



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Mid-Contract Management/Maintenance Job Sheet Kentucky

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

June 2006

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 **only on a case by case basis** as recommended by NRCS, a Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) biologist or Technical Service Provider (TSP) until the final status review has been completed indicating successful practice implementation. 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 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.

Required Mid-Contract Management

Checked below is the mid-contract management activity(s) that is required by your CRP or CREP contract. Check your Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO) to determine which years the mid-contract management activity(s) is scheduled. These management activities must be completed according to this job sheet. Mid-contract management practices checked on the following pages apply to your contract along with the Operation and Maintenance section.

_____ **Strip Disking (645)**

Field Numbers _____

Years Scheduled _____

Strip disking shall be completed according to the following guidelines:

1. The CRP participant shall conduct strip disking according to the schedule outlined on their CRP contract.
2. The participant shall conduct the strip disking option checked below as the required mid-contract management activity.

_____ **Option 1** - Participant shall disk 1/2 of the field annually for two years. Strip disking of the field should be completed by disking strips that are a minimum of 10 feet to a maximum of 50 feet wide, then skipping an area equal in width to the disked area. During the second year, the strips that were not disked during the first year shall be disked. This spacing will establish a pattern whereby the disked strips are separated by an equal width of undisked strips. With this option, the same acreage in a field will not be disked more often than every 2nd year.

_____ **Option 2** - Participant shall disk 1/3 of the field annually for three years. Strip disking of the field should be completed by disking strips that are a minimum of 10 feet to a maximum of 50 feet wide, then skipping an area twice the width of the disked area. During the second year of disking, the next strip equal in size to the one disked the first year shall be disked. The third and remaining strip shall be disked during the third year. This spacing will establish a pattern whereby the disked strips are separated by two undisked strips that are one and two years old. With this option, the same acreage in a field will not be disked more often than every 3rd year.

3. **Strip disking should not be conducted in concentrated flow areas, critical areas, or on other areas where gully formation is likely.**

4. Disking operations shall be performed along field contours as nearly as practical.
5. Areas shall be disked 2-4 inches deep, reducing plant residues on the soil surface to between 30-50%.
6. Disking shall occur between September 1st and April 1st. For optimum quail benefits, disk between October 1st and December 31st. Note: Disking in the fall or winter on highly erosive sites may cause erosion to occur over the winter months.
7. For CP-4B and CP-4D, only areas planned to grass shall be strip disked.

_____ **Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646) (Disking)**

Field Numbers _____

Year(s) Scheduled _____

Disk the amount of the pool area that is scheduled on the Conservation Plan of Operation as indicated on the attached plan map. The area should be disked to 30% or less residue. Disking may occur only once on the same area in a three year period. Disking should not be done in the buffer area surrounding the pool area. The participant is responsible for contacting and working with a KDFWR biologist, NRCS biologist, or wildlife TSP to determine when the disking should take place during the scheduled year.

_____ **Prescribed Burning (338)**

Field Numbers _____

Year(s) Scheduled _____

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). See the contract support document to determine when the prescribed burn is scheduled. You are responsible for contacting either KDFWR or a TSP to develop the written detailed prescribed burn plan during the year prior to the scheduled prescribed burn. The participant will be responsible for adhering to the KDFWR burn plan and all local and state laws applicable to open burning in Kentucky.

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 15th and August 1st 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.
Woody growth shall be controlled on grassland plantings.
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.

_____ **Chemical Application(s) (645)**

Field Numbers _____

Year(s) Scheduled _____

Chemical applications shall be made according to KDFWR or TSP recommendations. You are responsible for contacting one of the above technical assistance providers to develop site specific chemical application recommendations during the year prior to the scheduled application. All chemical applications must be made according to label requirements.

_____ **Forest Stand Improvement (666)**

Field Numbers _____

Year(s) Scheduled _____

Forest Stand Improvement shall be done according to a Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) Forest Stewardship Plan and the Prescription Plan with input from a KDFWR biologist. You are responsible for contacting a KDF forester and KDFWR biologist to develop your Forest Stewardship and Prescription Plans during the year prior to the scheduled practice application.

_____ **Interseeding With Native Forbs**

Field Numbers _____

Year(s) Scheduled _____

One pound of at least one four 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.

<u>Species To Be Seeded</u>	<u>Rate</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Additional Management Alternatives For Areas Established To Grassland

Besides the “Required Mid-Contract Management” mention above, additional mowing management activities that are allowed are outline below. **Mowing is only permitted to prevent woody encroachment.**

Strip Mowing: Mow one-third of the field in strips (once annually). Mowing of the field should be completed by mowing strips that are a minimum of 10 feet to a maximum of 50 feet wide, then skipping an area equal to twice the mowed area in width. This spacing will establish a pattern whereby the mowed strips are separated by two unmowed strips that are one and two years old.

Mowing Half. Mow one-half of the field once the first year and mow the other half once the second year. Continue this two year rotation.

However, no area may be disturbed through mowing, burning, or disking in consecutive years. Prescribed burning or mowing can be used as site preparation for strip disking.

Prescribed Burning: Native Grass fields may be burned on a three year rotation (or less frequent basis) if the participant follows a Prescribed Burn Plan from KY Fish & Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy or qualified TSP.

Additional Requirements and Comments:
