



# Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Management and Maintenance Job Sheet Kentucky

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

**August 2004**

## **DEFINITION**

This job sheet provides management and maintenance requirements for land under a general or continuous CRP contract. This information is considered to be part of your Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract. Refer to information on the CRP-1 form for the applicable contract period.

CRP and CREP program rules include specific guidance regarding how vegetative cover shall be managed both during and after the establishment period. The following outlines this guidance:

## **MANAGEMENT DURING THE ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD:**

The appropriate NRCS job sheet should be referenced for information on proper practice establishment. The establishment period begins immediately following planting and continues until NRCS signs the final status review indicating successful practice implementation. This period should normally extend one to three growing seasons beyond the planting date.

During this establishment period for grass plantings, control of excessive weedy competition is important. To control competing vegetation, top clipping of planted grasslands may be done as recommended by NRCS, a Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) biologists or Technical Service Provider (TSP) until the final status review has been completed indicating successful practice implementation. Mowing heights should be as high as possible and should not be lower than 8 inches. Chemical control can also be used anytime during the establishment period as recommended by NRCS or a TSP. All

herbicides must be used according to label recommendations.

For tree/shrub plantings, management may be done as recommended by a Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) forester until the stand is determined by NRCS in consultation with the KDF to be fully established. Herbicide applications on woody vegetation must be according to Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) recommendations. Consult with a KDF forester for recommendations prior to applying herbicide on woody vegetation established under a CRP or CREP contract. Cost-share for post planting herbicide application is available only if it is included in the CRP contract or added to the CRP contract.

## **MANAGEMENT AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD:**

The guidance below applies on CRP and CREP acreage after the planned cover is determined by NRCS to be fully established. Refer to the NRCS "final" status review to determine when NRCS has rendered this determination. Once this determination has been rendered by NRCS, all actions or questions regarding your CRP or CREP contract should be directed to your county Farm Services Agency (FSA) office.

## **Operation And Maintenance Requirements**

When the stand is determined to be fully established, the following guidance also applies:

1. No annual mowing or disking of an entire field or the same portion of a field for generic weed control and/or for cosmetic purposes. (An area may be mowed or disked only once during a two-year period.)
2. Areas between tree/shrub rows shall not be mowed more than once every two years.

3. No haying or grazing operations except as outlined in the CRP conservation plan of operation or in certain emergencies as authorized by USDA Farm Service Agency.
4. All mowing operations shall cease during the period between May 15<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> in order to avoid interference with grassland bird nesting activities.
5. Harvesting timber on contract acreage is not allowed during the contract period.
6. Control of undesirable plants (such as Johnsongrass, Kudzu, Thistles, Multiflora Rose), noxious species, insects, and other pests to a level that prevents adverse impacts to surrounding lands is allowed at any time if herbicides are the sole control method.
7. If cockleburs or other unwanted vegetation is a problem in the pool area of a CP-9 or CP-23 contact a KDFWR or NRCS biologist for control recommendations.

The participant is responsible for maintaining the established practices according to the CRP or CREP conservation plan of operation throughout the contract period. This responsibility includes excluding livestock and controlling soil erosion along with controlling diseases, insects, undesirable plants, and noxious weeds to a level that does not adversely affect the long-term sustainability of the established species or that poses offsite drift problems. The participant should make periodic checks of the enrolled acreage to assure that all practices are functioning properly.

**Additional Requirements and Comments:**

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