



Conservation Reserve Program

OVERVIEW

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

In its 30th year, CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill). The program is also governed by regulations published in 7 CFR, part 1410. The program is implemented by FSA on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

BENEFITS

CRP protects tens of millions of acres of American topsoil from erosion and is designed to safeguard the nation's natural resources. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, CRP protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. The vegetative covers also make CRP a major contributor to increased wildlife populations in many parts of the country.

Since it was established on Dec. 23, 1985, CRP has:

- Prevented more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks;
- Reduced nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to annually tilled cropland by 95 and 85 percent respectively;

- Sequestered an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road.

Since 1996, CRP has created nearly 2.7 million acres of restored wetlands.

As of 2015, CRP is protecting more than 170,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, enough to go around the world 7 times.

ADMINISTRATION

FSA administers CRP while technical support functions are provided by:

- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS);
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA);
- State forestry agencies;
- Local soil and water conservation districts and;
- Other non-federal providers of technical assistance.

GENERAL ENROLLMENT AUTHORITY

Under general enrollment authority, producers can offer land for CRP general enrollment only during announced enrollment periods. There is a general enrollment period scheduled to begin Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT AUTHORITY

Under CRP continuous enrollment authority, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time. Certain eligibility requirements still apply, but offers are not subject to competitive bidding. Further information on CRP continuous enrollments is available in the FSA fact sheet "**Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Enrollments.**"

GRASSLANDS ENROLLMENTS

CRP Grasslands helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion. Further information on CRP Grassland enrollments is available in the FSA fact sheet “**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP – Grasslands.)**”

For information on enrolling land in CRP contact a local FSA office. To find a local office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

RANKING LAND OFFERS DURING GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS

Offers for CRP contracts are ranked according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data for each of the EBI factors based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. Each eligible offer is ranked in comparison to all other offers and selections made from that ranking. FSA uses the following EBI factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered:

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acres;
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching;
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion;
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period;
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion and;
- Cost.

ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS

A producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to close of the CRP general enrollment period, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner’s death;

- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law or;
- The circumstances of the acquisition present adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

ELIGIBLE LAND

Land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity for four of six crop years from 2008 to 2013, and that is physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Land also must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher;
- Be enrolled in a CRP contract that expires Sept. 30 or;
- Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.

PAYMENTS

FSA provides CRP participants with annual rental payments, including certain incentive payments and cost-share assistance:

- **Rental Payments**
In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides annual rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dry-land cash rent using data provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service or cash-rent equivalent as guidelines. The maximum CRP rental rate for each offer is calculated in advance of enrollment. Producers may offer land at that rate or offer a lower rental rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

- **Cost-Share Assistance**

FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance can be an amount not more than 50 percent of the participants' costs in establishing approved practices.

OTHER INCENTIVES

FSA may offer additional financial incentives of up to 20 percent of the annual payment for certain continuous enrollment practices.

MORE INFORMATION

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For details, contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. To learn more about FSA conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.

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Conservation Reserve Program, 49th General Enrollment Period Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016

OVERVIEW

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general enrollment period from Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016.

CRP is a federally-funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Accepted contracts for the 49th CRP enrollment period will begin Oct. 1, 2016.

In its 30th year, CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill). FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support. More detailed information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet, "**Conservation Reserve Program.**"

SUBMITTING CRP OFFERS

Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP may be offered for enrollment during the 49th CRP general enrollment period. In addition, CRP participants with contracts expiring on Sept. 30, 2016, may submit offers.

To submit CRP offers, producers must visit their local FSA office. FSA will accept offers only during the enrollment period. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS

To be eligible for CRP enrollment, a producer must have owned or operated the land for at least 12 months prior to the end of this CRP enrollment period, unless:

- The new owner acquired the land due to the previous owner's death;
- The ownership change occurred due to foreclosure where the owner exercised a timely right of redemption in accordance with state law or;
- The circumstance of the acquisition presents adequate assurance to FSA that the new owner did not acquire the land for the purpose of placing it in CRP.

ELIGIBLE LAND

To be eligible for the CRP general enrollment period, land must be cropland (including field margins) that is planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2008 to 2013, and be physically and legally capable of being planted (no planting restrictions due to an easement or other legally binding instrument) in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity. Alfalfa or other multiyear grasses and legumes grown in a rotation not to exceed 12 years may be eligible for the 49th CRP enrollment period.

ADDITIONAL CROPLAND REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the eligible land requirements for the CRP general enrollment period, cropland must meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher;
- Be expiring CRP acres or;
- Be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.

CRP PAYMENTS

FSA provides those applicants who are selected for the 49th CRP general enrollment with annual rental payments, including certain incentive payments and cost-share assistance.

- **Rental Payments**
In return for establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, FSA provides rental payments to participants. FSA bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash rent. County office staff working with the producer will calculate the maximum CRP rental rate for each offer prior to enrollment. Producers may offer land below the rate to increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.
- **Cost-Share Assistance**
FSA provides cost-share assistance to participants who establish approved cover on eligible cropland. The cost-share assistance cannot exceed 50 percent of the participant's costs to establish approved practices.

RANKING CRP OFFERS

FSA will rank offers for the 49th CRP general enrollment period according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data (primarily based on location, soils information and selected conservation practice) and determines the environmental indices for the land offered.

FSA ranks each eligible offer in comparison to all other offers and selects from that ranking. After the enrollment period ends, the Secretary of Agriculture will decide where to make the EBI cutoff. Those who have met previous EBI thresholds are not guaranteed a contract under this enrollment period. Producers may consult with local FSA and Natural Resource Conservation (NRCS) staff on how to maximize EBI points and increase the likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

More information on EBI for the 49th CRP enrollment period is available by reading the FSA

fact sheet, “**Conservation Reserve Program Enrollment 49, Environmental Benefits Index.**”

CRP CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

In addition to the 49th CRP general enrollment period, producers at any time can participate in CRP continuous enrollment period, in which producers can enroll the most environmentally sensitive land. More information on CRP continuous enrollment is available in the FSA fact sheet, “**Conservation Reserve Program Continuous Sign-Up**” located at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2015/crp_continuous_sign_up_november_2015.pdf.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Conservation Reserve Program 49th General Enrollment Period Environmental Benefits Index (EBI)

OVERVIEW

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general enrollment period from Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016.

CRP is a federally-funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation benefits. CRP participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Accepted contracts for the 49th CRP enrollment period will begin Oct. 1, 2016.

In its 30th year, CRP is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 and was reauthorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill). FSA administers CRP, while other USDA agencies and partners provide technical support. More detailed information on CRP is available in the FSA fact sheet, "**Conservation Reserve Program 49th General Enrollment Period, Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2016.**"

RANKING CRP OFFERS

FSA will rank offers submitted by landowners for the 49th CRP general enrollment period according to the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). FSA collects data for each EBI factor based on the relative environmental benefits for the land offered. EBI rankings are unique for each tract of land offered for CRP.

FSA assigns each offer a score based on the offer's relative environmental factors. Each offer competes with all other offers. FSA determines the acceptability of the offer based on the ranking results.

For the 49th CRP general enrollment period, FSA will use the following EBI factors to assess the environmental benefits for the land offered, as follows:

- Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers on contract acres (N1);
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching (N2);
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion (N3);
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period (N4);
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion (N5) and;
- Cost (N6).

N1 - WILDLIFE FACTOR: (10 TO 100 POINTS)

Factor N1 is an evaluation of the expected wildlife benefits of the offer and is comprised of three subfactors (N1a-c). The formula for N1 = $N1a + N1b + N1c$.

- **N1a - Wildlife Habitat Cover Benefits (10 to 50 points)**

This subfactor is an evaluation of the wildlife habitat cover offered. FSA assigns points for cover practice planting mixtures based on the potential value to wildlife within each state. FSA awards higher scores for cover types that are more beneficial to wildlife. Local USDA Service Centers have a list of approved planting mixes and the assigned point scores for each cover mix. Point scores are based on the weighted average score for cover mixes the producer selects. Native mixes of diverse species generally receive the highest point scores. Eligible cover practices under the N1a criteria are in Table 1.

(Producers should note that wildlife habitat cover selection is the most critical factor impacting wildlife benefits. Optimum cover types significantly increase the point score for this factor).

- **N1b - Wildlife Enhancement (0, 5 or 20 points)**

This subfactor provides up to 20 points for actions producers take to enhance the wildlife benefits for the offered acres. Enhancement to the acres is necessary in order to receive the points. For example, to receive 20 points producers may offer to establish a minimum of 10 percent of the acres offered to pollinator habitat. Eligible practices under the N1b criteria are provided in Table 2.

- **N1c - Wildlife Priority Zones (0 or 30 points)**

FSA consulted with farm, commodity, wildlife and environmental groups to develop high-priority wildlife areas that would benefit from being enrolled in CRP. For land located within this defined geographic area, points are awarded for planting cover mixes to benefit wildlife species. This subfactor provides 30 points if at least 51 percent of the offered acres is located within the wildlife priority zone and the weighted average N1a score is greater than or equal to 40 points.

N2 - WATER QUALITY BENEFITS FROM REDUCED EROSION, RUNOFF, AND LEACHING (0 TO 100 POINTS)

One of CRP's main goals is to reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients and pollutants that enter our nation's waterways. Factor N2 is an evaluation of the potential impacts that CRP may have on both surface and groundwater quality. N2 is comprised of three subfactors (N2a-c). The formula for N2 = N2a + N2b + N2c.

- **N2a - Location (0 or 30 points)**

This subfactor is an evaluation of the benefits of improving ground or surface water quality impaired by crop production. States have identified water quality zones for protection. At least 51 percent of the acres offered must be within an approved water quality zone to receive 30 points. Local USDA Service Centers have detailed maps of the approved water quality zones.

- **N2b - Groundwater quality (0 to 25 points)**

This subfactor is an evaluation of the predominant soils, the potential leaching of pesticides and nutrients into groundwater, and the impact to people who rely on groundwater as a primary source of drinking water. Point scores are based on the weighted average leach index for soils offered for enrollment and the population that utilizes groundwater for drinking.

- **N2c - Surface water quality (0 to 45 points)**

This subfactor is an evaluation of the amount of sediment (and associated nutrients) that may be delivered into streams or other water courses. This factor is determined by potential water erosion in the watershed in which the offer is located.

N3 - EROSION FACTOR (0 TO 100 POINTS)

CRP helps maintain the long-term productivity of the land for future generations. Factor N3 is an evaluation of the potential for the land to erode as the result of either wind or water erosion. This factor is measured using an Erodibility Index (EI). FSA awards points for the weighted average of the higher value of either the wind or water EI, based on the results from Table 3.

N4 - ENDURING BENEFITS FACTOR (0 TO 50 POINTS)

Factor N4 is an evaluation of the likelihood for certain practices to remain in place beyond the CRP contract period. N4 values are determined by calculating the weighted average score for all practices in Table 4.

N5 - AIR QUALITY BENEFITS FROM REDUCED WIND EROSION (3 TO 45 POINTS)

Factor N5 is an evaluation of the air quality improvements by reducing airborne dust and particulate caused by wind erosion from cropland. In addition, this factor has points for the value of

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CRP land that provides carbon sequestration. This factor is comprised of four subfactors (N5a-d). The formula for N5 = N5a + N5b + N5c + N5d.

- **N5a - Wind Erosion Impacts (0 to 25 points)**

FSA will determine the potential for the site to have wind erosion damage. FSA will award points based on potential wind erosion and the amount of population that may be impacted by the erosion. The potential wind erodibility is based on a climatic factor (wind speed, wind direction and duration of wind events) and soil erodibility.

- **N5b - Wind Erosion Soils List (0 or 5 points)**

A list of soils that are susceptible to wind and contribute significantly to nonattainment of air quality standards has been developed. These soils have a dominant component of volcanic or organic materials that are highly erodible and can be transported great distances on the wind. If at least 51 percent of the offered acres are comprised of these soils, the offer is awarded five points.

- **N5c - Air Quality Zones (0 or 5 points)**

FSA awards a maximum of five points if at least 51 percent of the acres offered is located in an air quality zone that contributes to nonattainment of air quality standards and the calculated weighted wind EI is equal to or greater than three.

- **N5d - Carbon Sequestration (3 to 10 points)**

The subfactor is an evaluation of the benefits of sequestering greenhouse gases by practice over the expected life of the practice. FSA awards points based on a weighted average of carbon sequestration benefits for all practices using the value in Table 5.

N6 - COST

Factor N6 is designed to optimize the environmental benefits per dollar for CRP rental payments. Factor N6 is comprised of two

subfactors (N6a and N6b). The formula for N6 = N6a + N6b.

- **N6a - Cost (point value determined after end of enrollment based on actual offer data)**

Offers with lower per acre rental rates may receive more N6a points and have increased chances of being accepted.

- **N6b - Offer Less Than Maximum Payment Rate (0 to 25 points)**

Offers equal to the maximum payment rate will receive 0 points. Offers below the maximum payment rate will receive points according to the value in Table 6.

EBI THRESHOLD FOR ACCEPTANCE

After the 49th CRP general enrollment period ends Feb. 26, 2016, FSA will analyze and rank all eligible offers. The Secretary of Agriculture will then determine the EBI threshold used to accept offers. Because CRP is a highly competitive program, producers who would have met EBI during previous enrollment periods are not guaranteed an offer acceptance under the 49th CRP general enrollment period.

MAKING CRP OFFERS MORE COMPETITIVE

Beginning FY 2017, maximum CRP enrollment authority is 24 million acres. As such, the demand to enroll land in CRP is expected to be greater than the amount that FSA can accept.

To make offers more competitive, producers should consider the following:

- The single most important producer decision involves determining which cover practice to apply to the acres offered. Planting or establishing the highest scoring cover mixture is the best way to improve the chances of offer acceptance.

- Producers should only offer the most environmentally sensitive land. Where possible, subdividing fields to include only the most sensitive acres can substantially increase the point score for erosion and improve the water quality score and/or air quality score. Producers should consider enhancing covers for the benefit of wildlife or establishing pollinator habitat. In addition, producers may plant and manage hardwood or softwood trees that increase wildlife habitat values or restore certain rare and declining habitats. These potentially increase the EBI score in subfactors N1a and N4.
- Producers should consider accepting a lower payment rate than the maximum amount FSA is willing to offer.

FSA also encourages producers to consult with local USDA experts on steps to take to maximize EBI points and increase the likelihood that an offer will be accepted.

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Table 1 – Cover Practices (CP) for the N1a Criteria	
	Point Score
CP1 – Permanent introduced grasses and legumes	
Existing stand of one to three species or planting new stand of two to three species of an introduced grass species.	10
Existing stand or planting mixture (minimum of four species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least one forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.	40
CP2 – Establishment of permanent native grasses and legumes	
Existing stand (minimum of one to three species) or planting mixed stand (minimum of three species) of at least two native grass species and at least one forb or legume species beneficial to wildlife.	20
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of five species) of at least three native grasses and at least one shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.	50
CP3 – Tree planting (general) 2/	
Southern pines (softwoods) – Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing, according to state developed standards, or planted at more than 550 trees per acre).	10
Northern conifers (softwoods) – Solid stand of conifers/softwoods (existing, according to state developed standards, or planted at more than 850 trees per acre).	10
Western pines (softwoods) – Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing, according to state developed standards, or planted at more than 650 trees per acre).	10
Southern pines (softwoods) – Pines/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 500 to 550 per acre depending upon the site index (state-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	50
Northern conifers (softwoods) – Conifers/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 750 to 850 trees per acre depending upon the site index (state-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	50
Western pines (softwoods) – Pines/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 550 to 650 per acre depending upon the site index (state-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	50
CP3A – Hardwood tree planting	
Existing or planting solid stand of nonmast producing hardwood species.	10
Existing or planting solid stand of a single hard mast producing species.	20
Existing or planting mixed stand of two hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area.	30
Existing or planting mixed stand (three or more species) of hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area.	50
Existing or planting stand of Longleaf pine or Atlantic white cedar - Planted at rates appropriate for the site index.	50
CP4B - Permanent wildlife habitat (corridors), noneasement	
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of four species) of either grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for various wildlife species in the area. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.	40

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Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of five species) of either predominantly native species including grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited to providing wildlife habitat. Only native grasses are authorized. Introduced grasses are not authorized for and cannot be included in cover mixes for 50-point N1a scores for CP4B. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.	50
CP4D - Permanent wildlife habitat, noneasement	
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of four species) of either grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for various wildlife species in the area. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.	40
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of five species) of either predominantly native species including grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited to providing wildlife habitat. Only native grasses are authorized. Introduced grasses are not authorized for and cannot be included in cover mixes for 50-point N1a scores for CP4D. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.	50
CP12 –Wildlife food plot <u>3/</u>	
Wildlife food plots are small non-cost-shared plantings in a larger area. Wildlife food plots will never be the predominant cover.	NA
CP25 –Rare and declining habitat restoration <u>4/</u>	
Existing stand or seeding or planting will be best suited for wildlife in the area. Plant species selections will be based upon Ecological Site Description data.	50
CP42 – Pollinator Habitat	
Existing stand or planting of a diverse mix of multiple species suited for pollinators.	50
Footnotes:	
<u>1/</u> Cover that is existing or will be established must accomplish the purpose of the practice.	
<u>2/</u> State Conservationist may revise the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) on planting rate to be consistent with CRP. The opening for southern and western pines must be a minimum of two acres up to a maximum of five acres in size for fields of 20 acres and larger. For smaller fields, the size is based on a percentage. Opening in northern conifers will be one-half to two acres in size. The opening may include buffers on the interior of the field. Field edges (borders) may be used if they are irregular in shape and average 30 feet in width. Natural regeneration of native herbaceous or shrubby vegetation with required maintenance may be permitted within open areas if it is consistent with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards and the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, and has concurrence from state fish and wildlife service (FWS) or U.S. FWS officials. Open areas of native grasses and/or shrub planting best suited for wildlife in the area is considered CP3 for EBI scoring and contract purposes.	
<u>3/</u> CP12 acres is not included in the weighted average point score. For example, a 50-acre offer with 45 acres planted to CP25 and five acres planted to a wildlife food plot would calculate a weighted average using only the 45 acres of the CP25 planting. This calculates as follows: 45 acres x 50 points (CP 25 EBI score) = 2,250 points. 2,250 points / 45 acres = 50 points.	
<u>4/</u> Technical practice standards for the selected habitat type must meet applicable standards and be approved by FSA at least 30 calendar days before the beginning of the enrollment period.	

