



## CRP Required Management Practice: Disking and Interseeding for Introduced Cool Season Grass Cover

Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_

Tract: \_\_\_\_\_

### CRP CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is responsible for administering the rules of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). All questions related to CRP contract requirements, payment, or modifications should be directed to the FSA office where your contract originated.

CRP policy requires some type of "disturbance" to certain CRP practices during the life of the contract. The goal of required management is to enhance CRP cover.

### PURPOSE

Grassland fields need to be managed so that grasses do not crowd out the forbs and legumes over time. If no disturbance and interseeding occur, the composition of grassland communities will change over several years through normal plant succession. The vegetative structure changes as forbs and legumes are replaced by grasses, and eventually woody plants.

The purpose of this required management practice is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres by encouraging a diverse forb/legume community. Forbs and legumes are beneficial to birds, pollinators, butterflies, and other wildlife.

### PRIMARY NESTING SEASON

CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season. This rule prevents injury to nesting and fledgling birds. The current primary nesting season for new CRP contracts in Wisconsin is **May 15 through August 1**. CRP participants are required to control invasive and weed plant species before they produce viable seed. Spot clipping or spot spraying may be done

during the primary nesting season with prior approval from the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee.



### SPECIFICATIONS

This practice **shall not** be planned and/or applied to any field that:

- » has a significant population of invasive or weed plant species,
- » is known to have had a previous significant weed problem, or
- » is located near a field with a weed/invasive plant problem that has the potential to invade the required management practice field.

Fields must be disked enough to expose at least 50% of the soil. This may require several passes over a field at a depth of 3-5 inches. To minimize compaction issues, disk when soil is friable which means when squeezed tightly, the soil still falls apart.

When the potential for excessive erosion is identified as a risk by the conservation planner:

- » Disk on the contour.
- » Only disk and interseed 50% of the field in a single year.
- » Implement additional erosion control practices identified by the conservation planner.

Required contract management activities are conducted in the 6th year of a 10 year contract. If the contracted field is 40 acres or more, or excessive slope may cause erosion concerns, this required practice shall be split between year 6 and 7. For a 15 year contract, this practice shall be done again in the 11th year, or split between year 11 and 12 for fields greater than 40 acres or with excessive slope. For renewed contracts, this practice is also required in the first year of the renewal period or split between year 1 and 2 for fields greater than 40 acres or with excessive slope.

A designated filter strip area will be maintained in areas adjacent to surface water or wetlands. See NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Practice Standard 393, Filter Strip, for guidance.

Disking of filter strips, riparian buffers, grassed waterways, contour buffers, or areas planted to trees and shrubs is not allowed.

Planting rates shall be based on Pure Live Seed (PLS).

Legume seed shall be properly stored and must be inoculated prior to planting.

The seeding equipment shall be calibrated to ensure that seed placement provides uniform soil/seed contact to encourage consistent germination.

The timing for interseeding should be planned to appropriately match the soil moisture conditions of each site and the growth characteristics of the species to be planted. The specific planting date that provides the best chance for success will vary from south to north and from year to year with prevailing moisture and temperature conditions. Utilize the planting periods in Table 1 to develop the planting plan.

**Table 1.** Disking and Interseeding Periods

Spring	April 1 through May 14
Late Summer	August 2 through August 30
Fall	October 8 through Freeze Up

## CONSIDERATIONS

Avoid disking where gully formation is a problem. Caution: disking in late fall on highly erodible sites will increase the potential for erosion to occur over winter months.

When feasible, if noxious or invasive plants have gone to seed, consider hand-clipping and bagging seed heads prior to disking.

After a site has been disked, consider delaying the seeding of legumes until after there has been ample time to evaluate the residual weed pressure. The use of an herbicide may be needed.

To promote native forbs, a fall disking and interseeding between October 8 and November 15 is recommended.

## INTERSEEDING PLS-BASED SEED MIX

**\*SELECT ONLY ONE OF THESE MIXES:**

**Mix A:** Introduced mix – dry site.

Alfalfa: 6 lbs.

Alsike Clover: 1.5 lbs.

For use with introduced cool season plantings CP1, CP23, CP23A, CP28, and CP33 (strips only).

**Mix B:** Introduced mix – mesic or wet site.

Red Clover: 5 lbs.

Ladino Clover: 1.5 lbs.

For use with introduced cool season plantings CP1, CP23, CP23A, CP28, and CP33 (strips only).

**Mix C:** Introduced Grass Component.

Orchardgrass: 5 lbs.

Timothy: 4 lbs.

For use with introduced cool season plantings CP1, CP23, CP23A, CP28, and CP33 (strips only).

**Mix D:** Native mix – dry site.

Purple Prairie Clover: 2 oz.  
Black-eyed Susan: 1 oz.  
Ox-eye Sunflower: 2 oz.  
Stiff Goldenrod: 2 oz.  
Round Headed Bushclover: 4 oz.

For use with introduced cool season plantings CP1, CP23, CP23A, CP28, and CP33 (strips only).

**Mix E:** Native mix – mesic or wet site.

Canada Milk Vetch: 1 oz.  
Ox-eye Sunflower: 2 oz.  
Stiff Goldenrod: 2 oz.  
Round Headed Bushclover: 4 oz.

For use with introduced cool season plantings CP1, CP23, CP23A, CP28, and CP33 (strips only).

**PLS BASED SEED MIX CALCULATIONS**

Species	Field:	
	Acres:	
	PLS Rate Per Acre	Seed Needed

Date scheduled for disking & interseeding:

Year:

Disking/interseeding can be done when erosion control has been considered on steep fields. If a field is over 50% D slope, verify what needs to occur to keep this practice from causing erosion concerns.

- ☐ Disk on contour
- ☐ Leave narrow band of grass (<20 feet) undisturbed along field edges where erosion may occur
- ☐ Not more than 50% of the soil surface will disturbed
- ☐ Specify other conservation considerations: