701.34 Development of State programs.

(a) A State program shall be developed in each State in accordance with the provisions contained in this part and in the National program and such modifications thereof as may thereafter be made. The program shall be developed by the State forestry committee as provided in § 701.2.

(b) The program for the State shall be that recommended by the State committee and State forester and approved by the Director, Conservation and Environmental Protection Division, FSA, after consulting the U.S. Forest Service.

§ 701.35 Development of county programs.

(a) A county program shall be developed in each designated county in accordance with the provisions of the State program and such modifications thereof as may be made. The county program shall be developed by the county conservation review group. The county conservation review group, working with the governing body of the conservation district, the State forestry agency representatives, the county supervisor of the Farmers Home Administration, and others with con-

servation and environmental interest, shall develop recommendations for the county program.

(b) The program for the county shall be that recommended by the county committee and service forester and approved by the State committee and State forester.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 46999, Oct. 22, 1982]

§ 701.36 Adaptation of practices.

(a) The practices included in the State program meet the conditions and requirements of the National program. National program provisions may be modified or deleted to make practices more restrictive where such changes meet the objectives of the program.

(b) The practices included in the county program must meet the conditions and requirements of the State program. State program provisions may be modified or deleted to make practices more restrictive where such changes will still result in the practices effectively meeting the objectives of the program.

§ 701.37 Levels and rates of cost-sharing.

(a) The maximum cost-share for each practice shall be the percentage of the actual cost of performing the practice considered necessary to obtain the needed performance of the practice, but which will be such that the participant will make a significant contribution to the cost of performing the practice.

(b) Levels of cost-sharing shall be approved by the State ASC committee and shall not be in excess of 65 percent of actual costs incurred by the landowners.

(c) For the purpose of establishing rates of cost-sharing, the average cost of performing a practice may be the average cost for a State, a county or a part of a county, as determined by the State committee.

(d) The rates of cost-sharing for practices included in the county program may be lower than the rates approved for general use in the State.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 20109, May 11, 1982]

§ 701.38 Prior approval for cost-sharing.

Costs will be shared only for those practices, or components of practices, for which cost-sharing is requested and approval issued before performance thereof is started.

§ 701.39 Methods of approval.

The county committee will determine the extent to which Federal funds will be made available to share the cost of each approved practice. Approvals shall be made based on consideration of the county allocation, cost-effective opportunities for increasing timber production, potential for enhancing other forest resources, the forestry needs in the county, and the practices for which requested cost-sharing is considered by the county committee as most needed. The method approved shall provide for the issuance of notices of approval showing for each approved practice the number of units of the practice for which the Federal Government will share in the cost and the amount of the cost-share for the performance of that number of units of the practice. Notices of approved practices shall be issued before performance of the practice may be started. No practice may be approved for cost-sharing except as authorized by the National, State or county program, or in accordance with procedures incorporated therein. Available funds for cost-sharing shall not be allocated on a pro-rata basis, but shall be directed to the accomplishment of the most production attainable.

(a) Cost-sharing may be approved under annual agreements or long-term agreements.

(b) Land covered by a Great Plains Conservation Program contract is not excluded from an annual or long-term agreement if otherwise eligible and is approved by both the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

(c) The same practices, cost-share levels and general program provisions apply to both annual agreements and long-term agreements.

§ 701.40 Long-term agreements.

(a) The period of a long-term agreement will be for not less than three (3) years nor more than 10 (10) years. The

county committee and the signatories to the agreement in consultation with the State forestry representative, will mutually determine the scheduling of essential practices and practice cost-sharing over the period of the agreement.

(b) The long-term agreement will be based on a forest management plan for the land which has been developed by the service forester.

(c) The long-term agreement will provide that the owner will carry out those measures in the forest management plan which are determined to be essential whether or not cost-sharing is approved for such measures.

(d) The level of cost-sharing in effect for practices in all years of a long-term agreement shall be the level in effect for the beginning year of the agreement. The rate of cost-sharing for payment purposes for such practice will be based on the average cost of performing the practice at the time the practice is performed.

(e) A long-term agreement may be canceled for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement if, after consulting with the service forester, the county committee and State committee find that the seriousness of the irregularities warrant such action. If the agreement is canceled, the signatories to the agreement are jointly and severally responsible for refunding all cost-shares paid and will forfeit all rights to further payments under the agreement. In such a case no other refund or forfeiture provisions of these regulations apply.

(f) A long-term agreement may be revised in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, where there is a change in status of the participants or the land under agreement.