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Table 2 - Practices for the N1b Criteria							
Practice	Point Score						
Conversion of at least 51 percent of a primarily monoculture stand to a mixture of native species that provides wildlife benefits.	20						
Establishment of pollinator habitat (CP42) that remains in the location of the CRP-1. The habitat size, shape, and composition must meet the following requirements: Size	20						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">CRP Acres Offered</th> <th style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">Habitat Size Requirement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Less than 10 acres</td> <td>At least one acre of pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10 acres or greater</td> <td>At least 10 percent of the acres offered in pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CRP Acres Offered	Habitat Size Requirement	Less than 10 acres	At least one acre of pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.	10 acres or greater	At least 10 percent of the acres offered in pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.	
CRP Acres Offered	Habitat Size Requirement						
Less than 10 acres	At least one acre of pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.						
10 acres or greater	At least 10 percent of the acres offered in pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.						
Annual or permanent food plot (CP12) that remains in the same location for the contract length, or rotated food plot (CP12) for which the location on the contract is moved during the contract length consistent with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide up to 10 percent of a field, not to exceed 5 acres per field.	5						

Table 3 - Erodibility Index Points ^{1/}					
EI	Points	EI	Points	EI	Points
4	1	10	22	16	79
5	2	11	29	17	92
6	4	12	37	18	97
7	7	13	46	19	98
8	11	14	56	20	99
9	16	15	67	21+	100

^{1/} EI of less than 4 = 0 points

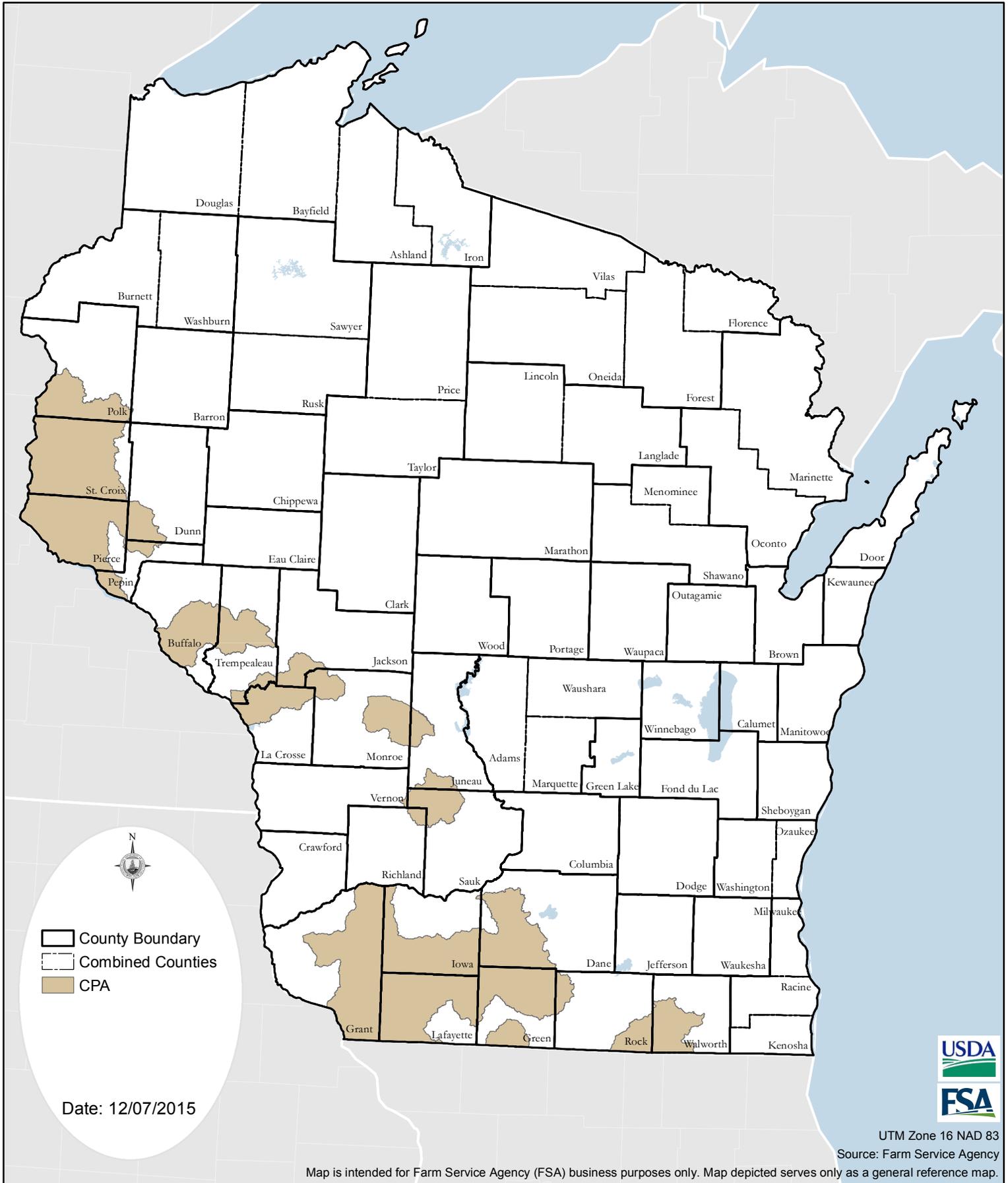
Table 4 - Practices for the N4 Criteria	
Practice	Point Score
New hardwood tree, longleaf pine, and/or Atlantic white cedar plantings (CP3A) and CP25 (Rare and declining habitat restoration) if the plant community is existing or will be established to primarily trees.	50
Existing or enhanced stand of hardwood tree, longleaf pine, and/or Atlantic white cedar plantings (CP3A).	40
New pine/softwood tree (CP3).	30
Rare and declining habitat restoration (CP25) where the plant community is existing or will be established to a primarily grass and/or shrub complex.	25
Existing pine/softwood tree - original contract signed as CP3.	20
CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D.	0

Table 5 - N5d Air Quality	
Practice	Point Score
CP3 (Tree planting - general), CP3A (Hardwood tree planting), and CP25 (Rare and declining habitat restoration) planted to trees.	10
CP25 (Rare and declining habitat restoration) planted to grass/shrub complexes, and CP42 (Pollinator Habitat).	5
CP4B (Permanent wildlife habitat (corridors), noneasement) and CP4D (Permanent wildlife habitat, noneasement).	4
CP1 (Permanent introduced grasses and legumes) and CP2 (Establishment of permanent native grasses).	3
CP12 (Wildlife food plot).	0

Table 6 – N6b Offer Less Than Maximum Payment Rate	
Percent Below Maximum Payment Rate	N6b Points
1	2
2	4
3	6
4	8
5	10
6	12
7	14
8	16
9	18
10	20
11	21
12	22
13	23
14	24
>=15	25

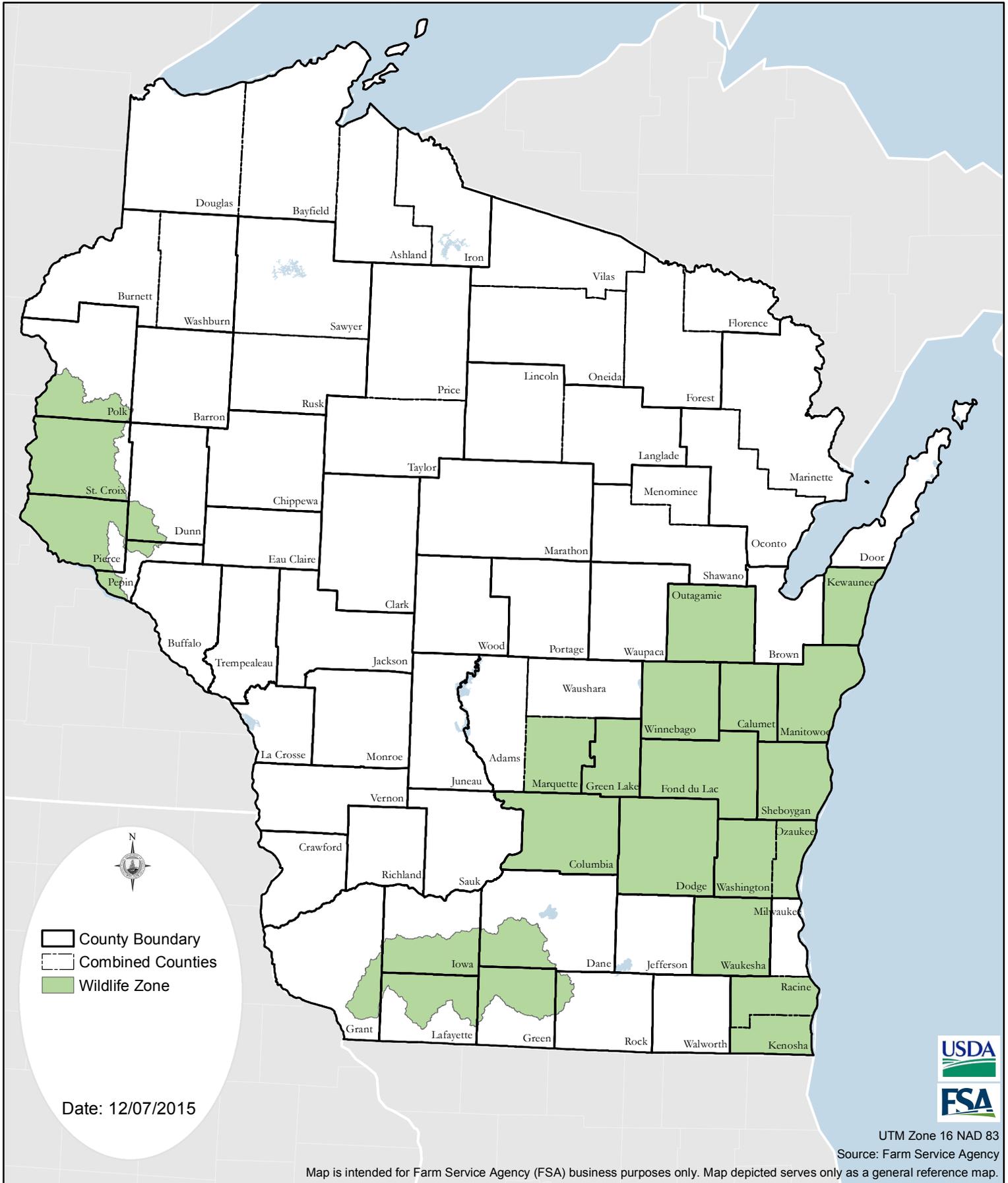
Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

General Signup 49 Conservation Priority Area



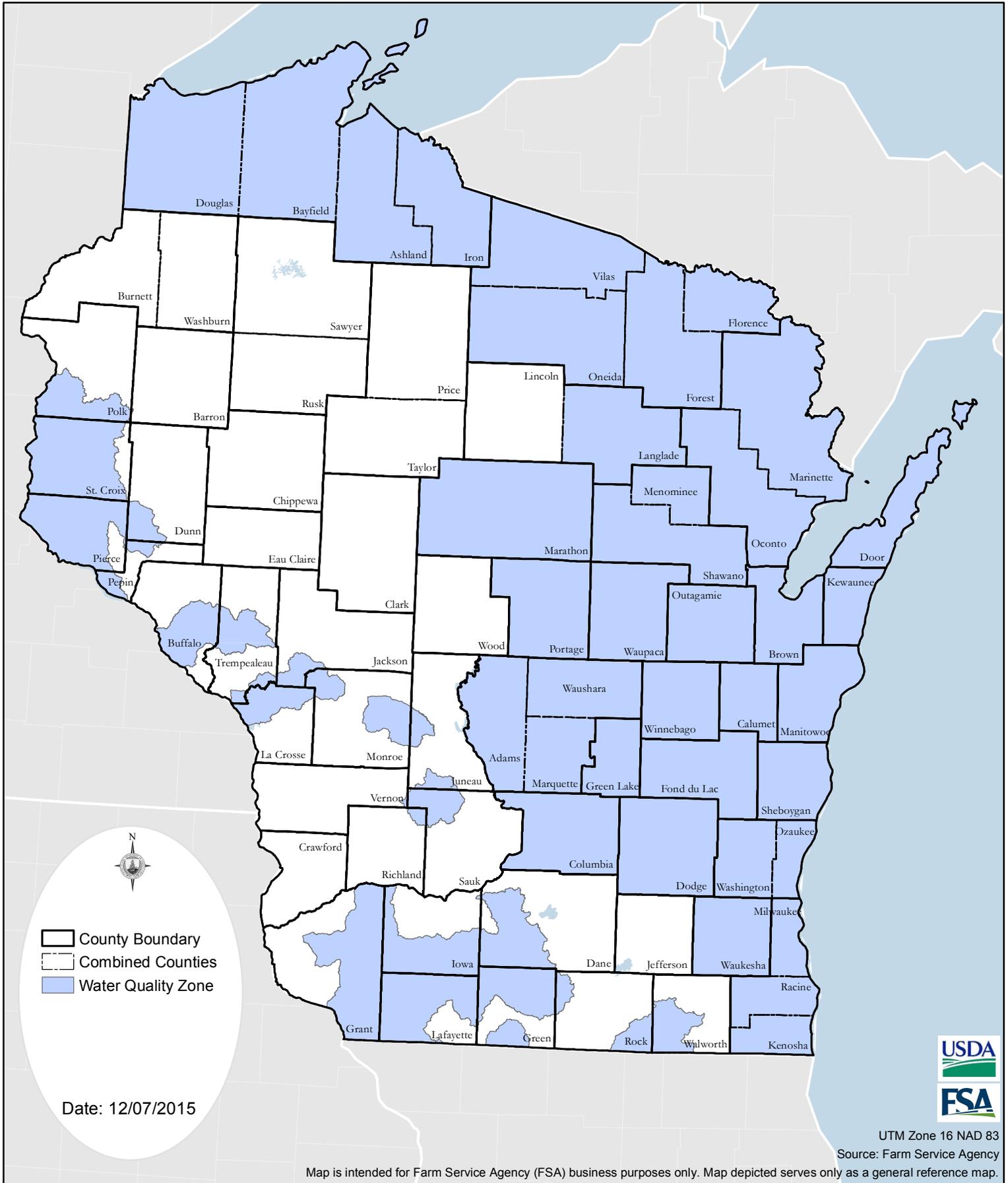
Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

General Signup 49 Wildlife Zone



Wisconsin Farm Service Agency

General Signup 49 Water Quality Zone



CRP-1 (Appendix)

(10-22-15)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Credit Corporation

APPENDIX TO FORM CRP-1, CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CONTRACT

NOTE: *This information collection is exempted from the Paperwork Reduction Act as specified in the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79, Title I, Subtitle F, Administration). The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided.*

1. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are applicable to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Contract:

- A. CRP contract or CRP-1** means the program documents including form CRP-1, the applicable contract appendix, conservation plan and the terms of any required easement, if applicable, entered into between CCC and the participant. Such contract shall set forth the terms and conditions for participation in the CRP and receipt of CRP payments.
- B. Current agricultural market value** for offer evaluation purposes means the amount in dollars per acre as determined by CCC to be the adjusted price at which the land placed in the CRP could be rented based on the average cash rental rate, or equivalent, per acre, and which is paid for dryland cropland at the time at which this contract is signed by the participant.
- C. Vegetative cover** means perennial or permanent grasses, legumes, forbs, and shrubs with a life span of 10 years or more, or trees.
- D.** All other words and phrases, unless the context of subject matter otherwise requires, shall have the meanings assigned to them in the regulations governing the Conservation Reserve Program which are found at 7 CFR Part 1410.

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

- A.** By signing the CRP contract, the participant, except in the case of persons qualifying solely as a tenant, certifies that such participant will control the land subject to the contract for the contract period and, if applicable, any easement period and shall, upon demand, provide evidence to CCC demonstrating that such participant will control the land for that period.
- B.** Land otherwise eligible for the CRP shall not be eligible, except as agreed otherwise, in writing, by CCC, if the land is subject to a deed or other restriction prohibiting the production of agricultural commodities or where a benefit has or will be obtained from a Federal agency in return for the participant's agreement not to produce such commodities on the land during the same time as the land would be enrolled in the CRP. By offering land for enrollment, the participant certifies as a condition for payment that no such restrictions apply to such land.

3. RESTRICTIONS ON PAYMENTS TO FOREIGN PERSONS

- A.** Any person who enters into this CRP contract or participates in such contract at any time who is not a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et. seq.) shall be ineligible to receive annual rental payments under this contract unless such person meets the requirements of 7 CFR Part 1400 which shall be applicable to this contract.
- B.** Persons succeeding to a CRP contract subject to a reduction in payment under this paragraph 3 for any preceding party shall not be eligible for payments during the contract period greater than those that could have been received by such preceding party.

4. AGREEMENT

A. The participant agrees:

- (1) That the applicable CRP-2 and CRP-1 and its addenda shall be considered an offer to enter into the Conservation Reserve Program on the terms specified on Form CRP-1 and its addenda. The offer, until revoked, may be accepted by CCC provided further, that liquidated damages may apply in the case of a revocation as specified elsewhere in this Appendix;
- (2) To place eligible land into the CRP for a period of 10 years, or as agreed to by CCC for a longer period not to exceed 15 years, from the effective date of the CRP contract executed by CCC;
- (3) To comply with the terms and conditions of the Conservation Plan;
- (4) To establish, maintain, and replace, as specified in the CRP contract, the practices agreed to in the Conservation Plan;
- (5) Not to harvest or sell, nor otherwise make commercial use of, trees or forage (except where authorized for CRP-Grasslands) or other cover on the CRP land including the shearing or shaping of trees for future use as Christmas trees (the participants may conduct pruning, thinning, stand improvement, or other activities consistent with customary forestry practices on land that is planted to trees); provided further, however, that CCC may, in its discretion and only in writing or by publication intended for a general allowance for CRP lands in particular States or regions, permit, in certain emergencies, certain commercial uses, as specified by CCC, which may be conditioned on a reduction in CRP payments otherwise payable under this contract;
- (6) Not to undertake any action on land under the participant's control which tends to defeat the purposes of this contract, as determined by CCC;
- (7) To annually certify crop and land use for the farm with the CCC on the appropriate form, accurately listing all land enrolled in CRP on the farm, not later than the final reporting date determined and announced by the Farm Service Agency, or successor agency;
- (8) To control on land subject to a CRP contract all weeds, insects, pests and other undesirable species to the extent necessary to ensure that the establishment and maintenance of the approved cover is adequately protected and to provide such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land, taking into consideration water quality, wildlife and other factors;
- (9) Not to disturb the acreage under contract during the primary nesting and brood rearing season for wildlife, except as approved by CCC;
- (10) To annually file required forms as requested by CCC for payment limitation determinations. For purposes of the annual payment limitation for each participant, Signing Incentive Payments (SIP) and Practice Incentive Payments (PIP) shall be attributed towards such annual limitation in the following ways: 1) SIP, for purposes of this contract, shall be attributed to the Fiscal Year in which the participants CRP contract was approved by CCC; and 2) PIP, for purposes of this contract, shall be attributed to the Fiscal Year in which the participant completed the practice associated with that PIP, as evidenced by the participants signature date on Form AD-245 or FSA-848B, and as otherwise determined by CCC.
- (11) To file applicable forms required by CCC for Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) determinations;
- (12) That it is understood any payment or portion thereof due any participant will be made by CCC without regard to any question of title under State law, and without regard to any claim or lien which may be asserted by a creditor, except agencies of the U. S. Government. Offsets for debts owed to agencies of the U. S. Government shall be made prior to making any payments to participants or their assignees.
- (13) To perform certain periodic management activities described in the conservation plan to maintain the approved cover such as light discing, burning, etc.

B. CCC agrees, subject to the availability of funds:

- (1) To share the cost with owners and operators of establishing an eligible practice, or an identified unit thereof, agreed to in the Conservation Plan as described herein, except that, in no case may the share of CCC exceed an amount equal to 50 percent of the price at which the land placed in the CRP could be sold for use as farmland at the time at which this contract is signed by the participant, unless the CCC otherwise approves such amount, provided further, that such approval must specifically reference the particular land placed in the CRP under this contract;
- (2) To pay the agreed-upon annual rental payment, including any incentive payment, based upon the shares to which the parties have agreed as set forth on Form CRP-1 for a period of years not in excess of the contract period;
- (3) To pay to the participant, to the extent required by CCC regulations, an interest penalty on cost- share payments, incentive payments, and all annual rental payments not made by the date, as determined by CCC, that the payment is due;
- (4) To make annual rental payments after October 1 of each year of the contract period.

