

Farm Service Agency, USDA

§ 701.61

§ 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.