(g) An eligible person who acquires control of land under an approved agreement may elect to become a successor in interest under such agreement.

(h) An agreement will be terminated with respect to land for which loss of control has occurred and where the person acquiring control of such land elects not to become a successor in interest under the agreement. If the loss of control is for reasons beyond the

control of the signatories to the agreement, the county committee will determine whether or not any cost-shares previously paid shall be refunded, but in no event shall the refund be greater than would be required in cases where loss of control is voluntary. If the loss of control is voluntary on the part of the signatories, they will be jointly and severally responsible for refunding all cost-shares paid and will forfeit all rights to further payments, with respect to the land for which control is lost. A refund will not be required for cost-shares where, the county committee and the State committee determine, after consulting with the service forester, that failure to perform the remaining practices in the agreement will not impair the effectiveness of the practices which have been performed and that the completed practices will provide forestry benefits consistent with the cost-shares which have been paid.

(i) An agreement may be terminated if, after considering the recommendation of the service forester, the county committee recommends and the State committee concurs that such action is in the public interest.

§ 701.41 Restoration of practices.

(a) Cost-sharing may be authorized under the program only for the establishment or installation of the practices contained in this part. Cost-sharing may not be authorized for repeating any of the practices in this part with the same owner on the same acreage, except as provided in paragraph (b) or (c) of this section.

(b) Cost-sharing may be authorized for the replacement, enlargement, or restoration of practices for which cost-sharing has been allowed under the program only if all of the following conditions exist:

- (1) Replacement or restoration of the practice is needed to solve the problem.
- (2) The failure of the original practice was not due to the lack of proper maintenance by the current operator.
- (3) The county committee believes that the replacement or restoration of the practice merits consideration under the program to an equal extent with other practices cost-shared.

(c) Cost-sharing may be authorized for timber stand improvement measures carried out in repetitive steps where, in the judgment of the service forester, the stand treatment warrants such silvicultural practice.

§ 701.42 Maximum cost-share limitations.

For each fiscal year the total of all cost-shares paid to any eligible person shall not exceed the sum of \$10,000 with respect to eligible ownerships (§ 701.30(b)) in the United States or any commonwealth, territory or possessions of the United States for approved practices carried out under annual and/or long-term agreements.

§ 701.43 Completion of practice.

Cost-sharing for the practices contained in this subpart is conditioned upon the performance of the practices in accordance with all applicable specifications and program provisions.

§ 701.44 Time of filing payment application.

Payment of cost-shares will be made only upon application submitted on the prescribed form to the county office by the prescribed time limit or any authorized extension thereof. Any application for payment may be rejected if any form or information required of the applicant is not submitted to the county office within the applicable time limit.

§ 701.45 Other program provisions.

Other provisions as contained in §§ 701.1 and 701.2 and in the subpart, General Provisions, apply to the Forestry Incentives Program. st

**Subpart—Emergency
Conservation Program**

§ 701.46 Program objective.

The objective of the Emergency Conservation Program is to cost-share with eligible persons to rehabilitate farmlands damaged by wind and water erosion, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters and to provide water conservation or water enhancement measures during periods of severe drought.

§ 701.47 Program availability.

(a) The county committee may implement the program subject to the availability of funds where new conservation problems have been created on farmland by a natural disaster or wind erosion which, if not treated; will:

- (1) Impair or endanger the land or water resource.
- (2) Materially affects the productive capacity of the land or water resource.
- (3) Represent damage which is unusual in character and, except for wind erosion, shall not be the type that would recur frequently in the same area.
- (4) Be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be required to return the land to productive agricultural use.

(b) Subject to the availability of funds, the county committee with the concurrence of the State committee and approval of the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations may implement the program to carry out emergency water conservation and water enhancement measures during periods of severe drought.

§ 701.48 Eligibility of person and land.

Eligibility of person and land is the same as for the Agricultural Conservation Program as provided in §§ 701.7 and 701.8.

§ 701.49 Emergency conservation program practices.

(a) Except for severe drought and wind erosion, cost-sharing may be offered for emergency conservation practices only to replace or restore farmland to a condition similar to that existing prior to the natural disaster. Cost-sharing may not be offered for the solution of conservation problems existing prior to the disaster.

(b) Emergency Conservation Program practices for which cost-sharing may be authorized are generally:

- (1) Removing debris from farmland.
- (2) Grading, shaping, releveling or similar measures.
- (3) Restoring permanent fences.
- (4) Restoring structures and other installations.
- (5) Emergency wind control measures.

