

## Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA

## § 1410.31

(a) Share up to 50 percent of the cost with participants of establishing eligible practices specified in the conservation plan at the levels and rates of cost-sharing determined in accordance with the provisions of this part; and

(b) Pay to the participant for a period of years not in excess of the contract period an annual rental payment, including applicable incentive payments, in such amounts as may be specified in the CRP contract.

### § 1410.22 CRP conservation plan.

(a) The producer shall obtain a CRP conservation plan that complies with CCC guidelines and is approved by the conservation district for the land to be entered in the CRP. If the conservation district declines to review the CRP conservation plan, or disapproves the conservation plan, such approval may be waived by CCC.

(b) The practices and management activities included in the CRP conservation plan and agreed to by the participant must cost-effectively reduce erosion necessary to maintain the productive capability of the soil, improve water quality, protect wildlife or wetlands, protect a public well head, or achieve other environmental benefits as applicable. The producer must undertake management activities on the land as needed throughout the term of the CRP contract to implement the conservation plan.

(c) If applicable, a tree planting plan shall be developed and included in the CRP conservation plan. Such tree planting plan may allow up to 3 years to complete plantings if 10 or more acres of hardwood trees are to be established.

(d) If applicable, the CRP conservation plan shall address the goals included in the conservation priority area designation authorized under § 1410.8.

(e) All CRP conservation plans and revisions of such plans shall be subject to the approval of CCC.

(f) Mid-cover management shall be conducted according to an approved conservation plan as part of the CRP contractual obligation such as light

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

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enroll their acreage in the CRP. The offers 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) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this section, when all other appropriate factors are equivalent, CCC may give preference to offers from residents of the county or contiguous county where the offered land is located.

(d) 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.

[68 FR 24835, May 8, 2003, as amended at 75 FR 44071, July 28, 2010]

### § 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.
- (c)(1) In order to enter into a CRP contract, the producer must submit an offer to participate as provided in §1410.30;

(2) An offer to enroll land in the CRP shall be irrevocable for such period as is determined and announced by CCC. The producer shall be liable to CCC for liquidated damages if the applicant revokes an offer during the period in which the offer is irrevocable as determined by the Deputy Administrator. CCC may waive payment of such liquidated damages if CCC determines that the assessment of such damages, in a particular case, is not in the best interest of CCC and the program.

(d) The CRP contract must, within the dates established by CCC, be signed by:

- (1) The producer; and
- (2) The owners of the cropland to be placed in the CRP and other eligible participants, if applicable.

(e) The Deputy Administrator is authorized to approve CRP contracts on behalf of CCC.

(f) CRP contracts may be terminated by CCC before the full term of the contract has expired if:

- (1) The owner loses control of or transfers all or part of the acreage under contract and the new owner does not wish to continue the contract;
- (2) The participant voluntarily requests in writing to terminate the contract and obtains the approval of CCC according to terms and conditions as determined by CCC;
- (3) The participant is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract;
- (4) Acreage is enrolled in another Federal, State or local conservation program;
- (5) The CRP practice fails or is not established after a certain time period, as determined by the Deputy Administrator, and the cost of restoring the