5. CONSERVATION PLAN**A.** Subject to the approval of CCC, the Conservation Plan will include some or all of the following information and requirements:

- (1) The vegetative or water cover to be established on the CRP land;
- (2) A tree planting plan, developed in cooperation with the Forest Service, if trees are to be established as the vegetative cover on the CRP land;
- (3) A schedule of completion dates for establishment of the cover on the CRP land;
- (4) The level of environmental benefits which must be attained on the CRP land;
- (5) Any other practices required for the establishment or maintenance of the cover on the CRP land including weed, insect, pest, and other controls of undesirable species, and such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land as determined appropriate by CCC, taking into consideration the needs of water quality, wildlife concerns, and other factors.
- (6) The acreage will not be disturbed during the primary nesting season for wildlife as determined by CCC.
- (7) Management activities authorized by paragraph 6.

B. By signing the Conservation Plan, the participant agrees to implement the practices specified in such Conservation Plan on the CRP land even if such practices differ from those listed on Form CRP-1.**6. MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Subject to the approval of CCC, the Conservation Plan may include managed grazing or harvesting of the cover on the CRP land, including biomass, as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land, as determined appropriate by CCC, taking into consideration the needs of the vegetative cover, wildlife concerns, and other factors. Managed grazing or harvesting may be conditioned on a reduction in CRP payments otherwise payable under this contract, as determined by CCC.

7. COST-SHARE PAYMENTS

- A.** Subject to the availability of funds, cost-share payments shall be made available upon a determination by CCC that an eligible practice, or an identifiable unit thereof, has been established in compliance with the conservation plan and with appropriate standards and specifications.
- B.** CCC will not make cost-share payments in excess of 50 percent of the actual or average cost of establishing the eligible practice specified in the Conservation Plan as determined by CCC. It is understood that all cost-shares from all sources must be reported to CCC and that a reduction in the CCC cost-share may be made if there are other cost-shares received. Such reductions will be made to the extent required or allowed by the program regulations.
- C.** Except as otherwise provided for in program regulations, cost-share assistance may be made available under the CRP only for the establishment or installation of an eligible practice. In order to receive cost-share assistance, the participant, upon completion of the practice, must file Form AD-245 or similar form approved by CCC, for approval by CCC.

8. PROVISIONS RELATING TO TENANTS AND LANDLORDS

- A.** Payments shall not be paid under this CRP contract if CCC determines that:
 - (1) The landlord or operator has:
 - (a) when the acreage offered is not enrolled in the CRP at the time of signup:
 - (i) not provided tenants who have an interest in the acreage being offered at the time of signup an opportunity to participate in the benefits of the program;
 - (ii) reduced the number of tenants on the farm as a result of or in anticipation of enrollment in the CRP.
 - (b) when the acreage offered is enrolled in the CRP at the time of signup, not provided tenants with an interest in the CRP contract acreage an opportunity to participate in the benefits of the program if:
 - (i) the tenants are otherwise involved in farming other acreage, as determined by CCC, on the farm at the time of signup; or
 - (ii) the tenants have an interest in the acreage being offered on the effective date of the new CRP-1.
 - (2) The landlord or operator has deprived any tenant of any benefits to which such tenant would otherwise be entitled.
 - (3) If any such conditions as identified in (1) and (2) occur or are discovered after payments have been made, all or any part of the payments, as determined by CCC, must be refunded with interest and no further payments shall be made.
- B.** After this CRP contract is approved, the operator or tenant may, with the approval of CCC, be replaced for purposes of the CRP contract and for payments to be made under the contract if such tenant or operator, as determined by CCC:
 - (1) terminates their tenancy voluntarily or for some reason other than being forced to terminate their tenancy by the landowner or operator in anticipation as, or because of, participation in the program;
 - (2) fails to maintain tenancy, as determined by CCC, throughout the CRP contract period;
 - (3) files for bankruptcy and the trustee or debtor in possession fails to affirm this CRP contract;
 - (4) dies during the term of this CRP contract and the administrator of the operator or tenant's estate (or a similar person with authority to administer the affairs of the operator or tenant) fails to succeed to this contract within the time required by CCC; or
 - (5) was removed for cause, as determined by CCC.

- C. The removal of an operator or tenant from the agreement shall not release the operator or tenant from liabilities for actions arising before such removal.

9. ERRONEOUS REPRESENTATION AND SCHEME AND DEVICE

- A. A participant who is determined to have erroneously represented any fact affecting a determination with respect to this CRP contract and the regulations applicable to this CRP contract, adopted any scheme or device which tends to defeat the purposes of this CRP contract, or made any fraudulent representation with respect to this contract will not be entitled to payments or any other benefits made in accordance with this CRP contract and the participant must refund to CCC all payments received by such participant, plus interest and liquidated damages thereon, with respect to the CRP contract. Such liquidated damages will be determined in accordance with paragraph 10 of this Appendix.
- B. Unless CCC regulations provide otherwise, refunds determined to be due and owing to CCC in accordance with this CRP contract will bear interest at the rate which CCC was required to pay for its borrowings from the United States Treasury on the date of the disbursement by CCC of the monies to be refunded. Interest will accrue from the date of such disbursement by CCC.
- C. The remedies provided under paragraph 9A of this Appendix shall be applicable in addition to any remedies under criminal and civil fraud statutes, including 18 U.S.C. 268, 287, 371, 641, 1001; 15 U.S.C. 714m; and 31 U.S.C. 3729, or any other remedy available under law.

10. LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

It is mutually agreed that in the event the CRP contract is breached by the participant, the CCC will suffer substantial damages which may not be possible to quantify with certainty. Therefore, in addition to the refund of payments received plus interest due, for breach of contract prescribed in this contract, the participant agrees to pay an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying: (1) 25 percent of the rental payment rate per acre on Form CRP-1 by, (2) the number of acres that are the subject of the CRP contract. Such amount shall be due as liquidated damages in addition to such other damages or amounts as may be due, and not as a penalty.

11. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT

CCC agrees that, if any changes of any terms and conditions of this CRP contract, including changes necessary to reconcile the practices listed on the CRP-1 to those specified in the conservation plan, become necessary prior to the date that this contract is approved on behalf of CCC, CCC will notify the persons signing the CRP-1 of such change and such person will be given 10 days from the date of notification in which to agree to the revised terms and conditions or to withdraw from the offer. The participant agrees to notify the CCC of an intention to withdraw from the offer within 10 days from the date of the issuance of such notice and further agrees that failure to notify the CCC will constitute agreement to the revised terms and conditions.

12. CORRECTIONS

CCC reserves the right to correct all errors arising from entering data or computations in the contract.

13. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT; JOINT LIABILITY

If a participant fails to carry out the terms and conditions of this CRP contract but CCC determines that such failure does not warrant termination of this CRP contract, CCC may require such participant to refund, with interest, payments received under this CRP contract, or require the participant to accept such adjustments in the subsequent payment as are determined to be appropriate by CCC. Participants that sign the CRP-1 with zero percent interest in the annual rental payment shall not be held responsible for contract compliance.

14. CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS

- A.** CCC may modify this contract to add, or substitute certain practices when:
- (1) The installed practice failed to adequately control erosion through no fault of the participants;
 - (2) The installed measure has deteriorated because of conditions beyond the control of the participants; or
 - (3) Another practice will achieve at least the same level of environmental benefits.
- B.** Concurrence of NRCS and the conservation district may be obtained by CCC when modifications to this contract involve a technical aspect of a participant's Conservation Plan.

15. EFFECTIVE DATE AND CHANGES TO CONTRACT

- A.** The CRP contract is effective when, as determined by CCC, it has been signed by the participants and an authorized representative of CCC. Except as otherwise determined by CCC, as permitted by regulations or other law, the CRP contract may not be revoked or revised unless by mutual agreement between the parties. If, after the effective date of this contract, CCC determines that the offered acreage was erroneously enrolled or otherwise ineligible for enrollment, CCC may terminate the contract. Such termination shall not effect payments already made to the participants as of the time of termination. Within the dates established by CCC, the CRP contract must be signed by all required participants.
- B.** In the event that a statute is enacted during the period of this CRP contract which would materially change the terms and conditions of this CRP contract, the CCC may require the participants to elect between acceptance of modifications in this CRP contract consistent with the provisions of such statute or termination of this CRP contract.

16. TRANSFER OF LAND

- A.** If a new owner or operator purchases or obtains the right and interest in, or right to occupancy of, the land subject to this contract, such new owner or operator, upon the approval of CCC, may become a participant to a new CRP contract under the same terms and conditions with CCC covering such transferred land;
- B.** With respect to the transferred land, if the new owner or operator becomes a successor to the existing CRP contract, the new owner or operator shall assume all obligations under such contract of the previous participant;
- C.** If the new owner or operator becomes a successor to a CRP contract with CCC:
- (1) Cost-share payments shall be made to the participant who established the practice; and
 - (2) Annual rental payments to be paid during the fiscal year when the land was transferred shall be divided in an equitable manner, as determined by CCC.
- D.** A new owner or operator will not be eligible to succeed to the CRP contract or receive payments under the contract if a previous participant in the contract maintains or acquires any interest of any kind in the property including, but not limited to, present, future, or conditional interests, or reversionary interests, or any option with respect to the property. In addition, unless otherwise approved in writing by CCC for the particular contract, a new owner or operator will not be eligible to succeed to the CRP contract, if a lender has or will obtain an option to purchase the property, any other right of occupancy, or share in the equity in the property which is not conditional on a foreclosure or other remedy for nonpayment of debt or on a voluntary transfer by the person seeking to succeed to the CRP contract.

- E. The participant certifies that no person has, or will, obtain an interest in the property that would render the new owner or operator to be ineligible to succeed to the CRP contract under the provisions of this paragraph. The existence or acquisition of such an interest by another person shall be considered a breach of the contract for which the CCC may terminate the contract and enforce the remedies provided in this Appendix.
- F. If a participant transfers all or part of the right and interest in, or right to occupancy of, the CRP land and the new owner or operator does not become a successor to such contract within 60 days, or such other time as determined appropriate by CCC, of such transfer, such contract will be terminated with respect to the affected portion of such land and the original participant must:
- (1) Forfeit all rights to any future payments with respect to such acreage;
 - (2) Refund all or part of the payments made with respect to such contract plus interest thereon, as determined by CCC; and
 - (3) Pay liquidated damages to CCC as specified in paragraph 10 of this Appendix.

17. REGULATIONS TO PREVAIL

The regulations in 7 CFR Part 1410 for the CRP are incorporated herein. In the event of a conflict between these regulations and the terms of this Appendix, the provisions of the regulations will prevail.

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If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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.

In some cases, the acceptance of the contract was dependent on the Environmental Benefit Index (EBI) score which awarded points based on the type of cover you agreed to establish and/or maintain. Contact your local FSA office prior to disturbing or altering the cover on a CRP field.

Utilize the information from this form and the weed control references from Wisconsin NRCS Job Sheet 397, Conservation Cover Maintenance, pages 1-4, to manage weeds on CRP cover.

PURPOSE

Once established, CRP cover must be managed to retain forbs and/or legumes in the stand. In the absence of disturbance, the composition of grassland communities will change over several years through normal plant succession. The vegetative structure changes as annual forbs and legumes are replaced by perennial grasses, and eventually, woody plants. Changes also occur structurally as litter accumulates and vegetation density increases. These changes may lead to a decline in diversity and reduced wildlife benefits.

COMMON USES AND RESTRICTIONS

Primary Nesting Season

To help prevent injury to nesting and fledgling birds, **CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season which is currently May 15th to August 1st**. However, spot clipping or spot spraying to control undesirable weeds may be authorized on a case by case basis during the primary nesting season with prior approval from the local FSA County Committee.

Common Permitted Uses

Haying/Grazing: Certain practices and acres enrolled in CRP may be eligible for managed haying or grazing. Managed haying or grazing can help to reduce weed pressure and reduce encroachment of woody species. Managed haying or grazing may not be authorized for all acres and prior approval must be received from FSA. If you are interested in haying or grazing your CRP land, contact FSA to determine if your land is eligible and what other restrictions may apply.

Forestry Activities: For CRP land enrolled in trees, forestry activities such as pruning and/or thinning may be allowed if prescribed by a DNR Forester. Thinning is only allowed for removal of originally planted trees and cannot be used to remove invasive woody plants. If you are interested in pruning or thinning, authorization must be received from FSA prior to conducting activity.

Recreational Hunting: CRP participants may lease hunting rights, charge fees for access to hunters, or conduct other similar hunting operations on CRP acreage if this activity occurs during the normal hunting season established by state laws. Note: Boundary fences that would limit wildlife access to or from the CRP acreage are not allowed.

Additional Restrictions/Prohibited Uses

Roads and Lanes: CRP acreage cannot be used as a lane or road under any circumstances. Limited use of field margins is allowed during planting, cultivating, or harvesting of crops in an adjacent field.

Storing Objects on CRP: CRP participants are not allowed to place or store objects such as machinery, hay bales, permanent deer stands, and other similar items on land enrolled in CRP. Exception: Beehives may be present on CRP acreage.

Mowing: Annual mowing of the entire field for aesthetic or generic weed control purposes is not allowed. Spot mowing for weed control is allowed; however, any spot mowing or spraying conducted between May 15th to August 1st, must be approved in advance by the FSA County Committee.

Prescribed Burning: Before conducting a prescribed burn on CRP land, a plan must be reviewed and approved by NRCS.

CRP COVER UNDESIRABLE / AGGRESSIVE PLANT SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name
Chinese Lespedeza ¹	Lespedeza Sericea
Crown Vetch	Coronilla Varia
Giant Hogweed ¹	Heracleum Mantegazzianum
Hill Mustard ¹	Bunias Orientalis
Japanese Knotweed ¹	Polygonum Cuspidatum
Poison Hemlock ¹	Conium Maculatum
Teasel: Cutleaf and Common	Dipsacus Laciniatus and Fullonum
Wild Chervil ¹	Anthriscus Sylvestris
Field Bindweed	Convolvulus Arvensis
Garlic Mustard	Alliaria Petiolata
Knapweeds	Centaurea sp.
Purple Loosestrife ²	Lythrum Salicaria
Reed Grass, Common	Phragmites Australis
Spurge: Leafy and Cypress	Euphorbia Esula and Cyparissias
Thistle: Canada and Marsh	Cirsium Arvense and Palustre
Thistle: Musk and Plumeless	Carduus Nutans and Acanthoides
Wild Parsnip	Pastinaca Sativa

¹ Early detection required

² Poorly, somewhat poorly drained soils

These undesirable/aggressive plants and any woody vegetation not established as a part of the CRP contract can spread quickly. A control strategy must be immediately developed using the guidance and references found in Wisconsin NRCS Job Sheet 397, Conservation Cover Maintenance, pages 1-4 and implemented if these aggressive/undesirable plants or non-contract woody vegetation are present on a CRP field.

CONSERVATION COVER MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

This job sheet provides guidance for management of Conservation Cover that has been certified as established and is now being maintained. Maintaining the desired cover will provide high quality wildlife habitat. Woody species need to be controlled for all grassland covers that contain grasses, forbs and/or legumes.

STATE AND LOCAL LAWS

To help prevent the spread of undesirable plants, the state of Wisconsin has established several laws that require control or restrict the spread of noxious or invasive species. As a private landowner, you may be required to comply with any laws that regulate noxious, invasive, or other undesirable species.

- a. **Noxious Weed Law:** The Noxious Weed Law gives authority to local governments to enforce the control of weeds declared legally noxious in Wisconsin. There are three (3) perennial weeds listed as noxious which include Canada thistle, field bindweed, and leafy spurge. In addition to these species, local governments can also declare other species as noxious. Under the law, everyone must destroy all noxious weeds on all lands for which the person owns, occupies, or controls.
- b. **Nuisance Weed Law:** The Nuisance Weed Law prohibits selling, distributing, or planting any non-native member of the genus *Lythrum* (purple loosestrife or hybrids thereof and multiflora rose.)
- c. **Chapter NR40 Invasive Species Rule:** The Invasive Species Rule classifies invasive species as restricted or prohibited and makes certain activities illegal for these species without a permit.
 1. Prohibited species are plants that are not in the state or in limited areas and eradication and control is still feasible. No one can transport, possess, transfer, or introduce these species without a permit. Control is required by law.
 2. Restricted species are already established in the state and complete eradication is not feasible. Possession of these plants is allowed; however, no one can transport, transfer, or introduce without a permit. Control is recommended but not required.

Other Laws: County and local governments have the ability to designate new noxious or invasive weeds at the local level and also can enforce noxious weed laws within their boundaries. Contact your local government for information regarding local laws or ordinances that may apply.

CONTROL OF UNDESIRABLE WEEDS AND WOODY PLANTS

The amount of maintenance needed for your planting will depend on a number of different factors, including prior management of the field and the concentration of weed seed sources on adjacent land. Some fields will require a great deal of effort each year, and the condition of the cover should be evaluated at least annually.

Primary Nesting Season

To help prevent injury to nesting and fledgling birds, avoid disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season which is general defined as May 15th to August 1st.



REFERENCES

The following websites provide additional information regarding plant identification and control methods for weeds and woody species. Your local NRCS office can also provide additional assistance with identification and suggestions for control.

1. UW Extension, Weed Identification and Management: <http://weedid.wisc.edu/index.php>
2. UW Extension, The Learning Store: Herbicide Effectiveness on Invasive Plants in Wisconsin: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Herbicide-Effectiveness-on-Invasive-Plants-in-Wisconsin2013--P1376.aspx>
3. UW Madison Weed Science, Conservation Reserve Program (Publication): <http://fyi.uwex.edu/weedsci/>
4. UW Stevens Point Freckman Herbarium: <http://wisplants.uwsp.edu/VascularPlants.html>
5. Midwest Invasive Plant Network: <http://mipn.org/control.html>
6. USDA NRCS Plants Database: <http://plants.usda.gov/>
7. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Invasive Species Control: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/control.html>
8. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Herbicides for Forest Management: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Herbicides.html>

WEED CONTROL STRATEGIES

Weed control options and strategies will vary depending on the type of planting (introduced or native herbaceous species, trees/shrubs, etc.) and weeds/woody species present in the stand. Fields should be assessed early in the growing season to identify emerging weed problems. Multiple evaluations of the fields are highly recommended to determine what weed species are present and if control will be necessary.

Mechanical Control

Mowing can be utilized to prevent weeds from producing viable seed and to reduce the competition for light between weeds and the Conservation Cover seeding. Mowing is most effective for controlling annual and biennial weeds in areas with large infestations where terrain does not create safety issues. For perennial weeds, a combination of mechanical methods and herbicide treatment is often needed for effective control. Use a mower that provides uniform distribution of mowed plant material across the field surface to reduce the chance of smothering plants. The clipping height necessary to control weeds will vary based on the type of weeds present and the type of stand. For native grasses/forbs, a cutting height of 7" or higher is generally recommended. Introduced grasses/legumes can often tolerate a lower cutting height (typically 4-6"). If seeds have already developed, avoid mowing to limit the spread of weed seeds. Mowing plants after seed matures can result in rapid spreading of the weed problem.

Woody species can also be controlled by mechanical methods using a mower, shredder, shear, etc. Most brush mowers can handle seedlings and saplings less than 3" diameter; however, this will vary depending on manufacturer and design of the mower. Larger brush often involves larger, heavy-duty type mowers specifically made for woody species. Shears, grubbers, and brush saws can also be used to effectively control larger species. Measures to control woody species will vary if effectiveness from species to species. Oaks,



maples, black cherry, mulberry, honey locust, and boxelder will usually resprout from the stump if cut. Ash, hickory, sycamore, alder, willow, and elm also resprout when cut as young saplings or small trees. To limit resprouting, consider cutting in late summer.