(6) Drought emergency measures.

(7) Other emergency conservation measures.

§ 701.50 Practice approval.

Practices listed in § 701.49(b)(1) through (5) may be approved by the county committees. Practices (6) and (7) of § 701.49(b) must be approved by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations.

§ 701.51 Extent of cost-sharing.

(a) The maximum payment under this subpart per person, per disaster, is limited to \$200,000, including the amount of any payment received by such person as the result of a disaster under a pooling agreement.

(b) The cost-share payments which may be made by FSA for a practice under the program shall, subject to the maximum payment amount specified in paragraph (a) of this section and any other limitation as may apply, be further limited to the level of cost-share assistance established by the county committee not to exceed the following amounts:

- (1) 64 percent of the first \$62,500 of eligible reimbursable costs; plus
- (2) 40 percent of the second \$62,500 of eligible reimbursable costs; plus
- (3) 20 percent of the remaining eligible reimbursable costs up to such amount as would produce a cost-share not in excess of the limitation in paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 701.52 Eligible costs.

Upon determination that a person is eligible for Emergency Conservation Program assistance, cost-sharing shall be granted for all reasonable costs incurred in the completion of the practice. Such costs may include personal labor, equipment, and other such costs which are determined by the county committee to be related to the costs of carrying out the practice. County committees shall limit costs for the use of personal equipment to an amount that reflects out-of-pocket expenses. Expenses for personal labor and personal equipment should be less than rates charged by contractors who expect to make a profit for their efforts.

§ 701.53 Filing requests.

The county committee shall establish a sign up period for filing cost-sharing requests immediately after the county committee's decision has been made (by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, in cases of drought) to implement the Emergency Conservation Program in the county. Such periods should be at least 30 days in length. Late filed requests may be accepted by the county committee in justifiable cases.

§ 701.54 Approving requests.

County committees will issue practice approvals only when the requested practice has been determined eligible for cost-sharing assistance and the eligible person has indicated he/she is ready to start the practice.

§ 701.55 Pooling agreements.

Pooling agreements may be used on the same basis as provided for in the Agricultural Conservation Program in § 701.18.

§ 701.56 Payment approval.

The county committee is authorized to approve payments not to exceed \$10,000 per person, per disaster. Cost-share assistance in excess of \$10,000 must be approved by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, or designee.

§ 701.57 Other program provisions.

Other provisions of this part as provided for in §§ 701.1 and 701.2 and in the subpart, General Provisions, apply to the Emergency Conservation Program.

Subpart—General Provisions**§ 701.58 Restriction on program eligibility.**

The regulations in part 796 of this chapter prohibiting the making of payments to program participants who harvest or knowingly permit to be harvested for illegal use, marijuana or other such prohibited drug-producing plants on any part of the land owned or controlled by them are applicable to these programs.

§ 701.59 Delegation of authority.

No delegation of authority contained in these programs to a State or county committee shall preclude the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations or designee, from determining any question arising under these programs or from reversing or modifying any determination made by a State or county committee.

§ 701.60 Practice specifications.

(a) Minimum specifications that practices must meet to be eligible for cost-sharing shall be set forth in the county program, or incorporated therein by specific reference to a standard publication or other written document containing such specifications.

(b) Practice specifications shall represent those levels of performance which are needed in order for the practice to be effective in meeting the program objective and which are not in excess of levels for which cost-sharing can be justified.

§ 701.61 Responsibility for technical phases of practices.

The Soil Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service are responsible for technical phases of the practice as assigned and such assignment will be specified in State and county programs.

(a) The State conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service may utilize assistance from private, State or Federal agencies in carrying out the assigned responsibilities. No responsibilities will be assigned for counties when the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations and the Administrator, SCS, determines that it would not be administratively practicable for the Soil Conservation Service to discharge such responsibilities. In such counties, these responsibilities shall be assumed by the county committees. The Soil Conservation Service may utilize to the fullest extent available resources of the State forestry agencies in carrying out assigned responsibilities for practices involving the establishment of wind-breaks or shelterbelts on farmland to prevent wind erosion.

§ 701.62

(b) The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for the technical phases of practices or components of practices involving the planting of trees for forestry purposes and those involving the improving or protecting of a stand of forest trees, as specified in State and county programs. The U.S. Forest Service may utilize the assistance of private, State or Federal agencies in carrying out these assigned responsibilities, but services of State forestry agencies will be utilized to the extent that such services are available.

