

§ 1410.23

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discing and burning as determined by the Deputy Administrator.

[68 FR 24835, May 8, 2003, as amended at 74 FR 30912, June 29, 2009]

§ 1410.23 Eligible practices.

(a) Eligible practices are those practices specified in the conservation plan that meet all standards needed to cost-effectively:

(1) Establish permanent vegetative or water cover, including introduced or native species of grasses and legumes, forest trees, and permanent wildlife habitat;

(2) Meet other environmental benefits, as applicable, for the contract period; and

(3) Accomplish other purposes of the program.

(b) Water cover is eligible cover for purposes of paragraph (a) of this section only if approved by the Deputy Administrator for purposes such as the enhancement of wildlife or the improvement of water quality. Such water cover shall not include ponds for the purpose of watering livestock, irrigating crops, or raising aquaculture for commercial purposes.

§§ 1410.24–1410.29 [Reserved]

§ 1410.30 Signup.

Offers for contracts shall be submitted only during signup periods as announced periodically by the Deputy Administrator, except that CCC may hold a continuous signup for land to be devoted to particular uses, as CCC deems necessary. Generally, continuous signup is limited to those offers that would otherwise rank highly under § 1410.31(b) and may include high priority practices such as filter strips, riparian buffers, shelterbelts, field windbreaks, and living snow fences, grass waterways, shallow water areas for wildlife, salt-tolerant vegetation, and practices to benefit certain approved public wellhead protection areas.

§ 1410.31 Acceptability of offers.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, producers may submit offers for the amounts they are willing to accept as rental payments to enroll their acreage in the CRP. The of-

fers may, to the extent practicable, be evaluated on a competitive basis in which the offers selected will be those where the greatest environmental benefits relative to cost are generated, and provided that the offer is not in excess of the maximum acceptable payment rate established by the Deputy Administrator for the for the area offered. Acceptance or rejection of any offer, however, shall be in the sole discretion of the CCC and offers may be rejected for any reason as determined needed to accomplish the goals of the program.

(b) In evaluating contract offers, different factors, as determined by CCC, may be considered from time to time for priority purposes to accomplish the goals of the program. Such factors may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Soil erosion;

(2) Water quality (both surface and ground water);

(3) Wildlife benefits;

(4) Soil productivity;

(5) Likelihood that enrolled land will remain in non-agriculture use beyond the contract period, considering, for example, tree planting, permanent wildlife habitat, or commitments by a participant to a State or other entity to extend the conservation plan;

(6) Air quality; and

(7) Cost of enrolling acreage in the program.

(c) Acreage determined eligible for continuous signup, as provided in § 1410.30, may be automatically accepted in the program if the:

(1) Land is eligible under § 1410.6, as determined by the Deputy Administrator;

(2) A producer is eligible under § 1410.5; and

(3) A producer accepts either the maximum payment rate CCC is willing to offer to enroll the acreage in the program or a lesser rate.

§ 1410.32 CRP contract.

(a) In order to enroll land in the CRP, the participant must enter into a contract with CCC.

(b) The CRP contract is comprised of:

(1) The terms and conditions for participation in the CRP;

(2) The CRP conservation plan; and

(3) Any other materials or agreements determined necessary by CCC.