Herbicides

Herbicides can provide effective control of many weeds in a timely and cost-effective manner. If the fields contain a mixture of desirable grasses and forbs/legumes, spraying the entire field is often not feasible without damaging desirable components. In these situations, consider spot spraying areas with the heaviest infestation of weeds. Spray targeted weeds with herbicides at the appropriate time and application rate as indicated on the label. **Caution: A herbicide application can damage a highly diverse cover if not properly planned and applied.** Be sure to follow all label instructions prior to using herbicides.

Using herbicides for control of woody species is often more effective and requires less labor than mechanical means especially if the infestation is over a large area. For larger species, it may be desirable to cut any brush over 6 feet tall and treat any regrowth with herbicide. Common herbicide application methods can include foliar applications, basal sprays, cut-stump treatments, and hack-n-squirt. Refer to the references section for more information on treatment methods.

Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning can be an effective maintenance strategy for conservation cover types that are dominated by native warm-season plants. Prescribed burning can effectively reduce accumulations of dead plant material, stimulate growth of warm season plant species, and suppress many weeds and introduced cool season species. Some sites may not be suitable for prescribed burning due to proximity to land uses that could be impacted by the burn.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Clean equipment prior to moving out of fields with known noxious weeds or invasive plant species to avoid spreading seed.
- Use discretion when operating heavy equipment if soil conditions are wet to avoid soil compaction and damage to desirable vegetation.
- Manual control techniques such as hand-pulling, digging, or smothering may be feasible for small populations or in areas where chemicals or mechanical equipment cannot be used. Properly bag and dispose of plants that have already gone to seed to prevent future spread.
- Contact with some plants, such as wild parsnip, stinging nettle, and poison ivy, can cause skin irritation, burns, or blisters. Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves, long pants, and gloves when handling.
- If using herbicides, be aware of current weather conditions and surrounding vegetation. Avoid spraying when drift is likely to occur and affect surrounding non-targeted plants.



CRP COVER UNDESIRABLE / AGGRESSIVE PLANT SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name
Chinese Lespedeza ¹	lespedeza sericea
Crown Vetch	coronilla varia
Giant Hogweed ¹	heracleum mantegazzianum
Hill Mustard ¹	bunias orientalis
Japanese Knotweed ¹	polygonum cuspidatum
Poison Hemlock ¹	conium maculatum
Teasel: Cutleaf and Common	dipsacus laciniatus and fullonum
Wild Chervil ¹	anthriscus sylvestris
Field Bindweed	convolvulus arvensis
Garlic Mustard	alliaria petiolata
Knapweeds	centaurea sp.
Purple Loosestrife ²	lythrum salicaria
Reed Grass, Common	phragmites australis
Spurge: Leafy and Cypress	euphorbia esula and cyparissias
Thistle: Canada and Marsh	cirsium arvense and palustre
Thistle: Musk and Plumeless	carduus nutans and acanthoides
Wild Parsnip	pastinaca sativa

¹ Early detection required

² Poorly, somewhat poorly drained soils

Undesirable/aggressive plants and woody vegetation not established as a part of a Conservation Cover planting can spread quickly. A control strategy should be developed using this job sheet and immediately implemented when the undesirable/aggressive plants listed above and/or undesirable woody vegetation are present within the Conservation Cover.



CONSERVATION COVER UNDESIRABLE / AGGRESSIVE PLANT SPECIES EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Date of Evaluation: _____

Conservation Cover Type: _____

Evaluator Name: _____

Field No.:		
Identified Undesirable Aggressive Plant Species (Common Name)	Percent of Weed Leaf Area in the Canopy Cover	Weed Control Strategy

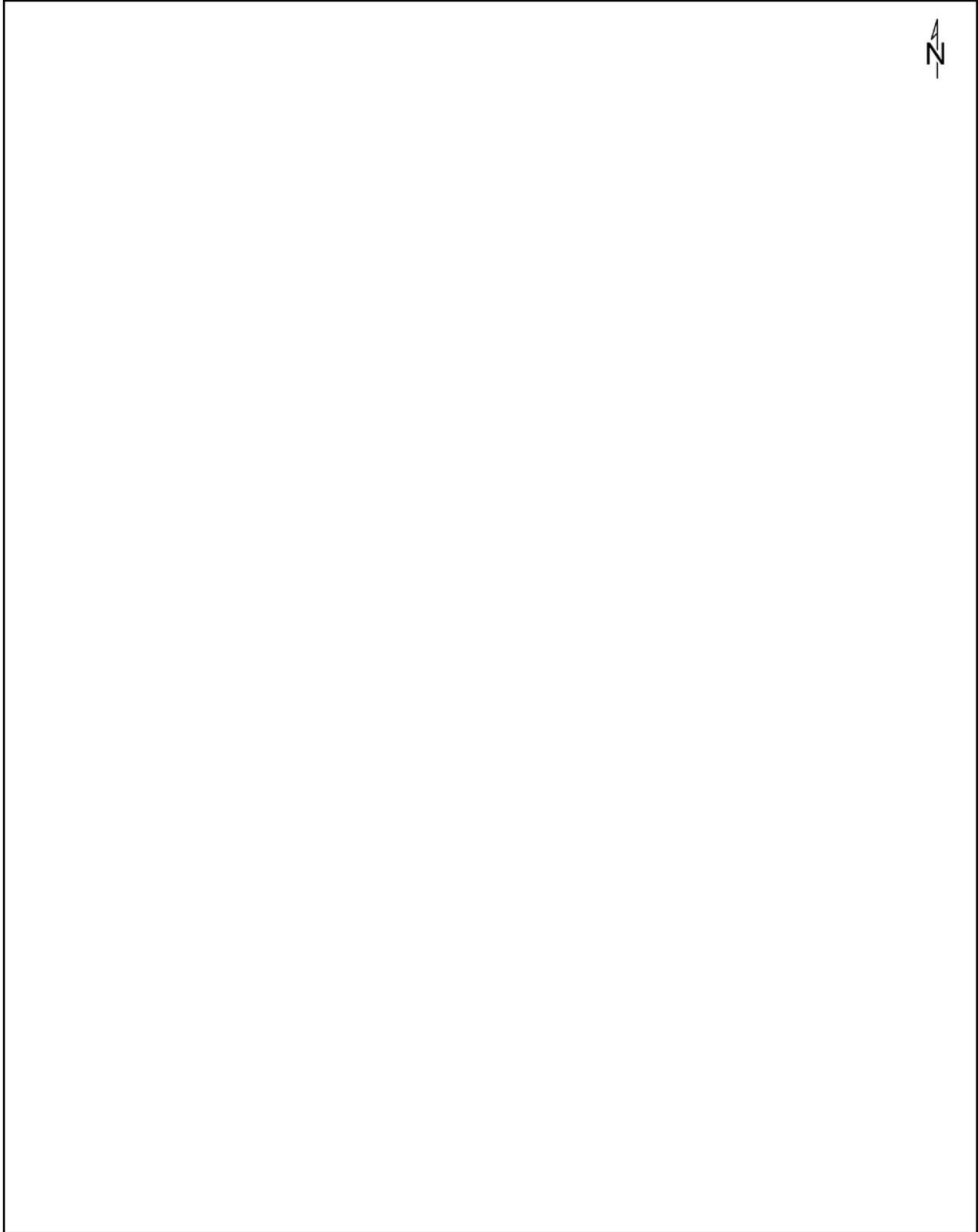
Field No.:		
Identified Undesirable Aggressive Plant Species (Common Name)	Percent of Weed Leaf Area in the Canopy Cover	Weed Control Strategy

Field No.:		
Identified Undesirable Aggressive Plant Species (Common Name)	Percent of Weed Leaf Area in the Canopy Cover	Weed Control Strategy

Note: Provide a map documenting the location of undesirable/aggressive plant patches in each field



CONSERVATION COVER FIELD LOCATION MAP



Summary of Practices Available for Signup 49

All required covers must be installed by the producer within 12 months of the effective date. If cover is not installed within prescribed time period, payment reductions or contract termination with assessment of refunds and liquidated damages can result. Very limited, case by case, exceptions may apply. It is extremely important that you offer a cover that you can be certain you have the ability to install by the date required. Only you are responsible for carrying out the program requirements. You cannot rely solely on assistance from other agencies or entities for installing the required practices. If the practices are not installed timely, regardless of the reason or who you hired to do the work, you will be held responsible.

CP1, Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes (including existing stands)

Commonly known as “Cool Season Grass Planting”. Involves seeding mixes that include species like Timothy, Smooth Bromegrass, Alfalfa, Orchardgrass, and others. Can be seeded with normal seeding equipment. EBI score in factor N1a will be based on the specific mix you agree to plant and can be 10 or 40 points. The maximum point score of 50 points in factor N1a of the EBI is not available with this practice. Contract length must be 10 years. Required management practices apply to this practice.

CP2, Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses (including existing stands)

Commonly known as “Warm Season Grass Planting”. Involves seeding mixes that include species like Switchgrass, Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, Black-eyed Susan, Yellow Coneflower, and others. Seeding will require special equipment that may be difficult to obtain and seed can become very expensive. These seedings can also be difficult to establish and you may be required to complete activities such as mowing or herbicide treatments after planting that may not be cost-shared. The EBI score in factor N1a will be based on the specific mix you agree to plant and can be 20 or 50 points. Contract length must be 10 years. Required management practices apply to this practice.

CP3, Tree Planting (including existing softwood stands)

Commonly known as “Conifer/Pine Planting”. Involves planting softwood (conifer) trees. Only certain species are authorized. Planting will be at a minimum density of 750 trees per acre, to a maximum density of 1000 trees per acre. The EBI score in factor N1a can be 10 or 50 points, depending on the density and arrangement of trees in the plantation. Tree plantations can be difficult to establish and you may be required to complete activities such as mowing or herbicide treatments after planting that may not be cost-shared. You may be required to plant multiple times if tree failure occurs. These plantations may not be planted as Christmas Trees. Contract length must be 10 years.

CP3A, Hardwood Tree Planting (including existing hardwood stands)

Involves planting hardwood trees. Only certain species are authorized. Planting may include up to 50% conifers usually prescribed to be planted in every other row as trainer trees to encourage straight growth of hardwoods. The EBI score in factor N1a can be 10, 20, 30, or 50 and will be based on the type of trees planted. Tree plantations can be difficult to establish and you may be required to complete activities such as mowing or herbicide treatments after planting that may not be cost-shared. You may be required to plant multiple times if tree failure occurs. Contract length can be anywhere from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of 15 years, at your choice.

CP4B, Permanent Wildlife Habitat (Corridors) (including existing stands)

This practice is eligible on land located between two areas of existing wildlife habitat. The practice can be from 1 to 3 chains in width (66 to 198 feet) and will consist of planting a mixture of trees and/or shrubs and grasses planted in a prescribed arrangement. Only specific species of trees, shrubs, and grasses are allowed. The EBI score in factor N1a will be 40 or 50 points, depending on the mix you agree to plant. Contract length can be anywhere from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of 15 years, at your choice.

CP4D, Permanent Wildlife Habitat (including existing stands)

This practice is eligible on any land suited for wildlife habitat with no size restrictions. The practice will consist of planting a mixture of trees and/or shrubs and grasses planted in a prescribed arrangement. Only specific species of trees, shrubs, and grasses are allowed. The EBI score in factor N1a will be 40 or 50 points, depending on the mix you agree to plant. Contract length must be 10 years.

CP12, Wildlife Food Plot

This practice is offered for use in association with some other cover practice to be installed on the land. It involves the annual planting of wildlife food such as corn, sorghum, buckwheat, and others. The acreage allowed to be devoted to this practice is limited. No cost-sharing is provided for the annual planting of the site. The EBI score in factor N1b will be 5 points and the food plot will be required for the life of the contract. Total acreage of food plots may not exceed 10% of the offered acreage on that field with a maximum of 5 acres per field. The contract length must correspond with the contract length of the other cover practices on the contract.

CP25, Restoration of Rare and Declining Wildlife Habitat (including existing stands)

The habitat types authorized for this practice in Wisconsin are Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna. The acres devoted to this practice must be a minimum of 5 acres. Species planted include warm season grasses and forbs as described in practice CP2, but the practice requires that more species be planted in a mix. Seeding will require special equipment that may be difficult to obtain and seed can become very expensive, even more than the CP2 practice due to the requirement to seed more species. These seedings can also be difficult to establish and you may be required to complete activities such as mowing or herbicide treatments after planting that may not be cost-shared. The EBI score in factor N1a will be 50 points. Contract length can be anywhere from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of 15 years, at your choice. Required management practices apply to this practice.

CP42, Pollinator Habitat – This additional wildlife scoring opportunity seeks to encourage the planting of pollinator friendly habitat. 20 points are awarded in factor N1b. Total size of these plantings must be a minimum of 1 acre or 10% of the offered acreage, whichever is larger. Configuration of planting must be patches at least .5 acres and 20 feet in width. The species planted must be at least 9 species of pollinator friendly shrubs, legumes, and wildflowers with three in bloom for each season, spring, summer, and fall. These plantings must be maintained for the life of the contract and could be expensive to install.

Note: Certain practices also provide higher point scores in other factors of the EBI formula such as Enduring Benefits and Carbon Sequestration.

CP-1 Permanent Introduced Grasses & Legumes

N1a Scoring

CP1 Permanent introduced grasses and legumes		
MIX #	Species	Points
N/A	Existing stands with 1 or 2 species of introduced grasses and/or legumes	10
1	Timothy 2#, Smooth bromegrass 3#, Alfalfa 6#	10
2	Timothy 2#, Orchardgrass 3#, Red Clover 5#	10
3	Timothy 2#, Orchardgrass 3#, Alfalfa 6#	10
4	Timothy 2#, Smooth bromegrass 3#, Red clover 5#	10
5	Timothy 2#, Smooth bromegrass 2#, Red clover 5#, Orchardgrass 1#	40
6	Timothy 2#, Orchardgrass 1#, Red clover 5#, Red top 1#, Ladino 1/2#	40
7	Timothy 2#, Orchardgrass 1#, Alfalfa 6#, Red top 2#	40
8	Kentucky bluegrass 2#, Red top 1#, Orchardgrass 1#, Red clover 5#	40
N/A	Existing stand of at least 3 introduced grasses and 1 forb	40

- Seeding Rates are in pounds of Pure Live Seed per acre.

CP-1 Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses & Legumes (Exhibit 11 – page 1)

Mixture Number	Species	Current Points
1	Timothy 2#, Smooth Bromegrass 3#, Alfalfa 6#	10
2	Timothy 2#, Orchardgrass 3#, Red Clover 5#	10
3	Timothy 2#, Orchardgrass 3#, Alfalfa 6#	10
4	Timothy 2#, Smooth Bromegrass 3#, Red Clover 5#	10
5	Timothy 2#, Smooth Bromegrass 2#, Orchard 1#, Red Clover 5#,	40
6	Timothy 2#, , Orchardgrass 1#, Red Top 1#, Red Clover 5#, Ladino ½#	40
7	Timothy 2#, Orchardgrass 1#, Red Top 2#, Alfalfa 6#	40
8	Kentucky Blue 2#, Red Top 1#, Orchard Grass 1#, Red Clover 5#	40

CP-1 Permanent Introduced Grasses & Legumes - Pictures





How to Establish and Maintain Introduced Grasses and Legumes Wisconsin Job Sheet 134

Landowner: _____ Tract: _____

If you are receiving financial assistance for completing this planting, refer to your agreement for any additional requirements or restrictions.

Purpose

This job sheet describes methods to establish and maintain introduced grasses and legumes and applies to the following practice:

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

Introduced grasses and legumes can be used to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion.
- Enhance pollinator and wildlife habitat.
- Improve forage production and livestock health.
- Improve soil, water, and air quality.

For additional recommendations, refer to Wisconsin NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 6, Establishing and Maintaining Introduced Grasses and Legumes, located at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/technical/?cid=nrcs142p2_020841



Species Selection and Seed Quality

Species and cultivars must be selected based upon the adaptation to site conditions, including appropriate moisture regime or forage suitability group, climatic conditions, soil conditions, and landscape position.

1. Select species based on growth characteristics, fertility requirements, disease resistance, compatibility with other species, and the intended use of the seeding.
2. Mixtures must meet all requirements of the Wisconsin weed laws. Species identified as restricted or prohibited by law shall not be planted.
3. Seed must be of high quality and meet the requirements of the Wisconsin seed laws for certification. If you plan to use untested seed, prior approval must be granted from NRCS before planting. If certified seed is not available, non-certified seed may be used as long as the seed is tested for purity and germination by a testing laboratory following Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) procedures.
4. If one or more of the species in the mix consists of more than 20 percent hard seed, the seeding rate for the species must be increased by the percent of hard seed.
5. Legume seeds must be inoculated prior to planting.

Seeding Periods and Rates

Seeding rates and species are provided on the attached seeding plan. Rates are based upon Pure Live Seed (PLS). In order to determine PLS, the seed must be tested for purity and germination. If you are receiving financial assistance for this practice, any changes to the species or rates listed in the seeding plan must be approved before seed is purchased.

- Permanent, perennial vegetative cover will be established within the recommended seeding dates as shown on the attached seeding plan. When it is

not possible to seed during the recommended seeding dates, a temporary cover will be required to reduce erosion until the seeding can be completed.

- **Frost Seeding.** The frost seeding period in Wisconsin typically ranges from February to mid-March but may vary from year to year depending on the weather. Frost seeding is allowed only during the active freezing and thawing cycle and can be completed on fields where good seed-to-soil contact can be obtained. Do not frost seed on fields with solid ice or snow cover greater than 2 inches. Seeding rates must be increased by 15 percent. Refer to your seeding plan to determine if frost seeding is allowed for your situation.
- **Dormant Seeding.** Dormant seeding occurs late in the fall when the soil temperature is cool enough to prevent germination until the following spring. This type of seeding provides greater risk of failure due to variability in weather and often has reduced yields. Seeding rates must be increased by 15 percent when seeding during this time period. Refer to your seeding plan to determine if dormant seeding is allowed for your situation.

Fertilizer and Lime Requirements

Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

If you are planting hayland or pasture, soil tests no older than 4 years must be taken according to UW Extension Publication A2100, Sampling Soils for Testing. You will need at least one sample for every 5 acres or less, and the samples must be analyzed at a Wisconsin certified soil testing laboratory. Any recommendations for fertilizer or lime will be applied based on UW Extension Publication A2809, Nutrient Application Guidelines for Field, Vegetable and Fruit Crops.

Conservation Cover (327) or Critical Area Planting (342)

When following either of these standards, you can choose to take a soil test using the procedure listed above or follow a general recommendation. If you choose not to obtain a soil test, a general recommendation of 150 pounds per acre of a 20-10-10 fertilizer and a minimum of 2 tons per acre of 80-89 lime may be used. Under certain conditions, fertilizer and/or lime requirements may be waived.

Seeding Methods

Conventional Seeding

Conventional seeding includes preparing a firm seedbed by using tillage and packing equipment. The seed is broadcasted on the soil surface and incorporated by secondary tillage or packing equipment.

When using a drill, seed should be sorted according to size and shape and placed in the appropriate seed boxes to ensure uniform distribution across the field. Seed can also be broadcast by using air seeders, fertilizer spreaders, or other types of rotary or drop seeder implements. When a small amount of seed is being applied over a large area, a carrier should be mixed with the seed. Carriers such as pelletized lime, fertilizer, cracked corn, saw dust, vermiculite, etc., may be used.