(c) The technical assistance to be furnished in servicing assigned practices will include, where appropriate, the following technical phases:

(1) Determining whether the practice is needed and practicable;

(2) Selecting the site (if necessary), complying with environmental and cultural regulations, determining the specific measures needed, and performing any required layout work for the practice;

(3) Supervising the installation of the practice if needed to assure conformity with specifications; and

(4) Certifying the extent performed and whether the specifications for the practice have been met. The technical agency shall perform all four phases for all assigned practices in State and county programs, except as may be provided in instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations.

§ 701.62 Items of cost on which rates of cost-sharing may be based.

Except as otherwise provided by the specific FSA procedural handbooks, notices, and regulations, the cost of any direct and significant factor in the performance of a practice may be considered in establishing the rate of cost-sharing for the practice.

§ 701.63 Handbook, bulletins, instructions, and forms.

The Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations is authorized to prepare and issue handbooks, bulletins, instructions, and forms, required in administering these programs. Copies of handbooks, bulletins, instructions and forms, containing detailed information on these programs as they apply

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to specific States, counties, areas, farms, ranches and other eligible ownerships, will be available in the office of the State committee and the office of the county committee.

§ 701.64 Opportunity for requesting cost-shares.

Farmers, ranchers, eligible landowners, or eligible persons, regardless of race, sex, religion, color, or national origin, shall be given an opportunity to request that the Federal Government share in the cost of those practices they consider to be needed on their farm, ranch, or other eligible land. The county committee shall direct the available funds for cost-sharing to those practices where cost-sharing is considered most essential to the accomplishment of the program objective.

§ 701.65 Repair, upkeep and maintenance of practices.

Cost-sharing is not authorized for repairs or for normal upkeep or maintenance of any practice.

§ 701.66 Public benefits when installing practices.

Persons responsible for any aspect of performing practices are to be encouraged to install the practices in such a way to promote public benefits by improving or preserving environmental quality and ecological balance by preventing or abating pollution and other environmental degradation; benefiting the community by such means as preserving open space, or enhancing the appearance of the area; benefiting wildlife and other desirable life forms; preserving historic, archeological, or scenic sites, wetlands, ecologically critical areas and prime farmlands; avoiding the creation of hazards to persons or animals and avoiding actions that may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species and flood plains.

§ 701.67 Payments for uncompleted practices.

Cost-shares approved under these programs will not be considered as earned until all components of the approved practice are completed in accordance with applicable specifications and program provisions. Cost-shares

for completed components may be paid only on the condition that the farmers, ranchers, or eligible landowners, will complete the remaining components of the practice within the time prescribed by the county committee regardless of whether cost-sharing is offered for them, unless they are prevented from doing so because of reasons beyond their control.

§ 701.68 Practices involving the establishment or improvement of vegetative cover.

(a) Costs for practices involving the establishment or improvement of vegetative cover, including trees may be shared even though a good stand is not established, if the county committee determines, in accordance with standards approved by the State committee, that the practice was carried out in a manner which could normally result in the establishment of a good stand, and that failure to establish a good stand was due to weather or other conditions beyond the control of the operator. The county committee may require as a condition of cost-sharing in such cases that the area be reseeded or replanted or that other needed protective measures be carried out. Cost-sharing in such cases may be approved also for repeat applications of measures previously carried out or for additional eligible measures. Cost-sharing for such measures shall be approved to the extent such measures are needed to assure a good stand even though less than that required by the applicable practice wording for initial approvals.

(b) In the case of Foresty Incentives Program, replanting of trees is required where the landowner received cost-sharing for site preparation.

§ 701.69 Failure to meet minimum requirements or failure to comply fully with program provisions.

(a) Notwithstanding other provisions of these programs, costs may be shared for performance actually rendered even though the minimum requirements for a practice are not met, if the farmer, rancher, eligible landowner, or eligible person establishes to the satisfaction of the county committee and the county representative of any other agency having responsibility for technical

phases of the practice that a reasonable effort was made to meet the minimum requirements and that the practice as performed adequately solves the problem.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph (a) of this section, the terms and conditions of contracts entered into pursuant to programs in this part may be modified to grant relief when the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, determines that a person acting in good faith failed to fully comply with the program provisions.

§ 701.70 Practices carried out with aid from ineligible persons.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, financial assistance which is made available, or will be made available, to a program participant from a person ineligible for cost-share assistance under this part for the practice, including aid from a State or Federal agency other than assistance made available under this part, shall be deducted from the program participant's total costs incurred for the practice for purposes of determining the applicant's eligible reimbursable costs under this part.

