

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Longleaf Pine Initiative designed to plant up to 32,250 acres of longleaf pine forests in 43 North Carolina counties.

Longleaf Pine National CRP CPA North Carolina



Sign-up

Sign-up began Dec. 1, 2006, at local FSA offices for the CRP Longleaf Pine Initiative and runs continuously until the acreage goal is met.

Eligible Land and Practices

To be eligible for this practice, land must be located in counties within the historic range of the longleaf pine and soils suitable for longleaf pine. In addition, land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements.

Acceptable land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 2002 and 2007 and which is also physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

Rental Rates

Rental rates are based on three predominant soils on land offered for enrollment. FSA bases rental rates on the average value of dry-land cash rent and adjusts rates to reflect the relative productivity of soils within each county.

SIP and PIP Payments

A one-time up front signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre for CRP contracts for 10 or more years will be paid by FSA after eligibility criteria are met and the CRP contract is approved.

A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs will be paid after the CRP practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

Cost-share Payments

In addition to the payments described, FSA will pay up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover.

Contracts

The effective date of the CRP contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval. In certain circumstances, producers may defer the effective date for up to six months.

Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years.

Cooperating Agencies

CRP is administered by USDA's FSA with assistance from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); NC Forest Service; and local soil and water conservation districts.

Technical Requirements for CRP CP36, LONGLEAF PINE

This practice is to restore and manage Longleaf pine forest on cropland, including the native groundcover plants to provide wildlife habitat and protect water quality.

Prescribed burning of understory is a required management activity.

Establishment of tree species other than Longleaf pine is not permitted.

Portions of fields, where it is infeasible to establish Longleaf are not eligible for enrollment.

In-stand mowing and pine straw raking are prohibited during the contract period.

The Following Steps May Be Necessary to Establish Longleaf Pine:

1. Control all Tall fescue, Bermudagrass, Bahiagrass, or other non-native plants using "non soil active" herbicide.
2. Leave field un-cropped (fallow) for 12-months before planting Longleaf to aid establishment.
3. Lightly scalp tree planting rows to depth $\leq 3-5"$.
4. Sub-soil tree planting rows to relieve compacted layer.
5. Band spray soil active herbicide to control competition in rows during trees 1st year.
6. Plant 400 to 500 Longleaf seedlings at a uniform spacing.
7. Establish firebreak (without trees) at least 15 ft. wide surrounding stand, or separating stands.
8. Band spray soil active herbicide to control competition in rows during trees 2nd year.
9. Conserve wildlife cover in the unplanted space between trees- DO NOT MOW BETWEEN ROWS OR BROADCAST SPRAY HERBICIDE.

Site specific actions, as applicable, will be indicated in the conservation plan.

Required Management for Wildlife Habitat:

The following management activities should be performed during the life of the contract but no later than year 8 for 10 year contracts and year 12 for 15 year contracts:

Disk Firebreaks AND Conduct Prescribed Burns according to the following schedule:

- 1st Prescribed Burn: 1st – 4th year of contract
- 2nd Prescribed Burn: 5th – 8th year of contract
- 3rd Prescribed Burn: 10th – 12th year of contract (*for 15 year contracts only*)

Note: Disking and/or mowing are not allowed other than to facilitate establishment of cover. These activities would not typically be planned beyond year 3 of any contract.

Understory Regeneration:

1. Understory cover MUST be present within 2 years of the CRP-1 effective date.
2. Planting native grass like wiregrass, little bluestem, big bluestem, Indiangrass and wildflowers such as partridge pea, beggar lice and slender lespedeza should be included in the conservation plan unless NRCS or a TSP indicate that a natural seed source is present in the soil at the site AND natural regeneration of the understory is feasible.
3. Cost share is available to establish understory vegetation if included in the Conservation Plan.