The seedbed should contain enough fine soil particles to provide uniform shallow coverage of the seed as well as contact with moisture and nutrients. It is important to have a firm seedbed. As a minimum, cultipack or roll before and after seeding. When walking on a properly prepared seedbed, the depth of your footprints should not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Do not use heavy, no-till type drills to seed on conventionally prepared seedbeds. Heavy drills tend to sink into the soil and seeding depth will be difficult to control. Do not plant seed deeper than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

No-Till Seeding

No-till planting is the planting of grasses and/or legumes in the absence of tillage. No-till can be used to establish new seedings on land previously in row crops or existing sod. As with conventional seeding, seed placement should be no deeper than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. A drill equipped for no-till planting must be used to obtain proper seeding depth unless the ground is soft enough to allow consistent penetration of disk openers of a conventional drill. Herbicides are often necessary when using no-till methods of establishment. When using herbicides, be sure to read and follow all label directions.

No-Till Planting Into Crop Residue

Residue should be uniformly distributed over the field

from the previous year's harvest. It is often preferred to plant new seedlings into soybean stubble when using a no-till drill. No-tilling into large amounts of non-fragile residue such as corn stalks and small grain residue may reduce germination and seedling vigor. For spring weed control, use a nonselective herbicide to kill weeds prior to planting. Be careful not to select a herbicide that will have carryover or residual effects on your new seeding.

No-Till Planting Into Existing Sod

No-till planting can be used to completely renovate existing sod. In order to prepare a good seedbed for no-tilling into existing sod, plant litter and existing growth must be removed or altered prior to applying nonselective herbicides. Options to remove or reduce existing cover include mowing, burning, haying, or grazing.

- **Mowing:** Mow the site using a rotary mower or flail chopper to a height of 3 inches. Mowing equipment should uniformly distribute the mowed plant material over the field surface.
- **Burning:** Conduct a prescribed burn according to the requirements outlined in the burn plan. The burn plan must address safety concerns and document the appropriate timing for the burn.
- **Haying:** Mechanically harvest vegetation from the site the year before the planned seeding. The timing of the hay harvest should be planned to minimize the amount of re-growth that will occur prior to herbicide application.
- **Grazing:** Timing and duration of grazing must be intensive enough to significantly reduce the existing vegetative cover. If possible, begin the grazing at a time of the year when the standing vegetation is green and growing to increase the palatability and feed value of the forage which will result in a more uniform removal of the vegetation.

After the existing plant litter is altered or removed, allow plants to actively re-grow before applying a nonselective herbicide. Be aware of herbicides that may have carryover or residual effects. Timing of herbicide applications usually occurs in the spring before plants flower or early fall to actively-growing plants. Herbicide applications in the fall often have greater efficacy, but air temperature should be above 50° F to improve plant uptake.

Inter-Seeding

Inter-seeding includes any stand modification that maintains some vegetative component of the original stand. Inter-seeding is a good way to improve existing stands that lack plant diversity or have low-yielding forage species. Existing plant growth and litter will need to be reduced, and the same options used for no-tilling into existing sod can be used. In addition, limited tillage can be used to suppress the existing cover.

- **Limited Tillage:** Limited tillage may also be used to suppress the existing stand. Fields can be tilled to a depth of 3 to 5 inches and should expose at least 50 percent of the soil surface. Careful consideration should be used when using limited tillage due to potential erosion concerns or the potential to encourage additional weed growth due to soil disturbance.

After reducing plant growth, herbicides can be used to suppress, not eliminate, vegetation prior to interseeding. One must consider the current types of plants in the field (grasses vs. broadleaves) and which species you want to suppress. In addition, current field conditions and timing of application must be considered before selecting a herbicide.

A drill equipped for no-till planting must be used to obtain proper seeding depth unless limited tillage is used to prepare the seedbed. In this case, seed may be broadcast or drilled. Use a cultipacker or roll the seedbed before and after seeding when tillage is used

Temporary Cover and Companion Crops

Temporary Cover

Temporary cover is required when seed or planting stock is not available, the normal planting period has passed, or where herbicide carryover is likely. A temporary cover will typically not be necessary on those areas where at least 50 percent of the ground is covered with either crop residue or vegetative cover. Temporary cover crops must be clipped or terminated prior to seedhead emergence or before planting permanent cover.

Temporary Cover			
Species	Rate (lbs. or bu./acre)		Seeding Dates
	No Herbicide Carryover	Triazine Herbicide Carryover Likely	
Forage Sorghum	½ bu.		5/15 to 7/15
Sorghum-Sudangrass Hybrid	1 bu.		
Sudangrass	1 bu.		
Winter Wheat	120 (2 bu.)	Not recommended	8/1 to 10/15
Winter Cereal Rye	112 (2 bu.)	Not recommended	
Oats	64 (2 bu.)	Not recommended	4/1 to 9/1
Annual Ryegrass	20 lbs.	Not recommended	4/1 to 9/1

Companion Crops

Companion crops can be used to reduce the amount of erosion on critical sites, suppress weeds, and provide added protection for permanent perennial vegetation seeded during the first year of planting. If the seeding is not used for hayland purposes, the companion crop must be mowed before seedhead emergence. Second and subsequent mowings may be necessary when re-growth provides competition to new plantings. Mowing should only remove the growth above the developing seedlings. Companion crops seeded late summer in most cases will not require clippings prior to the first killing frost unless the growing season is prolonged. Refer to your seeding plan to determine if companion crops are recommended for your situation.

Mulching

Mulch materials shall consist of natural and/or artificial materials such as plant residue, wood bark or chips, plastic, or fabric. Mulching is generally performed after grading, soil surface preparation, and seeding and plantings are complete. Mulch material shall be evenly applied and anchored to the soil. Review your engineering or seeding plan or consult

your conservation planner to determine if mulching is required.

Operation and Maintenance

Weed control during establishment is critical to ensure survival of the new stand. Mowing, herbicide application, or grazing may be used alone or in combination to control weeds before they go to seed. Graze or mow the existing stand at a height of 4 to 6 inches before weeds go to seed. If grazing the stand, be cautious of selective grazing where animals do not uniformly graze the stand. Be careful not to mow or graze when the soil is wet to avoid damage to seedlings. If residue will be left on the field, do not allow the vegetation to grow too high prior to mowing; otherwise, excessive residue may accumulate and smother seedlings. Additional treatment may be needed every 3 to 4 weeks throughout the growing season until the stand becomes established. If using herbicides, be sure to follow all label directions.

Once the permanent vegetation is established, control noxious weeds or invading woody vegetation by spot mowing, spraying with herbicides, grazing, burning, or other methods appropriate for the site. To maximize wildlife benefits, mow before May 15 or after August 1 to protect nesting birds and provide cover.

Please note: If you are receiving financial assistance for this seeding, certain methods and timing of maintenance may not be allowed. Refer to your contract agreement for specific guidance.

Conservation Reserve Program Requirements

CRP rules allow the cover to be managed throughout the year to control weeds or woody vegetation UNTIL the cover is determined to be established (typically within the first 3 years of the contract).

Once the cover is established, no disturbance is allowed during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract (May 15 through August 1). 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.

Any haying or grazing of CRP must be approved by the Farm Service Agency in advance.

Example Pure Live Seed (PLS) Rate

Calculations:

- Step 1 – Determine the seeding rate of each of specie. For example: 80 PLS pounds per acre of Spring Barley is planned.
- Step 2 – Multiply the percent purity by the percent germination of each specie based on seed tag information. For example: 98% purity x 60% germination equates to 0.588% PLS.
- Step 3 – Divide the planned seeding rate by the percent PLS to find the bulk seed needed per acre. For example: 80 lbs. of Spring Barley per acre / 0.588% PLS = 136 lbs/acre.

The adjusted pure live seeding rate of 136 pounds of Spring Barley per acre is required to meet the seeding criteria for his example.

CP-2 Permanent Native Grasses

N1a Scoring

CP2 Establishment of permanent native grasses		
MIX #	Species	Points
N/A	Existing stand of 1 or 2 native species	20
1	Big bluestem 3#, Switchgrass 1#, Canada milk vetch 2 oz, Black-eyed Susan 1 oz, Yellow Coneflower 1 oz	20
2	Big bluestem 3#, Switchgrass 1#, Canada tick trefoil 6 oz, Black-eyed Susan 1 oz, Yellow Coneflower 1 oz	20
3	Purple Prairie Clover 2 oz., Bergamot 1 oz., Yellow cone Flower 1 oz., Big Bluestem 8 oz., Little Bluestem 1 ½ #, Indian Grass 8 oz., Switchgrass 8 oz., side Oats Grama 1#	50
4	Yellow Cone Flower 1 oz., Black-eyed Susan 1 oz., Bergamot 1 oz., Big bluestem 8 oz., Switchgrass 8 oz., Little Bluestem 1 ¼#, Indian grass 1#, Canada Wild Rye 1#	50
5	Stiff Goldenrod 1 oz., Yellow Cone Flower 1 oz., Purple Prairie Clover 2 oz., Big bluestem 1 1/2 #, Indian Grass 8 oz., Side Oats Grama 1 ½ #	50
6	Common Ironweed 1 oz., cupplant 2 oz., blue Vervain 1 oz., Switchgrass 1#, Prairie Cordgrass 8 oz., Big Bluestem 1#, Indian Grass 1#, Canada Wild Rye 1#	50
7	Bergamot 1 oz., Yellow Cone flower 1 oz., New England Aster 1 oz., Switchgrass 2#, Prairie Cordgrass 4 oz., Big Bluestem 1#, Canada Wild Rye 1#	50
N/A	Existing stand of 5 species (3 native grasses and at least one forb or legume species)	50

- Seeding Rates are in pounds or ounces of Pure Live Seed per acre.

CP-2 Permanent Native Grasses - Pictures





How to Establish and Maintain Native Grasses, Forbs and Legumes Wisconsin Job Sheet 135

Landowner: _____ Tract: _____

If you are receiving financial assistance for completing this planting, refer to your agreement for any additional requirements or restrictions.

Purpose

This job sheet describes methods to establish and maintain native grasses, forbs, and legumes and applies to the following practice (Select all that apply).

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

Native species can be used to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Reduce soil erosion.
- Enhance pollinator and wildlife habitat.
- Increase forage supply during periods of low production.
- Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production.
- Improve soil, water, and air quality.

For additional recommendations, refer to Wisconsin NRCS Agronomy Technical Note 5, Establishing and Maintaining Native Grasses, Forbs, and Legumes, at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/wi/technical/?cid=nrcs142p2_020841



Species Selection and Seed Quality

Species and cultivars must be selected based upon the adaptation to site conditions, including appropriate moisture regime or forage suitability group, climatic conditions, soil conditions, and landscape position.

1. Select species based on growth characteristics, fertility requirements, disease resistance, compatibility with other species, and the intended use of the seeding.
2. Mixtures must meet all requirements of the Wisconsin weed laws. Species identified as restricted or prohibited by law shall not be planted.
3. Seed must be of high quality and meet the requirements of the Wisconsin seed laws for certification. If you plan to use untested seed, prior approval must be granted from NRCS before planting. If certified seed is not available, non-certified seed may be used as long as the seed is tested for purity and germination by a testing laboratory following Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) procedures.
4. Native species are not recommended in concentrated flow areas due to their slow establishment and growth characteristics.
5. If more than 20 percent of the legume seed is hard seed, increase the seeding rate for legumes by the percent of hard seed in the seeding mixture.
6. Legume seeds must be inoculated prior to planting.

Seeding Periods and Rates

Seeding rates and species are provided on the attached seeding plan. Rates are based upon Pure Live Seed (PLS). In order to determine PLS, the seed must be tested for purity and germination. If you are receiving financial assistance for this practice, any changes to the species or rates listed in the seeding plan must be approved before seed is purchased.

- Permanent, perennial vegetative cover will be established within the recommended seeding dates as shown on the attached seeding plan. When it is not possible to seed during the recommended seeding dates, a temporary cover will be required to reduce erosion until the seeding can be completed.
- **Frost Seeding.** The frost seeding period in Wisconsin typically ranges from February to mid-March but may vary from year to year depending on the weather. Frost seeding is allowed only during the active freezing and thawing cycle and can be completed on fields where good seed-to-soil contact can be obtained. Do not frost seed on fields with solid ice or snow cover greater than 2 inches. Seeding rates must be increased by 15 percent. Refer to your seeding plan to determine if frost seeding is allowed for your situation.
- **Dormant Seeding.** Dormant seeding occurs late in the fall when the soil temperature is cool enough to prevent germination until the following spring. This type of seeding provides greater risk of failure due to variability in weather and often has reduced yields. Seeding rates must be increased by 15 percent when seeding during this time period. Refer to your seeding plan to determine if dormant seeding is allowed for your situation.

Fertilizer and Lime Requirements

For establishment of native species, soil testing and application of soil amendments is not a requirement.

Seeding Methods

Conventional Seeding

Conventional seeding includes preparing a firm seedbed by using tillage and packing equipment. The seed is broadcasted on the soil surface and incorporated by secondary tillage or packing equipment.

When using a drill, seed should be sorted according to size and shape and placed in the appropriate seed boxes to ensure uniform distribution across the field. Seed can also be broadcast by using air seeders,

fertilizer spreaders, or other types of rotary or drop seeder implements. When a small amount of seed is being applied over a large area, a carrier should be mixed with the seed. Carriers such as pelletized lime, fertilizer, cracked corn, saw dust, vermiculite, etc., may be used.

The seedbed should contain enough fine soil particles to provide uniform shallow coverage of the seed as well as contact with moisture and nutrients. It is important to have a firm seedbed. As a minimum, culti-pack or roll before and after seeding. When walking on a properly prepared seedbed, the depth of your footprints should not exceed ¼ inch. Do not use heavy, no-till type drills to seed on conventionally prepared seedbeds. Heavy drills tend to sink into the soil and seeding depth will be difficult to control. Do not plant seed deeper than ¼ inch.

No-Till Seeding

No-till planting is the planting of grasses and/or legumes in the absence of tillage. No-till can be used to establish new seedings on land previously in row crops or existing sod. As with conventional seeding, seed placement should be no deeper than ¼ inch. A drill equipped for no-till planting must be used to obtain proper seeding depth unless the ground is soft enough to allow consistent penetration of disk openers of a conventional drill.

Herbicides are often necessary when using no-till methods of establishment. When using herbicides, be sure to read and follow all label directions.

No-Till Planting Into Crop Residue

Residue should be uniformly distributed over the field from the previous year's harvest. It is often preferred to plant new seedings into soybean stubble when using a no-till drill. No-tilling into large amounts of non-fragile residue such as corn stalks and small grain residue may reduce germination and seedling vigor. For spring weed control, use a nonselective herbicide to kill weeds prior to planting. Be careful not to select a herbicide that will have carryover or residual effects on your new seeding.

No-Till Planting Into Existing Sod

No-till planting can be used to completely renovate existing sod. In order to prepare a good seedbed for no-tilling into existing sod, plant litter and existing growth must be removed or altered prior to applying nonselective herbicides. Options to remove or reduce existing cover include mowing, burning, haying, or grazing.

- **Mowing:** Mow the site using a rotary mower or flail chopper to a height of 3 inches. Mowing equipment should uniformly distribute the mowed plant material over the field surface.
- **Burning:** Conduct a prescribed burn according to the requirements outlined in the burn plan. The burn plan must address safety concerns and document the appropriate timing for the burn.
- **Haying:** Mechanically harvest vegetation from the site the year before the planned seeding. The timing of the hay harvest should be planned to minimize the amount of re-growth that will occur prior to herbicide application.
- **Grazing:** Timing and duration of grazing must be intensive enough to significantly reduce the existing vegetative cover. If possible, begin the grazing at a time of the year when the standing vegetation is green and growing to increase the palatability and feed value of the forage which will result in a more uniform removal of the vegetation.

After the existing plant litter is altered or removed, allow plants to actively re-grow before applying a nonselective herbicide. Be aware of herbicides that may have carryover or residual effects. Timing of herbicide applications usually occurs in the spring before plants flower or early fall to actively-growing plants. Herbicide applications in the fall often have greater efficacy, but air temperature should be above 50° F to improve plant uptake.

Inter-Seeding

Inter-seeding includes any stand modification that maintains some vegetative component of the original stand. Inter-seeding is a good way to improve existing stands that lack plant diversity or have low-yielding forage species. Existing plant growth and litter will need to be reduced, and the same options used for no-tilling into existing sod can be used.

In addition, limited tillage can be used to suppress the existing cover.

- **Limited Tillage:** Limited tillage may also be used to suppress the existing stand. Fields can be tilled to a depth of 3 to 5 inches and should expose at least 50 percent of the soil surface. Careful consideration should be used when using limited tillage due to potential erosion concerns or the potential to encourage additional weed growth due to soil disturbance.

After reducing plant growth, herbicides can be used to suppress, not eliminate, vegetation prior to interseeding. One must consider the current types of plants in the field (grasses vs. broadleaves) and which species you want to suppress. In addition, current field conditions and timing of application must be considered before selecting a herbicide.

A drill equipped for no-till planting must be used to obtain proper seeding depth unless limited tillage is used to prepare the seedbed. In this case, seed may be broadcast or drilled. Use a culti-packer or roll the seedbed before and after seeding when tillage is used

Temporary Cover and Companion Crops

Temporary Cover

Temporary cover is required when seed or planting stock is not available, the normal planting period has passed, or where herbicide carryover is likely. A temporary cover will typically not be necessary on those areas where at least 50 percent of the ground is covered with either crop residue or vegetative cover. Temporary cover crops must be clipped or terminated prior to seedhead emergence or before planting permanent cover.

Temporary Cover			
Species	Rate (lbs. or bu./acre)		Seeding Dates
	No Herbicide Carryover	Triazine Herbicide Carryover Likely	
Forage Sorghum	½ bu.		5/15 to 7/15
Sorghum-Sudangrass Hybrid	1 bu.		
Sudangrass	1 bu.		
Winter Wheat	120 (2 bu.)	Not recommended	8/1 to 10/15
Winter Cereal Rye	112 (2 bu.)	Not recommended	
Oats	64 (2 bu.)	Not recommended	4/1 to 9/1
Annual Ryegrass	20 lbs.	Not recommended	4/1 to 9/1

Companion Crops

Companion crops can be used to reduce the amount of erosion on critical sites, suppress weeds, and provide added protection for permanent perennial vegetation seeded during the first year of planting. If the seeding is not used for hayland purposes, the companion crop must be mowed before seedhead emergence. Second and subsequent mowings may be necessary when re-growth provides competition to new plantings. Mowing should only remove the growth above the developing seedlings. Companion crops seeded late summer in most cases will not require clippings prior to the first killing frost unless the growing season is prolonged. Refer to your seeding plan to determine if companion crops are recommended for your situation.

Mulching

Mulch materials shall consist of natural and/or artificial materials such as plant residue, wood bark or chips, plastic, or fabric. Mulching is generally performed after grading, soil surface preparation, and seeding and plantings are complete. Mulch material

shall be evenly applied and anchored to the soil. Review your engineering or seeding plan or consult your conservation planner to determine if mulching is required.

Operation and Maintenance

Weed control during establishment is critical to ensure survival of the new stand. Mowing, herbicide application, or grazing may be used alone or in combination to control weeds before they go to seed. Graze or mow the existing stand at a height of 4 to 6 inches before weeds go to seed. If grazing the stand, be cautious of selective grazing where animals do not uniformly graze the stand. Be careful not to mow or graze when the soil is wet to avoid damage to seedlings. If residue will be left on the field, do not allow the vegetation to grow too high prior to mowing; otherwise, excessive residue may accumulate and smother seedlings. Additional treatment may be needed every 3 to 4 weeks throughout the growing season until the stand becomes established. If using herbicides, be sure to follow all label directions.