(b) Third party contributions need not be deducted under paragraph (a) of this section where it is determined by the State ASC Committee, in accordance with instructions of the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations (DASCO), FSA, that an exception would be in furtherance of program objectives. However, the total cost-share paid may not, in any case, exceed the net contribution (exclusive of any contribution by ineligible persons) otherwise made by the applicant to the cost of carrying out the practice.

[56 FR 46368, Sept. 12, 1991]

§ 701.71 Division of cost-shares.

(a) The cost-share for a practice shall be credited to the person who carried out the practice. If more than one person contributed to the carrying out of the practice, the cost-share for the practice shall be divided among those persons in the proportion that the county committee determines they contributed to the carrying out of the

practice. In making this determination, the county committee shall take into consideration the value of the labor, equipment, or material contributed by each person toward the carrying out of the practice, and shall assume that each contributed equally unless the county committee is satisfied that their respective contributions were not in equal proportion. Any advances made by FSA toward the cost of materials or services under § 701.21, the furnishing of land, and the furnishing of the right to use water, will not be considered as a contribution to the carrying out of any practice.

(b) The allowance by an eligible person of a credit to another eligible person in the form of an adjustment in rental, an exchange of cash, or other consideration, will not be considered as a contribution to the carrying out of any practice, unless the county committee is satisfied that such credit is directly related to the cost or cost-share of the practice. A person will not be considered as having contributed to the carrying out of a practice if the county committee determines that a person has been, or is to be, fully reimbursed for contributions made to the performance of the practice, through an adjustment in rental, an exchange of cash, or other consideration.

§ 701.72 Death, incompetency, or disappearance.

In case of death, incompetency, or disappearance of any person, any cost-shares due shall be paid to the successor, determined in accordance with provisions of the regulations in part 707 of this chapter, as amended.

§ 701.73 Applying cost-share limitations.

(a) All or any part of cost-share which otherwise would be due any person for a program year may be withheld, or required to be refunded, if, with respect to that program year, the person has adopted, or participated in adopting, any scheme or device, including the dissolution, reorganization, revival, formation, or use of any corporation, partnership, estate, trust, or any other means, designed to evade a maximum cost-share limitation.

(b) The rules set forth in 7 CFR 795.3 through 795.22 shall apply in determining whether certain individuals or other entities are to be considered as separate persons for the purpose of applying any maximum payment limitations provided for in this part. In cases where more than one rule would appear to be applicable, the rule which is most restrictive as to number of persons shall apply.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 51 FR 12985, Apr. 17, 1986]

§ 701.74 Persons eligible to file application for payment of cost-shares.

Any eligible person who bore a part of the cost of an approved practice is eligible to file an application for payment of cost-shares due.

§ 701.75 Time and manner of filing application and required information.

It shall be the responsibility of persons participating in these programs to submit to the county office forms and information needed to establish the extent of the performance of approved practices and compliance with applicable program provisions. The time limits for submission of such forms and information shall be established where necessary for efficient administration of the programs. Such time limits shall afford a full and fair opportunity to those eligible to file the forms and information within the period prescribed. At least 2 weeks notice of any general time limits prescribed shall be given to the public. The notice shall be given by mailing notice to the office of each county committee and making copies available to the press. Other means of notification; including radio announcements and individual notices to person(s) affected, shall be used to the extent practicable. Notice of such time limits which are applicable to individual persons, such as time limits for reporting performance of approved practices, shall be issued in writing to the person(s) affected. Exceptions to the time limits may be made in cases where failure to submit required forms and information within the applicable time limits is due to reasons beyond the control of the farmer or rancher.

§ 701.76 Appeals.

Any person may obtain review of determinations affecting participation in:

(a) The Forestry Incentive Program, in accordance with part 614 of this title; and

(b) All other programs within this part, in accordance with part 780 of this title.

[60 FR 67316, Dec. 29, 1995]

§ 701.77 Performance based on advice or action of county or State committee.

Cases involving performance rendered in good faith in reliance upon action or advice of an authorized representative of a county or State committee shall be handled in accordance with part 790 of this chapter.

§ 701.78 Compliance with regulatory measures.

Persons who carry out practices under these programs shall be responsible for obtaining the authorities, rights, easements, or other approvals necessary to the performance and maintenance of the practices in keeping with applicable laws and regulations. The person with whom the cost of the practice is shared shall be responsible to the Federal Government for any losses it may sustain because such persons infringe on the rights of others or fail to comply with applicable laws or regulations.

