

# Conservation Reserve Program Mid-Contract Management Guide Sheet Kentucky

The following provides information regarding “Mid-Contract Management” requirements for the CRP. This information shall be used during CRP contract development. It will also be used to add mid-contract management to existing CRP contracts when requested by a participant.

## **Required Mid-Contract Management**

Mid-contract management is required for certain practices starting with General CRP Signup 26. The following CRP practices require at least one of the mid-contract management activities as part of the CRP contract: CP-1, Introduced Grass; CP-2, Native Grass; CP-4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat (Corridors) (Only when planted to grass); CP-4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat (Only when planted to grass); CP-11, Vegetative Cover, Trees Already Established; CP-22 for CREP only (see conditions below); CP-25, Rare and Declining Habitat; and CP-33, Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds. Where site conditions allow, mid-contract management will be required on practices: CP-9, Shallow Water Area for Wildlife, CP-23, Wetland Restoration, and CP-23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain.

The following CRP practice requires two management activities during the contract period, one that begins during the first or second year of the contract and one that begins during the fifth or sixth contract year: CP-10, Vegetative Cover, Grass Already Established. To meet the two management activity requirement for CP-10s, a participant could do the same management practice twice or they could do one management practice during the beginning of the contract and a different management practice during the middle of the contract.

**Mid-contract management is not required for CP-33, Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds when planned adjacent to a sensitive area such as a seasonal/perennial stream or agricultural ditch, wetland, or open-throated sinkhole. If participant requests to conduct activities adjacent to these areas, they must work with a KDFWR Liaison/Farm Bill biologist to properly plan this practice.**

## **Optional Mid-Contract Management**

Mid-contract management is optional for general CRP contracts that started under a signup prior to the 26<sup>th</sup> General CRP signup.

If a participant decides to add mid-contract management when it is optional, cost-share can still be paid for the activity. If the participant chooses to add mid-contract management activity(s) to their contract prior to NRCS completion of the final status review, NRCS will modify the contract to include the required information. Mid-contract management activities shall not begin until the final status review is completed. If a participant chooses to add mid-contract management after the final status review has been completed by NRCS, the participant shall work with FSA and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), Kentucky Division of Forestry, or appropriately qualified Technical Service Provider to add the required information to the contract and conservation plan.

Regardless of whether mid-contract management is planned as a requirement or an option by the participant, items that are required for mid-contract management as part of a contract include

scheduled mid-contract management practice narratives and practice cost-share and the completed Mid-Contract Management/Maintenance Job Sheets. The CPO may be modified during the contract period if determined necessary by the KDFWR, KDF, TSP, or NRCS and approved by the FSA County Committee. For example, if a stand is slow to establish and the management activity needs to be delayed a couple of years. Certain weather conditions may also affect the timing of or need of scheduled management activities. The participant may also request a reassessment by KDFWR or TSP of the need for the mid-contract management practice when the participant exercises the managed grazing option.

Mid-contract management practices including narratives shall be scheduled on the Conservation Plan of Operation. Mid-contract management should be planned as Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) for all practices except for disking of CP-9s and CP-23(A)s, which should be planned as Shallow Water Management For Wildlife (646) and Forest Stand Improvement which should be planned as Forest Stand Improvement (666). The narrative for all mid-contract management practices should include the following: Required mid-contract management activities shall be completed according to the “Mid-Contract Management/Maintenance Job Sheet” that is attached to this Conservation Plan of Operations.

Table 1 below includes information on specific mid-contract management practice requirements.

Required CRP Mid-Contract Management Activity	CRP Practices
<p><b>Strip Disking:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strip disking is used to manage and/or alter plant density and/or diversity, reduce plant residues, and improve wildlife habitat.</li> <li>• Participants have two options when strip disking is selected as the mid-contract management practice. The selected option should be checked on the Mid-Contract Management/Maintenance Job Sheet.</li> <li>• <b>Option 1</b> - Participant shall disk ½ of the field for two years. Strip disking of the field should be completed by disking strips that are a minimum of 10 feet and a maximum of 30 feet wide, then skipping an area equal to the disked width. This spacing will establish a pattern whereby the disked strips are separated by an undisked strip. Strip disking for this option will be planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years of the contract.</li> <li>• <b>Option 2</b> - Participant shall disk 1/3 of the field for three years. Strip disking of the field should be completed by disking strips that are a minimum of 10 feet and a maximum of 30 feet wide, then skipping an area twice the disked width. This spacing will establish a pattern whereby the disked strips are separated by two undisked strips that are one and two years old. Strip disking for this option will be planned for the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>, year of the contract.</li> <li>• For the CP10 practice, strip disking will be planned twice on the entire field during the contract period. Once during the beginning of the contract and once during the middle of the contract period. Either option 1 or 2 above must be started during the first contract year for the first strip disking treatment and started during the 5<sup>th</sup> contract year for the second strip disking treatment.</li> </ul>	<p>CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, CP25, CP33</p> <p>CP-22 for CREP only when the area planted to native grass (zone 3) is wider than 80 feet.</p>

