



**VEGETATIVE COVER - GRASS -
ALREADY ESTABLISHED**
CRP Practice Job Sheet
CP10

Ohio - Natural Resources Conservation Service **August 2010**

For:	Farm #:
Field(s):	Tract #:
Planned By:	Date:

Description

The purpose of this practice is to maintain and manage a cover of grasses on eligible cropland that will enhance environmental benefits. This cover provides the following benefits:

- Reduces sheet, rill and wind erosion
- Improves water quality by reducing sediment and nutrients delivered to water bodies
- Creates and enhances wildlife habitat by providing food as well as winter and nesting cover

Practice Requirements

Vegetation shall have been established in accordance with the Conservation Cover standard (327) in the local Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). This job sheet is for acreage where cover is already established and is being re-enrolled

The required CRP practice cover shall be maintained and managed for a period of not less than an additional 10 years. All provisions of the CRP-1 contract Appendix will be followed for the life of the contract. In addition, the cover maintained and managed will meet the requirements of the CRP practice.

If food plots are to be established, a separate job sheet will be provided for food plot establishment and management.

If firebreaks have been established, a separate job sheet will be provided for firebreak establishment and management.

If a permanent water source for wildlife is to be developed, a separate job sheet for



establishment of this component will be provided.

If pollinator habitat is to be developed, a separate job sheet for establishment of this component will be provided.

If sludge, manure or other agricultural by-products are to be applied to the CRP acreage, contact FSA. At a minimum, these actions will require approval by the FSA County Committee and the development of a Waste Utilization plan by NRCS or TSP.

The cover shall be maintained for the life of the contract. Disturbance or alteration of the cover is allowed only if it is included in the conservation plan and authorized by the FSA County Committee.

The enrolled area shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of the contract. An exception may be made for managed haying and grazing or emergency haying and grazing if authorized and included in conservation plan.

Maintenance after Establishment

Maintain the cover to provide adequate erosion control, comply with noxious weed laws and control undesirable plants species, insects or rodents that negatively affect the CRP cover or adjacent lands.

Maintenance activities are only allowed between July 16 and February 28 (outside the primary nesting and brood-rearing season) unless the FSA County Committee has approved maintenance activity during the nesting season prior to the activity taking place.

Scout fields in May to early June to identify problems such as thistle, johnsongrass, other noxious weeds or trees. These may need treatment to control.

Spot treatment necessary to control noxious weeds or pests that will damage the CRP cover may be allowed during the primary nesting season (March 1 to July 15) if: it is limited to the affected area of the field; the method used shall be the least damaging to nesting wildlife and habitat; and it is approved beforehand by the FSA County Committee.

Periodic mowing, mowing for cosmetic purposes and annual mowing for generic weed control are prohibited. In order to maintain a grass cover, mowing may be necessary to control unwanted woody plant invasion. Typically, mowing every 2 to 3 years will control woody vegetation. Mowing for this purpose may not be done annually.

Mow no shorter than 8 inches for native grasses. Mowing shorter than 8 inches will damage or kill the warm season grasses and promote cool season grasses. Mow no shorter than 4 inches for introduced grasses. Do not mow after August 20 in order to allow regrowth for winter cover.

If prescribed burning is to be used, it must be conducted in accordance with an approved burn plan and all applicable state or local regulations.

Mid-Contract Management

Effective with the 2002 Farm Bill, new and re-enrolled CRP participants are required to perform management activities as part of their approved conservation plan. The activities scheduled are site specific and will ensure plant diversity, wildlife habitat and protection of soil and water resources. Management activities that will ensure these benefits in conservation cover include prescribed burning (with an approved burn plan), light disking, spraying and interseeding of forbs. Mowing is generally an inadequate means of disturbance for the desired habitat, except as needed to facilitate prescribed burning or light disking. Light disking in the late summer or fall is especially effective for maintaining desirable habitat.

Implementation of mid-contract management will be administered by the Farm Service Agency. All management activities must be performed according to CRP policy. An evaluation of the stand will be made during the 4th year of the contract. At that time a separate mid-contract specifications sheet may be developed. Practices planned as a result of that evaluation will be completed before the end of the 6th year of the contract. The currently planned mid-contract practices are shown below. However, depending on the results of the evaluation done in year 4 of the contract, a different option may be selected. It is possible that the evaluation will indicate no need for mid-contract management practices.

Mid-Contract Management	
Starting in year: _____	Repeated every _____ years
<input type="checkbox"/> Light disk/chisel	<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed burning
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide	<input type="checkbox"/> Interseeding
Note: An evaluation of the stand will be made no earlier than the 4 th year of the contract. At that time a separate mid-contract specifications sheet shall be developed.	
I understand the plan and specifications and agree to perform this practice accordingly.	
Producer Signature _____	Date _____