§ 701.79 Maintenance and use of practice.

Each person receiving cost-share assistance under these programs is responsible for the maintenance and proper use of the practice. Each practice shall have an established lifespan or minimum period of time that it is expected to function as a conservation practice with proper maintenance. If it is determined that a practice has not been properly maintained for the established lifespan, the person receiving the cost-share assistance shall refund all or any part of such cost-share assistance as determined to be appropriate by the county committee. Further, any agreement providing for cost-share assistance will be terminated

with respect to the land on which the practice is located if there is voluntary loss of control of the land by the person receiving the cost-share assistance and the person acquiring control of such land elects not to become a successor in interest to the agreement. If the agreement providing for cost-share assistance is terminated as a result of the voluntary loss of control of the land, each person receiving cost-share assistance under that agreement shall be liable for refunding to FSA any cost-share assistance which has been received with respect to the practice. In addition, such person shall forfeit any right to receive any further cost-share assistance with respect to the land on which the practice is located.

[48 FR 33848, July 26, 1983]

§ 701.80 Actions defeating purpose of program.

If the county committee finds with the concurrence of the State committee, or if the State committee finds, that a person has taken any action which tends to defeat the purposes of these programs, it may withhold or require a refund of all or part of any of these program payments otherwise due or paid that person during the program year. These actions include, but are not limited to, failure to properly maintain or deliberately destroying a practice carried out under a previous program year.

§ 701.81 Depriving others of cost-shares.

If the State committee finds that any person has employed any scheme or device to deprive any other person of cost-shares, it may impose a penalty. The State committee may withhold or require a refund of all or part of any of these program payments otherwise due or paid that person during the program year. A scheme or device includes, but is not limited to, coercion, fraud or misrepresentation.

§ 701.82 Filing of false claims.

If the State committee finds that any person has knowingly supplied false information or has knowingly filed a false claim, that person is ineligible for cost-sharing under the program year with respect to which information or

§ 701.83

claim is filed. False information or false claims include a claim for payment for a practice not carried out or for practices which do not meet the required specifications. Any amounts paid under these circumstances shall be refunded and any amounts otherwise due the person shall be withheld. The withholding or refunding of cost-shares will be in addition to any other penalty or liability otherwise imposed by law.

§ 701.83 Cost-shares not subject to claims.

Any cost-share or portion thereof due any person shall be allowed without regard to questions of title under State law, and without regard to any claim or lien against the crop, or proceeds thereof, in favor of the owner or any other creditor except agencies of the U.S. Government. The regulations issued by the Secretary governing set-offs and withholdings, part 13 of this title, as amended, shall be applicable to these programs.

§ 701.84 Assignments.

Any person who may be entitled to any cost-share under these programs may assign the right thereto, in whole or in part, in accordance with the regulations governing the assignment of payments at 7 CFR part 709.

§ 701.85 Environmental considerations.

All actions implemented under the programs in this part shall be in compliance with regulations issued as part 799—Environmental Quality and Related Environmental concerns which includes the procedures for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act, for Floodplain Management and Wetland Protection and for other environmental concerns.

§ 701.86 Information collection requirements.

Information collection requirements contained in this part have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under the provisions at 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35 and have been assigned OMB Numbers 0560-0078, 0560-0079, and 0560-0082.

[54 FR 41819, Oct. 12, 1989]

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PART 702—COLORADO RIVER BASIN SALINITY (CRSC) CONTROL PROGRAM

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- 702.17 Transfers of land and contract modifications.
- 702.18 Violations.
- 702.19 CRSC Contracts and operation and maintenance agreements not in conformity with regulations.
- 702.20 Appeals.
- 702.21 Access to land.
- 702.22 Performance based upon advice or action of representatives of the Department or a CD.
- 702.23 Filing of false claims.
- 702.24 Depriving others of payments.
- 702.25 Miscellaneous.
- 702.26 Paperwork Reduction Act assigned numbers.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 201, Pub. L. 93-320, 88 Stat. 271; Sec. 2, Pub. L. 98-569, 98 Stat. 2933 (43 U.S.C. 1592(c)).

SOURCE: 52 FR 16741, May 5, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 702.1 General.

The regulations in this part set forth the terms and conditions of the Colorado River Salinity Control (CRSC) Program authorized by section 202 of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1592) (the Act). Under the Act the Secretary is authorized to:

- (a) Identify salt-source areas in the Colorado River Basin;
- (b) Develop plans for implementing conservation measures that will reduce the salt load in the Colorado River, including the voluntary replacement of