Once the permanent vegetation is established, control noxious weeds or invading woody vegetation by spot mowing, spraying with herbicides, grazing, burning, or other methods appropriate for the site. To maximize wildlife benefits, mow before May 15 or after August 1 to protect nesting birds and provide cover.

Please note: If you are receiving financial assistance for this seeding, certain methods and timing of maintenance may not be allowed. Refer to your contract agreement for specific guidance.

Conservation Reserve Program Requirements

CRP rules allow the cover to be managed throughout the year to control weeds or woody vegetation UNTIL the cover is determined to be established (typically within the first 3 years of the contract).

Once the cover is established, no disturbance is allowed during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract (May 15 through August 1). 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.

Any haying or grazing of CRP must be approved by the Farm Service Agency in advance

Example Pure Live Seed (PLS) Rate

Calculations:

- Step 1 – Determine the seeding rate of each of specie. For example: 80 PLS pounds per acre of Spring Barley is planned.
- Step 2 – Multiply the percent purity by the percent germination of each specie based on seed tag information. For example: 98% purity x 60% germination equates to 0.588% PLS.
- Step 3 – Divide the planned seeding rate by the percent PLS to find the bulk seed needed per acre. For example: 80 lbs. of Spring Barley per acre / 0.588% PLS = 136 lbs/acre.

The adjusted pure live seeding rate of 136 pounds of Spring Barley per acre is required to meet the seeding criteria for his example.

CP-3 Softwood Tree Planting

N1a Scoring

Points awarded for the CP3 Practice are based on the Criteria shown in the shaded lines and can be existing stands or proposed plantings on new acreage.

CP3 Softwood Tree Planting - Approved Species	Points
Northern Conifers (Softwoods) Solid stand of conifers/softwoods planted at more than 850 trees per acre	10
Northern Conifers (Softwoods) - Conifers/softwoods planted at a rate of 750 to 850 trees per acre depending upon the site index with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	50
Approved Trees	
Balsam Fir	
Black Spruce	
Eastern White Pine	
Jack Pine	
Northern White Cedar	
Red (Norway) Pine	
Tamarack	
White Spruce	

The EBI scoring definitions for factor N1a gives reference to “State Developed Standards.” The State office has consulted with WI DNR Forestry Division and has developed policy to guide scoring of existing tree stands for signup 43.

CP3, Tree Planting (general) Existing Northern Conifers (Softwoods)

Wisconsin policy for determining if an existing tree stand is in compliance for re-enrollment during signup 43 is:

The minimum number of existing trees to meet compliance requirements shall be determined by assuming a 5-10% mortality during each of the first 3-4 years after planting.

Example: A conifer (softwood) tree plantation was originally planted at a rate of 850 trees per acre. Assuming a 5-10% mortality during each of the first 3-4 years means that in the first year after planting, maximum expected normal mortality would be 85 trees. In the second year after planting, maximum expected normal mortality would be 77 trees. In the third year after planting, maximum expected normal mortality would be 69 trees, and in the fourth year after planting, maximum expected normal mortality would be 62 trees, leaving a final survival rate of roughly 557 trees per acre at a minimum. Existing tree plantations reported at below this level would be determined not currently in compliance and therefore, not eligible to be re-enrolled.

EBI Factor N1a scoring options for this practice are either 10 or 50 points as follows:

CP-3 Softwood Tree Planting (Exhibit 11 – page 9)

The following table provides the tree species that are approved for planting:

Softwoods (Conifers)	
Common Name	Genus and species
Balsam Fir	<u>Abies balsamea</u>
Black Spruce	<u>Picea mariana</u>
Eastern White Pine	<u>Pinus strobus</u>
Jack Pine	<u>Pinus banksiana</u>
Northern White Cedar	<u>Thuja occidentalis</u>
Red Pine	<u>Pinus resinosa</u>
Tamarack	<u>Larix laricina</u>
White Spruce	<u>Picea glauca</u>

The following table provides the number of trees per acre that must be planted for cost-sharing purposes:

Species	Density	
	Minimum	Maximum
Conifers	500	1200

Note: Specific EBI points for General Signup scoring is dependent on true planting density. Check the N1a score assigned to the practice.

CP-3 Softwood Tree Planting – Pictures (NOTE: CP-2 in foreground)



TREE PLANTING TIMELINE

1. July of the year before planting.

A successful tree planting project begins approximately nine months before tree seedlings arrive in the spring. Plan now to accomplish the following steps, so that they are completed in a timely manner.
2. September of the year before planting.

Begin Site Preparation by spraying or tilling to control existing vegetation, and prepare the site for spring planting. A critical step for successful tree planting is to provide a planting bed free of competition from weeds.
3. October/November of the year before planting.

Plan to order tree seedlings five to six months in advance. Pines and other conifers may only be available for ordering through January and February. State nurseries and private nurseries in Wisconsin grow tree seedlings adapted to our climate. Other mid-western or Lake States nurseries also produce stock that will grow well, but avoid ordering from nurseries more than 100 miles south of the state line.
4. April/May of planting year.

Plant tree and shrub seedlings in April or early May. Seedlings may be planted by hand using a shovel or planting bar or with a tree-planting machine. Check with the DNR forester in your county to find out if a planting machine is available to use. Many counties have planting machines that they rent out for a reasonable fee. Renters must usually

provide the tractor and crew to do the planting. With a little experience, people can plant about 5,000 trees (10 acres worth) a day with a planting machine. To be practical, plan on a maximum of 500 trees per day per person for hand planting crews. If you do not want to plant trees yourself, check with your DNR Forester for a list of custom tree planting services. Custom tree planters can do the entire job for you, including the site preparation, planting and follow up care.

5. June - August of planting year.

Mow or spray to manage weeds and other competing vegetation.
6. After planting year.

Don't expect to walk away from the seedlings once they are in the ground. Plantings will need mowing and/or spraying to control competing vegetation for at least 3 years. Sometimes animal control measures are needed if rabbits, deer or rodents take a liking to the trees. Insects and diseases may become a problem in plantations.

SITE PREPARATION

The single most important part of planting trees is protecting the small bare-root seedlings from existing, competitive vegetation. This cannot be over-emphasized. Not only do these plants compete for light and water, many grasses produce natural chemicals which suppress tree and shrub growth. If not managed, competition from weeds, grasses, and shrubs will choke out the planting in short order. Sites may be prepared for planting using

mechanical means, chemical means or a combination of the two.

Mechanical Site Preparation

Reduce the competition from a thick grass sod by moldboard plowing and/or discing in 6 foot wide strips. Leave undisturbed sod between the strips. By minimizing the amount of soil that is disturbed, the threat of water erosion and weed seed invasion by such things as Canada Thistle is reduced. Till on the contour in order to further reduce erosion. Spring plowing is not generally recommended, as it will introduce air into the soil that can dry the roots of newly planted stock. If residual cover is relatively small, a rotary or sickle-bar mower can be used to cut competing vegetation as close to the ground as possible. On land that is greater than a 6% slope or when planting large areas consider using banded herbicides.

Chemical Site Preparation

Weedy or grassy competition can be controlled with selective herbicide use. Effective control depends on four factors:

- timing of application
- herbicide selected
- weather conditions
- application rate

Heavy sod can be controlled by a fall application of herbicide in the year prior to planting. Alternatively, a pre-emergent herbicide can be applied in the spring just after the trees are planted and before the existing grass cover has "greened up". Herbicides should not be allowed to come in contact with the tree roots. Banding of herbicides controls weeds yet minimizes the impacts on erosion.

Very dry conditions will limit the effectiveness of most herbicides. Be sure to follow label directions for application rates, as rates differ depending on soil type and herbicide. Consult with your local DNR Forester for specific herbicide recommendations. NOTE: All herbicides

must be applied in accordance with label recommendations and their registered use.

Controlling Grasses and Broadleaf Weeds

Glyphosate (Accord), dicamba (Banvel) and 2, 4-D should be applied before trees are planted or as hand directed sprays during the growing season. They should not be applied over the top of actively growing tree seedlings. Glyphosate controls grasses as well as broadleaf weeds; 2, 4-D and Banvel kill only broadleaf weeds. With Banvel and 2,4-D, fall treatments are highly preferable to spring treatments; these growth hormone products prevent the plants from becoming cold hardy, and even if the herbicide fails to kill all the plants by first snowfall, the cold winter temperatures kill the remaining plants.

Controlling Alfalfa

Several herbicides have proven effective in controlling alfalfa: clopyralid, glyphosate, dicamba and 2,4D. Clopyralid (Transline) can be applied over the top of most of the commonly planted forest tree species during the growing season. It is effective when applied from the time uncut alfalfa is 6 inches in height to as late as early July. A supplemental Transline label allows its use on forest sites in Wisconsin; copies of this label are available from DNR Forest Pest Specialists.

Brushy Weed Control

Unwanted trees and shrubs, such as elm or box elder, should be removed prior to planting. Most Wisconsin deciduous trees and shrubs are prolific sprouters and in one year can grow 3-5 feet from cut stumps. To prevent sprouting, treat the stump with a recommended herbicide

PLANTING INFORMATION

April is tree planting time in Wisconsin. Plant after the frost has left the ground (late March), but before bud break and shoot elongation (late May).

Bareroot Conifer Stock

Trees purchased as bareroot conifer stock are between 1 and 3 year old trees and are either seedlings or transplants. A designation such as 2-0 means the tree spent two years in the same seedbed, while a designation of 2-1 means the tree spent 2 years in a seedbed and 1 year in a transplant bed (transplanting improves root development).

Seedling Handling

1. Handle seedlings carefully. Keeping them healthy requires minimizing physical damage and keeping them at a constant low (33-40 degrees) temperature with a high relative humidity. They must remain in a state of dormancy from the time of lifting to the time of planting.
2. To prevent desiccation, plant seedlings as soon as possible. If root hairs become damaged, they will never properly uptake water and nutrients.
3. Seedlings are often packaged and shipped in plastic-lined boxes that provide both physical and moisture protection for the seedlings. Bags are used for smaller quantities of seedlings. They do not protect seedlings from physical damage.
4. Until you are ready to plant, do not handle your seedlings individually. Leave them in their packaging to minimize physical damage.
5. Transportation is a vital consideration for all sizes of orders. For large orders (over 1000 seedlings) a refrigerated truck is optimal. If one is not available the following steps should be taken with a pickup truck:
 - Place foam sheets on the bed and spacer boards between the foam and the boxes for ventilation.
 - With bags, or bales, build a frame to allow for airflow about the packages.
6. Seedlings should **not** be 'heeled-in,' nor planted in shallow soil pits for long-term storage. Do **not** immerse seedlings in water as this can drown root hairs. Do not delay planting while waiting for optimal soil conditions. Since most people do not have adequate long-term storage, seedlings are better off in the ground. If the planting job is large, consider receiving staggered seedling shipments to minimize storage time. The less time the seedlings spend out of ideal storage, the more vigorous they will be.
7. Root prune seedlings only if the length of the root system is longer than the depth of planting. If necessary trim the roots so that the length from the root collar to the tip of the root is the same as the depth of planting. Root pruning should be done in a controlled environment where the seedling root system will not be exposed to the drying effects of the sun and wind, where water is available to re-moisten the seedlings and the ambient air temperature is relatively cool (e.g. 40-50 degrees Fahrenheit). The worst place to do root pruning of seedlings is on the tree planting site itself.

- Cover packages with a damp canvas tarp.
- Cover the canvas tarp with a solar-reflective tarp
- Fasten the load securely.

If the order is small, a refrigerated van is still the best way to go. If this is not possible, and the packages fit into your car, air conditioning on maximum along with insulation and ice packs is advised. Only a few minutes in a hot trunk can damage seedlings permanently. If you suspect that the seedlings have not been kept cool since leaving the nursery, you may want to open the package and sprinkle the roots with water.

PLANTING PROCEDURES

Hand Planting

When planting by hand be sure to:

- keep seedlings shaded and cool until planting.
- minimize handling of the seedlings.
- carry seedlings in a bucket or planting bag along with wet burlap to keep seedlings moist.
- never carry seedling exposed to the air or immersed in water.
- ensure seedling roots hang freely and just touch the bottom of the hole.
- prune back long anchor roots if needed.
- ensure the new soil line is just above the old soil line
- pack the soil after planting.

A rough estimate is that an inexperienced, but physically fit, tree planter can plant 500 seedlings by hand per day.

Machine Planting

Mechanical planting is suitable for especially large orders to be planted on even terrain. Generally a 30-50 horsepower tractor and a crew of three is sufficient. The principles of seedling protection listed above certainly apply. Experience in operation of tree planters comes quickly and a crew can usually plant 5000 seedlings a day.

CP-3A Hardwood Tree Planting

N1a Scoring

For existing northern conifer (softwood) stands that are existing at a minimum level as described above, the assigned score shall be 10 points.

For existing northern conifer (softwood) stands that are existing at a minimum level as described above **AND** either currently have 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a 50 point CP4 cover type or are willing to create openings as described, the assigned score shall be 50 points.

CP3A, Hardwood Tree Planting

Wisconsin policy for determining if an existing tree stand is in compliance for re-enrollment during signup 43 is:

The minimum number of existing trees to meet compliance requirements shall be determined by assuming a 5-10% mortality during each of the first 3-4 years after planting as described above. However, when determining total survival, all planted trees, including any conifers planted as trainer trees, shall be included in the calculation. **At all times throughout the life of the contract, there must always be at least 50% hardwoods present.**

EBI Factor N1a scoring options for existing stands for this practice is determined based solely on the species of hardwoods that are present as follows:

For existing hardwood plantings that are planted in solid stand configurations that include only one species of nonmast producing hardwood species, the assigned score shall be 10 points.

For existing hardwood plantings that are planted in solid stand configurations that include only one species of mast producing hardwood species, the assigned score shall be 20 points.

For existing hardwood plantings that consist of two hardwood species on the list of best suited for wildlife **AND** the two species are mixed within the row or at least are mixed every other row, the assigned score shall be 30 points.

For existing hardwood plantings that consist of three or more species on the list of best suited for wildlife **AND** the three species are mixed within the row or at least are alternated in rows throughout the plantation, the assigned score shall be 50 points.

N1a Scoring

Example combinations of species that might be used for planting a CP3A field shown with the corresponding score.

Points awarded for the CP3A Practice are based on the Criteria shown in the shaded lines and can be existing stands or proposed plantings on new acreage.

CP3A Hardwood Tree Planting	
Selected Specie for Planting	Points
Solid stand of nonmast producing hardwood species	10
Bigtooth and/or Quaking Aspen	10
Black Cherry	10
Paper Birch	10
Solid stand of a single hard mast-producing species	20
American Beech	20
Butternut	20
Shagbark Hickory	20
Black Oak	20
Bur Oak	20
Red Oak	20
White Oak	20
Swamp White Oak	20
Black Walnut	20
Mixed stand of two hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area	30
Mixed stand three or more hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area	50
Hardwood species best suited for wildlife include; American Basswood, American Beech, Black Ash, Black Cherry, Black Oak, Black Walnut, Bur Oak, Butternut, Green Ash, Hackberry, Northern Red Oak, Red Maple, Shagbark Hickory, Silver Maple, Sugar Maple, Swamp White Oak, White Oak, White Ash	

CP-3A Hardwood Tree Planting (Continued)

Hardwoods (Deciduous)	
Common Name	Genus and species
American Basswood	Tilia americana
American Beech	Fagus granifolia
Bigtooth Aspen	Populus grandidentata
Black Ash	Fraxinus nigra
Black Cherry	Prunus serotina
Black Oak	Quercus velutina
Black Walnut	Juglans nigra
Black Willow	Salix nigra
Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa
Butternut	Juglans cinerea
Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides
Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis
Northern Red Oak	Quercus rubra
Paper Birch	Betula papyrifera
Quaking Aspen	Populus tremuloides
Red Maple	Acer rubrum
River Birch	Betula nigra
Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum
Shagbark Hickory	Carya ovata
Sugar Maple	Acer saccharum
Swamp White Oak	Quercus bicolor
Tag Alder	Alnus incana subsp rugosa
White Oak	Quercus alba
White Ash	Fraxinus americana
Softwoods (Conifer)	
Common Name	Genus and species
Balsam Fir	Abies balsamea
Black Spruce	Picea mariana
Eastern White Pine	Pinus strobus
Jack Pine	Pinus banksiana
Northern White Cedar	Thuja occidentalis
Red Pine	Pinus resinosa
Tamarack	Larix laricina
White Spruce	Picea glauca

The following table provides the number of trees per acre that must be planted for cost-sharing purposes:

Species	Density	
	Minimum	Maximum
Black Walnut	Alone	250
	In Mixtures	550
Conifers	500	1200
Hardwood – Conifer Mixtures		

Note: Specific EBI points for General Signup scoring is dependent on true planting density. Check the N1a score assigned to the practice.

CP-3A Hardwood Tree Planting - Pictures



TREE PLANTING TIMELINE

1. July of the year before planting.

A successful tree planting project begins approximately nine months before tree seedlings arrive in the spring. Plan now to accomplish the following steps, so that they are completed in a timely manner.
2. September of the year before planting.

Begin Site Preparation by spraying or tilling to control existing vegetation, and prepare the site for spring planting. A critical step for successful tree planting is to provide a planting bed free of competition from weeds.
3. October/November of the year before planting.

Plan to order tree seedlings five to six months in advance. Popular hardwoods like oaks will often be sold out by November. State nurseries and private nurseries in Wisconsin grow tree seedlings adapted to our climate. Other mid-western or Lake States nurseries also produce stock that will grow well, but avoid ordering from nurseries more than 100 miles south of the state line.
4. April/May of planting year.

Plant tree and shrub seedlings in April or early May. Seedlings may be planted by hand using a shovel or planting bar or with a tree-planting machine. Check with the DNR forester in your county to find out if a planting machine is available to use. Many counties have planting machines that they rent out for a reasonable fee. Renters must usually provide the tractor and crew to do the

planting. With a little experience, people can plant about 5,000 trees (10 acres worth) a day with a planting machine. To be practical, plan on a maximum of 500 trees per day per person for hand planting crews. If you do not want to plant trees yourself, check with your DNR Forester for a list of custom tree planting services. Custom tree planters can do the entire job for you, including the site preparation, planting and follow up care.

5. June - August of planting year.

Mow or spray to manage weeds and other competing vegetation.
6. After planting year.

Don't expect to walk away from the seedlings once they are in the ground. Plantings will need mowing and/or spraying to control competing vegetation for at least 3 years. Sometimes animal control measures are needed if rabbits, deer or rodents take a liking to the trees. Insects and diseases may become a problem in plantations.

SITE PREPARATION

The single most important part of planting trees is protecting the small bare-root seedlings from existing, competitive vegetation. This cannot be over-emphasized. Not only do these plants compete for light and water, many grasses produce natural chemicals which suppress tree and shrub growth. If not managed, competition from weeds, grasses, and shrubs will choke out the planting in short order. Sites may be prepared for planting using mechanical means, chemical means or a combination of the two.

Mechanical Site Preparation

Reduce the competition from a thick grass sod by moldboard plowing and/or discing in 6 foot wide strips. Leave undisturbed sod between the strips. By minimizing the amount of soil that is disturbed, the threat of water erosion and weed seed invasion by such things as Canada Thistle is reduced. Till on the contour in order to further reduce erosion. Spring plowing is not generally recommended, as it will introduce air into the soil that can dry the roots of newly planted stock. If residual cover is relatively small, a rotary or sickle-bar mower can be used to cut competing vegetation as close to the ground as possible. On land that is greater than a 6% slope or when planting large areas consider using banded herbicides.