<p><b>Strip Disking (continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The same acreage within the field will not be strip disked more often than every 3<sup>rd</sup> year when disking in thirds, or every 2<sup>nd</sup> year when disking ½ of the field. No more than ½ of the field should be disked in any one year.</li> <li>• For CP-4B and CP-4D, only areas planted to grass shall be strip disked.</li> <li>• <b>Concentrated flow areas, critical areas, and other areas where gully erosion is likely should be marked on the plan map to ensure these areas are avoided during the disking operation.</b></li> <li>• See the Strip Disking section of the Mid-Contract Management/Maintenance Job Sheet for participant requirements for the strip disking practice.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Shallow Water Area Disking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A participant may disk ¼, 1/3, ½, or all of the pool area in a given year. At a minimum, ¼ of the pool area shall be disked during the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup>, contract year. (Disking shall not be scheduled on the same area more often than once in three years.) Work closely with a KDFWR or NRCS biologist or qualified wildlife TSP during the planning of this practice. Cost-share will be scheduled based on the acreage of area that is planned to be disked each year.</li> </ul>	<p>CP-9, CP-23, CP-23A</p>
<p><b>Prescribed Burning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with KDFWR Liaison/Farm Bill biologist to develop Conservation Plan and Plan of Operations.</li> <li>• A written prescribed burn plan must be prepared in advance of the scheduled prescribed burn by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) or Technical Service Provider (TSP).</li> <li>• The participant will be responsible for contacting either KDFWR or a TSP to develop a written detailed prescribed burn plan. The participant will be responsible for adhering to the KDFWR burn plan and all local and state laws applicable to open burning in Kentucky.</li> <li>• Burning should not be planned more than once in a three year period. Burning for native warm season grasses should take place between November 1st and May 1st.</li> </ul>	<p>CP2, CP-25, CP-33?, and when native grass is predominant on CP4B, CP4D, and CP10. Burning shall not be used on acres where trees and/or shrubs or introduced grasses are established.</p> <p>CP-22 for CREP only when the area planted to native grass (zone 3) is wider than 80 feet.</p>

<p><b>Chemical Application (After establishment):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If chemical application is selected as the mid-contract management activity it shall be planned during the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year of the contract. Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) shall be planned as the item with Chemical Application and its associated cost-share as the component.</li> <li>• KDFWR or a qualified wildlife TSP will make the specific chemical application recommendation to the participant prior to the application. The participant is responsible for contacting either a KDFWR biologist or the qualified wildlife TSP for their chemical application recommendation.</li> <li>• KDFWR or a qualified wildlife TSP may determine that the chemical application needs to be later during the contract period or that another mid-contract management practice may be applied instead. If this is the case, KDFWR or the qualified wildlife TSP will work with the participant and the local FSA office to make any required changes to the contract.</li> <li>• For CP-10s, chemical applications should occur during the first or second year of contract if the strip disking option is not selected. Strip disking or another chemical application still has to be scheduled during contract year 5, 6, and/or 7.</li> <li>• All chemical recommendations and applications shall be according to the label requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>CP-2, CP10, CP-25, CP-33 CP-22 for CREP only when the area planted to native grass (zone 3) is wider than 80 feet.</p>
<p><b>Forest Stand Improvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When planning this practice, Forest Stand Improvement (666) shall be planned as the item with Timber Stand Improvement and its associated cost as the component.</li> <li>• Forest Stewardship Plans shall be developed by KDF Forester with input from a KDFWR wildlife biologist or qualified wildlife TSP.</li> <li>• The participant is responsible for setting up a site visit with a KDF forester and a KDFWR biologist or a qualified wildlife TSP to develop the Forest Stewardship Plan and Prescription Plan for the detailed work.</li> </ul>	<p>CP-11</p>
<p><b>Interseeding Native Forbs, Following Strip Disking or Burning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interseeding of native forbs can be done but only after an area has been strip disked or prescribe burned.</li> <li>• The acreage planned for this practice should correspond to the acreage that is either being strip disked or prescribe burned during a particular year.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One pound of at least four native forbs will be overseeded after strip disking or prescribed burning occurs. The forbs should be overseeded the spring or fall after the prescribed burning or disking operation occurs.</li> <li>• Interseeding forbs after establishment shall be performed on the same acreage only once during life of the contract.</li> </ul>	<p>CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP25, CP33</p> <p>CP-22 for CREP only when the area planted to native grass (zone 3) is wider than 80 feet.</p>
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