Chemical Site Preparation

Weedy or grassy competition can be controlled with selective herbicide use. Effective control depends on four factors:

- timing of application
- herbicide selected
- weather conditions
- application rate

Heavy sod can be controlled by a fall application of herbicide in the year prior to planting. Alternatively, a pre-emergent herbicide can be applied in the spring just after the trees are planted and before the existing grass cover has "greened up". Herbicides should not be allowed to come in contact with the tree roots. Banding of herbicides controls weeds yet minimizes the impacts on erosion.

Very dry conditions will limit the effectiveness of most herbicides. Be sure to follow label directions for application rates, as rates differ depending on soil type and herbicide. Consult with your local DNR Forester for specific herbicide recommendations. NOTE: All herbicides must be applied in accordance with label recommendations and their registered use.

Controlling Grasses and Broadleaf Weeds

Glyphosate (Accord), dicamba (Banvel) and 2, 4-D should be applied before trees are planted or as hand directed sprays during the growing season. They should not be applied over the top of actively growing tree seedlings. Glyphosate controls grasses as well as broadleaf weeds; 2, 4-D and Banvel kill only broadleaf weeds. With Banvel and 2,4-D, fall treatments are highly preferable to spring treatments; these growth hormone products prevent the plants from becoming cold hardy, and even if the herbicide fails to kill all the plants by first snowfall, the cold winter temperatures kill the remaining plants.

Controlling Alfalfa

Several herbicides have proven effective in controlling alfalfa: clopyralid, glyphosate, dicamba and 2,4D. Clopyralid (Transline) can be applied over the top of most of the commonly planted forest tree species during the growing season. It is effective when applied from the time uncut alfalfa is 6 inches in height to as late as early July. A supplemental Transline label allows its use on forest sites in Wisconsin; copies of this label are available from DNR Forest Pest Specialists.

Brushy Weed Control

Unwanted trees and shrubs, such as elm or box elder, should be removed prior to planting. Most Wisconsin deciduous trees and shrubs are prolific sprouters and in one year can grow 3-5 feet from cut stumps. To prevent sprouting, treat the stump with a recommended herbicide

PLANTING INFORMATION

April is tree planting time in Wisconsin. Plant after the frost has left the ground (late March), but before bud break and shoot elongation (late May).

Bareroot Hardwood Stock

Trees purchased as bareroot hardwood stock are generally between 1 and 3 year old trees and are either seedlings or transplants. A designation such as 2-0 means the tree spent two years in the same seedbed, while a designation of 2-1 means the tree spent 2 years in a seedbed and 1 year in a transplant bed (transplanting improves root development).

Seedling Handling

1. Handle seedlings carefully. Keeping them healthy requires minimizing physical damage and keeping them at a constant low (33-40 degrees) temperature with a high relative humidity. They must remain in a state of dormancy from the time of lifting to the time of planting.
2. To prevent desiccation, plant seedlings as soon as possible. If root hairs become damaged, they will never properly uptake water and nutrients.
3. Seedlings are often packaged and shipped in plastic-lined boxes that provide both physical and moisture protection for the seedlings. Bags are used for smaller quantities of seedlings. They do not protect seedlings from physical damage.
4. Until you are ready to plant, do not handle your seedlings individually. Leave them in their packaging to minimize physical damage.
5. Transportation is a vital consideration for all sizes of orders. For large orders (over 1000 seedlings) a refrigerated truck is optimal. If one is not available the following steps should be taken with a pickup truck:
 - Place foam sheets on the bed and spacer boards between the foam and the boxes for ventilation.
 - With bags, or bales, build a frame to allow for airflow about the packages.
 - Cover packages with a damp canvas tarp.

- Cover the canvas tarp with a solar-reflective tarp
- Fasten the load securely.

If the order is small, a refrigerated van is still the best way to go. If this is not possible, and the packages fit into your car, air conditioning on maximum along with insulation and ice packs is advised. Only a few minutes in a hot trunk can damage seedlings permanently. If you suspect that the seedlings have not been kept cool since leaving the nursery, you may want to open the package and sprinkle the roots with water.

6. Seedlings should **not** be 'heeled-in,' nor planted in shallow soil pits for long-term storage. Do **not** immerse seedlings in water as this can drown root hairs. Do not delay planting while waiting for optimal soil conditions. Since most people do not have adequate long-term storage, seedlings are better off in the ground. If the planting job is large, consider receiving staggered seedling shipments to minimize storage time. The less time the seedlings spend out of ideal storage, the more vigorous they will be.
7. A key to survival of hardwood seedlings is to plant as large and vigorous a root system as possible. Do not root prune unless absolutely necessary. Root prune seedlings only if the length of the root system is longer than the depth of planting. If necessary, trim the roots so that the length from the root collar to the tip of the root is between 8-10 inches. Lateral roots can be pruned at 4 inches in length from the main tap root. Root pruning should be done in a controlled environment where the seedling root system will not be exposed to the drying effects of the sun and wind, where water is available to re-moisten the seedlings and the ambient air temperature is relatively cool (e.g. 40-50 degrees Fahrenheit). The worst place to do root pruning of seedlings is on the tree planting site itself.

PLANTING PROCEDURES

Hand Planting

When planting by hand be sure to:

- keep seedlings shaded and cool until planting.
- minimize handling of the seedlings.
- carry seedlings in a bucket or planting bag along with wet burlap to keep seedlings moist.
- never carry seedling exposed to the air or immersed in water.
- ensure seedling roots hang freely and just touch the bottom of the hole.
- prune back long anchor roots if needed.
- ensure the new soil line is just above the old soil line.
- pack the soil after planting.

A rough estimate is that an inexperienced, but physically fit, tree planter can plant 500 seedlings by hand per day.

Machine Planting

Mechanical planting is suitable for especially large orders to be planted on even terrain. Generally a 30-50 horsepower tractor and a crew of three is sufficient. The principles of seedling protection listed above certainly apply. Experience in operation of tree planters comes quickly and a crew can usually plant 5000 seedlings a day.

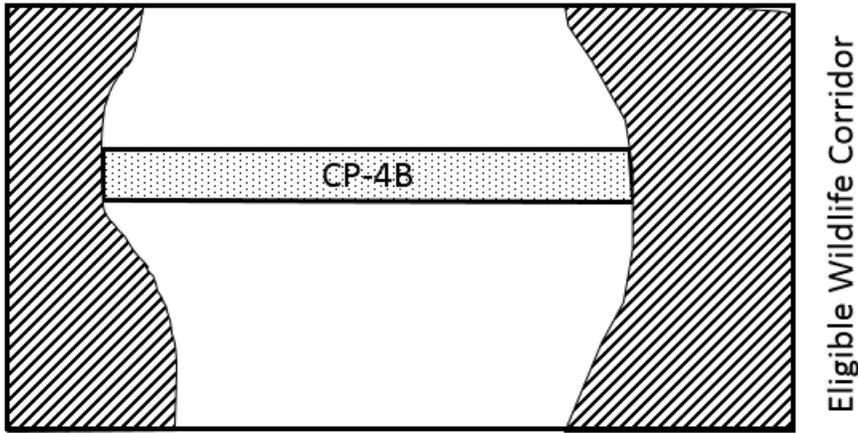
CP-4B Permanent Wildlife Corridors
&
CP-4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat

N1a Scoring

CP4B and 4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat Existing or Planting on New Acreage	Points
40 point CP1 mixture and in addition may include any approved trees or shrubs	40
50 point CP2 mixture and in addition may include any approved trees or shrubs	50

NOTE: Both of these practices require an additional wildlife conservation plan for the applicable acreage.

CP-4B Permanent Wildlife Habitat Corridors – Noneasement (Exhibit 11 – Page 18)



Eligible Wildlife Corridor



Ineligible Wildlife Corridor

Existing cover provides an unbroken travel lane for wildlife, eliminating the need for a wildlife corridor.

- The following Approved Species are utilized for both CP-4B & CP-4D plantings

Shrubs	
Common Name	Genus and species
Alternate-leaved Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>
American Crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>
Black Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Downy Arrow-wood	<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>
Gray Dogwood - Potential Invasive	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Hawthorns	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>
Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
Highbush Cranberry	<i>Viburnum opulus L. subsp. trilobum</i>
Juneberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea, A. bartramiana, A. interior</i>

CP-4B & CP-4D – Shrub & Tree Approved Species (Continued)

Lead-plant	Amporpha canescens
Mapleleaf Viburnum	Viburnum acerifolium
Nannyberry	Viburnum lentago
New Jersey Tea	Ceanothus americanus
Ninebark	Physocarpus opulifolius
Northern Bush-Honeysuckle	Diervilla lonicera
Pin Cherry	Prunus pensylvanica
Prairie Crabapple	Malus ioensis
Prairie Willow	Salix humilis
Red Osier Dogwood - Potential Invasive	Cornus stolonifera
Round-leaved Dogwood	Cornus rugosa
Sand Cherry	Prunus pumila
Sandbar Willow	Salix interior Rowlee
Serviceberry	Amelanchier laevis, A. sanguinea, A. spicata
Silky Dogwood	Cornus amomum
Staghorn Sumac	Rhus hirta
Tag Alder	Alnus incana subsp. rugosa
Wild Plum	Prunus americana
Winterberry	Ilex verticillata

Hardwoods (Deciduous)	
Common Name	Genus and species
American Basswood	Tilia americana
American Beech	Fagus granifolia
Bigtooth Aspen	Populus grandidentata
Black Ash	Fraxinus nigra
Black Cherry	Prunus serotina
Black Oak	Quercus velutina
Black Walnut	Juglans nigra
Black Willow	Salix nigra
Bur Oak	Quercus macrocarpa
Butternut	Juglans cinerea
Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides
Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis
Northern Red Oak	Quercus rubra
Paper Birch	Betula papyrifera
Quaking Aspen	Populus tremuloides
Red Maple	Acer rubrum
River Birch	Betula nigra
Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum
Shagbark Hickory	Carya ovata
Sugar Maple	Acer saccharum
Swamp White Oak	Quercus bicolor
Tag Alder	Alnus incana subsp rugosa
White Oak	Quercus alba
White Ash	Fraxinus americana
Softwoods (Conifer)	
Common Name	Genus and species
Balsam Fir	Abies balsamea
Black Spruce	Picea mariana
Eastern White Pine	Pinus strobus
Jack Pine	Pinus banksiana
Northern White Cedar	Thuja occidentalis
Red Pine	Pinus resinosa
Tamarack	Larix laricina
White Spruce	Picea glauca

N1a Scoring

Shrubs	
Common Name	Genus and species
Alternate-leaved Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>
American Crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>
Black Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Downy Arrow-wood	<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>
Gray Dogwood - Potential Invasive	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Hawthorns	<i>Crataegus</i> spp.
Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
Highbush Cranberry	<i>Viburnum opulus</i> L. subsp. <i>trilobum</i>
Juneberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> , <i>A. bartramiana</i> , <i>A. interior</i>
Lead-plant	<i>Amporpha canescens</i>
Mapleleaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
Northern Bush-Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>
Pin Cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>
Prairie Crabapple	<i>Malus ioensis</i>
Prairie Willow	<i>Salix humilis</i>
Red Osier Dogwood - Potential Invasive	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Round-leaved Dogwood	<i>Cornus rugosa</i>
Sand Cherry	<i>Prunus pumila</i>
Sandbar Willow	<i>Salix interior</i> Rowlee
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i> , <i>A. sanguinea</i> , <i>A. spicata</i>
Silky Dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>
Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus hirta</i>
Tag Alder	<i>Alnus incana</i> subsp. <i>rugosa</i>
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>

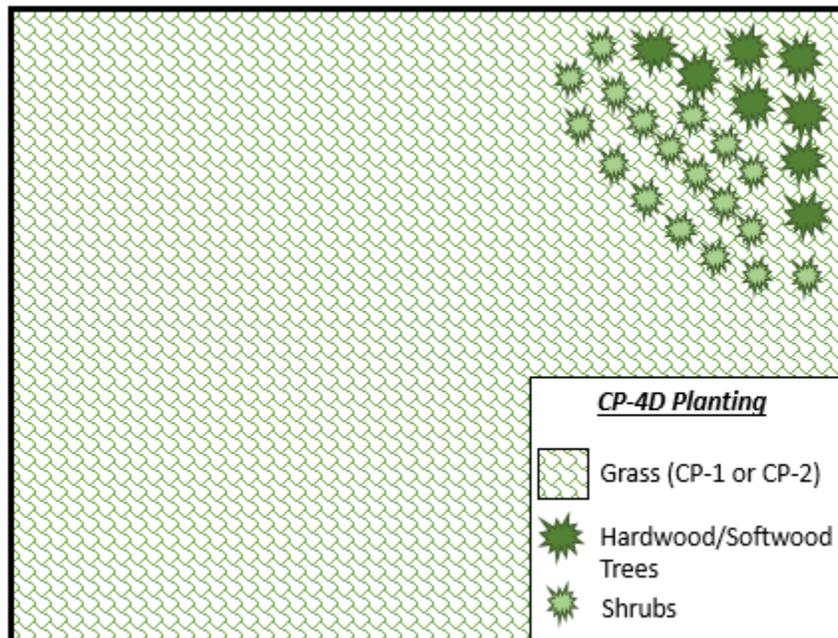
N1a Scoring

Trees	
Common Name	Genus and species
Hardwoods (Deciduous)	
American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
American Beech	<i>Fagus granifolia</i>
Bigtooth Aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>
Black Ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Black Willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>
Eastern Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Tag Alder	<i>Alnus incana</i> subsp <i>rugosa</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
Softwoods (Conifer)	
Balsam Fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>
Black Spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>
Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Jack Pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>
Northern White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
Tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>
White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>

Mixture Number	Species	Current Points
1	Timothy 2#, Smooth Bromegrass 2#, Orchardgrass 1#, Red Clover 5#	40
2	Timothy 2#, Orchard Grass 1#, , Red Top 1#, Red Clover 5#, Ladino ½#	40
3	Timothy 2#, Orchardgrass 1#, Red Top 2#, Alfalfa 6#	40
4	Kentucky Blue Grass 2#, Red Top 1#, Orchard Grass 1#, Red Clover 5#	40
5	Stiff Goldenrod 1 oz, Yellow Coneflower 1 oz, Purple Prairie Clover 2 oz, Big Bluestem 8 oz, Little Bluestem 1 ½#, Indian Grass 8 oz, Side Oats Grama 1 ½#	50
6	Yellow Coneflower 1 oz, Black-eyed Susan 1 oz, Bergamot 1 oz, Big Bluestem 8 oz, Switchgrass 8 oz, Little Bluestem 1 ¼#, Indian Grass 1#, Canada Wild Rye 1#	50
7	Purple Prairie Clover 2 oz, Bergamot 1 oz, Yellow Cone Flower 1 oz, Big Bluestem 8 oz, Little Bluestem 1 ½#, Indian Grass 8 oz, Switchgrass 8 oz, Side Oats Grama 1#	50
8	Common Ironweed 1 oz, Cupplant 2 oz, Blue Vervain 1 oz, Switchgrass 1#, Prairie Cordgrass 8oz, Big Bluestem 1#, Indian Grass 1#, Canada Wild Rye 1#	50
9	Bergamot 1 oz, Yellow Cone Flower 1 oz, New England Aster 1 oz, Switchgrass 2#, Prairie Cordgrass 4 oz, Big Bluestem 1#, Canada Wild Rye 1#	50

CP-4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat (non-easement) (Exhibit 11 – Page 22)

This cover is comprised of the same grass, tree, and shrub components as the CP-4B, but with block plantings an example is below.



INTRODUCTION

An ideal mosaic of woody cover plantings, cattail marshes, grain fields, and grasslands once existed across the agricultural landscape of Wisconsin. This habitat mixture produced a spectacular abundance of wildlife that was as much a part of the agricultural community as grain elevators, livestock, and family farms.

The CP4B will provide a permanent wildlife corridor between two existing wildlife habitat areas that are not connected. The CP4D practice provides an opportunity for you to recreate that mosaic of wildlife habitat on your property. This plan along with Wisconsin Job Sheet 134 or 135 will give you the guidance you need to plant and maintain your CP4B/CP4D planting.

GETTING STARTED

The first step in the establishment of good wildlife habitat is proper site location. Some factors to consider:

Relationships to Other Habitat Components

Cover plantings placed in any odd corner of a property will attract some form of wildlife. However, if the placement of these plantings is done with recognition given to existing travel lanes; good undisturbed nesting cover; proximity to wetlands; or food and watering areas – then the payoff in diverse and abundant wildlife use will be great. Ideally, winter food such as corn stubble or a planted food plot should be located within 100 yards of the cover planting and preferably downwind. This provides easy access to food with a minimum of exposure to predators and winter weather. Adjacent, undisturbed grassy cover will provide insect food and secure nesting.

Woody Cover and Edge Issues

Blocks of open grassland habitat should remain open and relatively free of woody edges such as hedgerows and woody fencelines that fragment the habitat and create edges for predator habitat and corridors for predator movement. In most cases, woody cover should be kept to a minimum in large blocks of grassland habitat.

This is especially true when management is focused on grassland birds that don't require much woody

growth (such as Eastern meadowlark, bobolink, Henslow's sparrow, and Upland sandpiper).



Exposure

One of the primary benefits of a well-located cover planting is relief from periods of stress such as midwinter winds. In Wisconsin, severe north and west facing slopes should be avoided. East, south, and moderately sloping west facing sites are preferred. The direct sunlight typically found on these sites increases the cover plantings development of flowers and fruit.

Soils

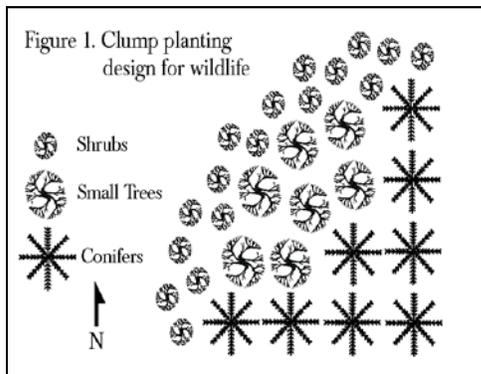
Most trees and shrubs require well-drained, loamy soils for best development and growth. Avoid very shallow soils, droughty or sandy soils with very low fertility, and excessively wet or poorly drained soils.

Selecting the Species to Plant

Choose tree species that are best adapted to handle Wisconsin's climate, insect pests, and disease problems (Table 1). Secondly, choose native shrubs that provide horizontal and vertical structure as well as sources of summer, fall, and winter foods (Table 2). Such diversity of structure and foods will contribute to the diversity of wildlife using your property.

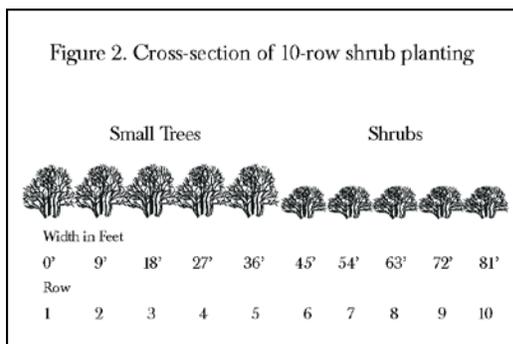
THE PLANTING PLAN

The arrangement of trees, shrubs, grasses and forbs in a planting can greatly affect its attractiveness to wildlife. Square plantings are preferable to a long, thin planting. The blocky shape catches snow on the north and west sides of the planting with the inner rows providing shelter from weather and predators (Fig. 1).



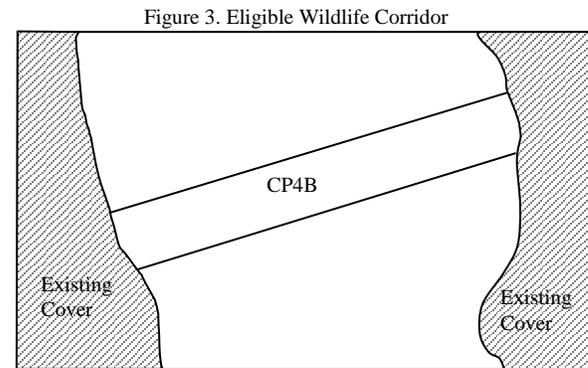
Plant two DNR Wildlife packets (or equivalent) per acre. This will provide 200 conifers and 400 shrubs per acre. Spacing for the 200 conifers is 12 x 12 feet. Spacing for the 400 shrubs is 6 x 6 feet. Plant species in groups so that no one species will predominate and out compete the others. Generally, tree and shrub plantings should be located along the edges of grassland fields to minimize the fragmentation of grasslands.

An alternative design, using only shrubs, would involve planting 600 shrubs/acre at a spacing of 9 x 9 feet (Fig. 2). A 10-row planting at this spacing, with 60 shrubs/row, would cover approximately one acre (80 x 540 feet). Again, plant species in groups and locate the planting along the edge of grassland fields.



Please refer to your site-specific requirements listed on the specification sheet accompanying this plan. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Refer to Job Sheets 134 or 135 for the grassland portion of your CP4B/CP4D planting.

Remember: Plantings that do not follow the job sheet instructions and specifications may result in loss of CRP program benefits.



Width: minimum 66 feet, maximum 200 feet.

SITE PREPARATION

The single most important part of establishing good woody cover is protecting the small bare-root seedlings from existing, competitive vegetation. Lack of site preparation prior to planting is the primary cause of planting failures due to heavy competition from weeds, grasses, and existing woody cover.

Mechanical Site Preparation

A planting site with a heavy sod can be fall-plowed and/or disked to set back the grass competition. Unfortunately, plowing will introduce air into the soil and this can lead to drying of the roots of newly planted stock. Disturbed soil is also prone to water erosion and weed seed invasion.

Burning heavy grass is a good way to reduce competition and set back the sod. However, if this way is selected, an NRCS-reviewed Prescribed Burn Plan must be developed for the site.

Chemical Site Preparation

Weedy or grassy competition is best controlled with selective herbicide use. Effective control depends on three factors:

- 1) Herbicide selected
- 2) Application rate
- 3) Weather conditions

If your site is grass only or has broadleaves (such as alfalfa): Mow the entire site in September. (NOTE: CRP fields may not be harvested in conjunction with this clipping.) After a few weeks, spray the site in 3-foot wide strips where the trees or shrubs will be planted. For the herbicide to be effective after mowing, be sure there are a few inches of newly sprouted growth before spraying.



OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Like children, your plantings require a little nurturing and maintenance in the early years.

1. Within one week after planting, spot spray (4 feet in diameter) or band spray (3 to 4 feet wide) with a pre-emergent herbicide over the newly planted trees and shrubs. Be sure furrows have closed around trees before spraying. Read and follow all label directions.
2. Control annual weeds and other competition the year of establishment, with early and timely clipping before seed heads appear, or timely application of herbicides.
3. Mowing between the rows of trees and shrubs is highly recommended to reduce habitat for mice and voles, which chew at the base of seedlings. Mow in June and August the year of planting and the two years after planting.

4. Prevent disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife as established by the CRP contract.
5. After the planting is established control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by: a) treating with chemicals per label directions, or b) spot mowing before seed heads form. Delay control measures until after August 1 to protect nesting wildlife. Spot clipping on problem areas must be authorized by FSA prior to mowing during the primary nesting season.
6. Protect the acres from haying and grazing. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout all 12 months of the year. It is possible to graze or hay these acres with the permission of the FSA County Committee and a payment reduction. Trees and shrubs must always be protected from haying and grazing.
7. Replace dead trees and shrubs as necessary, and control undesired vegetative competition to promote a fully functional tree/shrub planting. Control weed and grass competition around trees and shrubs for a minimum of 2-4 feet using herbicides, cultivation, mowing, mulch, or hand weeding.
8. Do not use the contract area for field borders, field roads, or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover.



Ten years down the road, a well-planned woody cover planting will provide valuable food and cover for wildlife

Table 1
Approved Trees

Common Name	Genus and species
Hardwoods (Deciduous)	
American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
American Beech	<i>Fagus granifolia</i>
Bigtooth Aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>
Black Ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Black Willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>
Eastern Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Tag Alder	<i>Alnus incana</i> subsp <i>rugosa</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
Softwoods (Conifer)	
Balsam Fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>
Black Spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>
Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Jack Pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>
Northern White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
Tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>
White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>

Table 2
Approved Shrubs

Common Name	Genus and species
Alternate-leaved Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>
American Crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>
Black Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Downy Arrow-wood	<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>
Gray Dogwood - Potential Invasive	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Hawthorns	<i>Crataegus</i> spp.
Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
Highbush Cranberry	<i>Viburnum opulus</i> L. subsp. <i>trilobum</i>
Juneberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> , <i>A. bartramiana</i> , <i>A. interior</i>
Lead-plant	<i>Amporpha canescens</i>
Mapleleaf Viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
Northern Bush-Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>
Pin Cherry	<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i>
Prairie Crabapple	<i>Malus ioensis</i>
Prairie Willow	<i>Salix humilis</i>
Red Osier Dogwood - Potential Invasive	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Round-leaved Dogwood	<i>Cornus rugosa</i>
Sand Cherry	<i>Prunus pumila</i>
Sandbar Willow	<i>Salix interior</i> Rowlee
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i> , <i>A. sanguinea</i> , <i>A. spicata</i>
Silky Dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>
Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus hirta</i>
Tag Alder	<i>Alnus incana</i> subsp. <i>rugosa</i>
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>

Landowner _____

Row No.	Row Length	Species	Spacing		Number of trees	
			In Row	Betw. Row	Planned	Planted

Sketch

Scheduled Planting

Date: _____

Field Conditions: _____

Site Prep: _____

Maintenance Required

Additional Specifications and Notes:

CP-12 Wildlife Food Plots

CP-12 Wildlife Food Plots (Exhibit 11 – Page 42)

- Food Plots are offered in conjunction with another cover, and are not stand alone practices during a general signup. (CP1, CP2, CP3, CP3A, CP4D, CP25)
- A food plot must be a minimum of 0.25 acre and a maximum of 5.0 acres in size.
- The food plot size is limited to no more than 10% of the field, with a maximum of 5 acres per field.
 - FSA will delineate the food plot during the offer process. This will become a separate field, but the acreage will be based on the original offered field size.
- A food plot can be moved within the adjacent field from year to year, but the previous food plot must be seeded to the approved cover at the producer's expense.
- Food plots are annually planted and required to complete seeding according to NRCS Job Sheet and the Conservation Plan of Operation.

CP-12 Food Plot – not planted (early spring)



INTRODUCTION

Wisconsin winters are hard on everyone. Some of the wildlife species that share our farms migrate to warmer climates for the winter, but many wildlife and song bird species must tolerate the frigid conditions. We can help these resident species survive our snowy winters by planting wildlife food plots. Food plots are annual or perennial plantings of grain, grass, forbs, or legumes to provide food for a variety of wildlife. They also add plant diversity and cover to the rural landscape and can serve as supplemental or emergency food supplies during extreme cold or snow. Without a reliable safe food source, even the best winter cover is useless to wildlife.

The most common grain used for food plots is corn, but many types of grain can be used, including sorghum, soybeans, millet, buckwheat, and sunflowers. Because a wide range of wildlife species can benefit from food plots, solid stands of a single food source are not allowed. A diversified planting will benefit a greater number of wildlife species during that period when existing food sources are scarce. Green growing plants are the choice for many wildlife species in the spring, for instance, but their preference changes to fruits and seeds in the fall and winter. This job sheet does not cover all food plot possibilities.

WHERE TO PLANT

Food plots should be located on the least erodible areas of fields where soil erosion does not pose a problem. Establish food plots adjacent to or within ¼ mile of existing winter cover such as shrub swamps, cattail marshes, woodlots, wide shrubby fencerows, or dense warm season grass fields. Annual food plots should be located south and east sides of permanent cover to reduce snow drifting into the plots. If adjacent cover is not available, snow drifting into food plots can be lessened by establishing snow traps. In a crop field, this can

be accomplished by harvesting 12-20 rows just inside of the outer 4-6 rows on the windward side.



SIZE

Individual food plots are recommended to be a minimum of ¼ acre in size, but 1-2 acre plots are preferred. Plots larger than one acre are particularly necessary in areas of high deer/turkey densities to ensure adequate food persists for other target species throughout the winter.

SHAPE

Block-shaped food patches are recommended over long linear patches because narrow patches fill with drifting snow, burying the grain. Consider a minimum width of 50 feet to help prevent snow drift issues.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

No grain or crop residue is allowed to be removed from the field and the food plots must be protected from livestock grazing. With consistent use by wildlife, food plots will need to be planted annually. If food plots are relocated or discontinued, the site must be re-seeded to an approved cover.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM FOOD PLOT REQUIREMENTS

Producers awarded 5 points in N1b must be aware that, if accepted in CRP, food plots must be planted each year of the contract. Food plots must be identified on a site map and may not be moved without permission.

There is no CRP cost sharing for food plots.

CRP food plots are limited in size to 10% of the acres of a field not to exceed a maximum of five acres in any field, regardless of field size.

Example: a 60-acre field is limited to no more than five acres of food plot.

NOTE: To provide more diversity, corn cannot exceed 50%, and forages cannot exceed 25% of any single CRP food plot.

If more than one food plot exists on a field, each individual site will be considered a separate food plot.

PLANTING INFORMATION

Where appropriate, food plots should be planted on the contour and conservation tillage shall be used.

Apply the necessary fertilizer, according to soil test, to ensure establishment of the plot. In lieu of a soil test, apply 100-150 lb/acre. of starter fertilizer (9-24-24 or 15-30-30).

Planting dates: May 1 – June 15. Sorghum requires warm soil for successful establishment; therefore, food plots containing sorghum should be planted in June.

Weed control may be necessary to reduce competition and ensure successful establishment. The presence of some weeds such as foxtail, smartweed, and ragweed actually benefit wildlife by providing higher protein and a greater number of seeds than domestic grain. Use approved chemicals according to label recommendations and/or use mechanical cultivation, as necessary. Rotating mixtures within the food plot is encouraged to provide diversity and assist in pest/weed control. Approved seeding rates are located in Table 1.

Multiply the seed rate by the percent of the food plot to determine pounds of seed needed.

Remember, successful food plots require inputs, management, and attention to detail comparable to farming for crop production.

PLANTINGS AND MIXES

Food plot managers may plant any of the following seed at these approved rates during any given year on their CRP food plot site.

Table 1

Food Type Annual	Seeding Rate (lbs./acre)
Alfalfa ¹	12
Buckwheat	40
Clover, red ¹	10
Clover, alsike ¹	3
Clover, ladino ¹	3
Corn ²	15
Forage Sorghum	12
German/Pearl Millet	8
Grain Sorghum (Milo)	12
Oats	40
Partridge Pea	10
Soybeans	45
Sunflowers	8
Wheat	50

¹ May not exceed 25% of any food plot.

² May not exceed 50% of any food plot. Corn planted by population will vary in weight. Planting population should not exceed 28,000 kernels per acre and 18,000 when interseeded with soybeans.

Seeding rates may be adjusted to reflect planter settings if approved by a certified planner.

Planning changes other than minor adjustments to the above seeding rates require prior approval from NRCS.

Seeding rates may be increased by 25% if broadcast seeding.

Forage sorghum: Planting outside rows on north and west sides of plot to forage sorghum as a snow catch is highly recommended. Plugging every other hole on the grain drill to get 12 to 14-inch spacing is recommended. Broadcasting the seed is another good option.

Grain sorghum provides food nearer to ground, which can cause problems in heavy snow conditions. Using short maturity sorghum varieties may ensure better grain production.

Grain and forage sorghum selected for food plots should be early maturing and stiff stalked varieties.

Millets and buckwheat can be broadcast then dragged. Millets and buckwheat should be planted inside the outer rows of forage sorghum or corn when possible to provide better cover and snow catch.

Sunflowers work best when planted with forage sorghum or corn. Broadcasting and dragging is an effective way to establish sunflowers

Soybeans may be planted in a food plot to add variety. Planting soybeans where snow is not drifting is also recommended. The soybeans can be planted using the corn planter with correct adjustments and running between the existing corn rows.

Corn cannot exceed 50% of the mixture. Corn varieties should mature in 95 days or less. It can be planted in the middle of the food plot and be surrounded by the remaining mixture.

Forages (clovers, alfalfa, winter wheat, etc.) cannot exceed 25% of the mixture.

A nurse crop of oats or spring rye can accompany the forage at a rate of one bushel/acre. Drilling is a good means to establish alfalfa and clover although broadcasting and dragging is also an option.

Food Plot Mix Examples

Example 1

25% Corn: 15 lbs/acre x 25% = 4 lbs/acre

25% Grain sorghum: 12 lbs/acre x 25% = 3 lbs/acre

25% Sunflowers: 8 lbs/acre x 25% = 2 lbs/acre

25% Buckwheat: 40 lbs/acre x 25% = 10 lbs/acre

Example 2

50% Corn: 18,000 seeds/acre

50% Soybeans: 45 lbs/acre x 50% = 23 lbs/acre

Corn and soybeans may be planted together with planter adjustments.

Caution: Planting too much seed will make plants compete and reduce the amount of grain produced.

The seed mix examples above are the per-acre mixes. Multiply this by the food plot acres to obtain the amount of seed needed.

Custom Mixtures: Many conservation and wildlife organizations have seed mixes that provide an excellent winter food source. All custom mixes must be approved by an NRCS Biologist prior to planting.



Photo by Kristine Welch

CP-25 Rare & Declining Habitats
(Tall Grass Prairie & Oak Savanna)

N1a Scoring

Tallgrass Prairie Restoration

For Sites where the predominant soil has sand in the name, i.e. sand, loamy sand, loamy fine sand, sandy loam etc. Use a Dry, or Dry Mesic seed mixture. On these dry sites in Jackson, Monroe, Juneau, Adams and Portage Counties encourage the use of the Karner Blue Butterfly mixture. This mix may also be used in other counties on dry sites if the landowner desires.

For most other sites use Mesic seed mixture.

If the majority of the field/site is wet, use the Wet-Mesic seed mixture.

Oak Savanna Restoration

Follow the requirements for Tallgrass Prairie Restoration and in addition plant trees at a rate of;

Prairie Type	Tree Planting Rate (Trees/acre)
Dry	130-150
All other Types	250

The trees may be a mixture of *Carya ovata* (Shagbark Hickory), *Quercus alba* (White Oak), *Quercus macrocarpa* (Burr Oak) and *Quercus velutina* (Black Oak). At least 50% of the trees planted will be *Quercus macrocarpa*. On lower wetter sites *Quercus bicolor* (Swamp White Oak) may be substituted for *Quercus alba* and *Quercus macrocarpa*. Trees will be planted immediately after seeding of the prairie. Plant trees in a pattern that will allow for mowing to control weeds.

Avoid burning the area of the savanna that contains the trees for five years.

Trees	
Common Name	Genus and species
Hardwoods (Deciduous)	
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>

CP-25 Rare & Declining Habitats (for WI – Tall Grass Prairies & Oak Savanna’s) (Exhibit 11 - Page 128)

- The following are approved mixes for Tall Grass Prairie sites

Dry Sites Mixture		
Genus Species	Common Name	Oz./Acre
Potentilla Arguta	Prairie Cinquefoil	.25
Aster Sericeus	Silky Astor	.50
Amorpha Canescens	Leadplant	.50
Monarda Punctata	Spotted Mint	.25
Coreopsis Palmata	Prairie Tickseed	.50
Solidago Rigida	Stiff Goldenrod	.50
Verbena Stricta	Hoary Vervain	.50
Ratibida Pinnata	Yellow Coneflower	.50
Tradescantia Ohiensis	Spiderwort	1.00
Dalea Purpurea	Purple Prairie Clover	2.00
Andropogon Gerardii	Big Bluestem	4.00
Bouteloua Curtipendula	Side-Oats Grama	24.00
Schizachyrium Scoparium	Little Bluestem	24.00
Sorghastrum Nutans	Indian Grass	8.00
Koeleria Cristata	June Grass	2.00
Sporobolus Cryptandrus	Sand Dropseed	2.00

Karner Blue Butterfly/Dry Sites Mixture		
Genus Species	Common Name	Oz./Acre
Potentilla Arguta	Prairie Cinquefoil	.25
Amorpha Canescens	Leadplant	.50
Aster Sericeus	Sky Blue Astor	.25
Dalea Purpurea	Purple Prairie Clover	2.00
Liatris Aspera	Rough Blazing Star	.50
Lupinus Perennis	Wild Lupine	3.00
Monarda Fistulosa	Bergamot	.25
Ratibida Pinnata	Yellow Coneflower	.50
Solidago Rigida	Stiff Goldenrod	.50
Echinacea Pallida	Pale Purple Coneflower	1.00
Bouteloua Curtipendula	Side-Oats Grama	24.00
Schizachyrium Scoparium	Little Bluestem	24.00
Sorghastrum Nutans	Indian Grass	8.00
Koeleria Cristata	June Grass	2.00
Sporobolus Heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed	2.00
Panicum Virgatum	Switchgrass	8.00

CP-25 Rare & Declining Habitat (Continued)

Dry Mesic Sites Mixture		
Genus Species	Common Name	Oz./Acre
Potentilla Arguta	Prairie Cinquefoil	.25
Amorpha Canescens	Leadplant	.50
Aster Sericeus	Sky Blue Astor	.50
Dalea Purpurea	Purple Prairie Clover	2.00
Liatris Aspera	Rough Blazing Star	.50
Lespedeza Capitata	Roundheaded Bushclover	2.00
Monarda Fistulosa	Bergamot	1.00
Ratibida Pinnata	Yellow Coneflower	1.00
Solidago Rigida	Stiff Goldenrod	.50
Tradescantia Ohiensis	Spiderwort	1.00
Schizachyrium Scoparium	Little Bluestem	24.00
Sorghastrum Nutans	Indian Grass	8.00
Koeleria Cristata	June Grass	2.00
Sporobolus Heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed	2.00
Panicum Virgatum	Switchgrass	4.00
Bouteloua Curtipendula	Side Oats Grama	24.00

Wet Mesic Sites Mixture		
Genus Species	Common Name	Oz./Acre
Rudbeckia Hirta	Black-Eyed Susan	.50
Monarda Fistulosa	Bergamot	.25
Ratibida Pinnata	Yellow Coneflower	.50
Liatris Pycnostachya	Prairie Blazing Star	.50
Vernonia Fasciculata	Common Ironweed	.50
Silphium Perfoliatum	Cupplant	2.00
Zizia Aurea	Golden Alexander	.50
Hypericum Pyramidatum	Great St. John's Wort	.25
Baptisia Latea	White Wild Indigo	1.50
Aster Novae-Angliae	New England Aster	.50
Panicum Virgatum	Switchgrass	24.00
Spartina Pectinata	Prairie Cordgrass	4.00
Andropogon Gerardii	Big Bluestem	8.00
Elymus Canadensis	Canada Wild Rye	16.00
Sorghastrum Nutans	Indian Grass	12.00

CP-25 Rare & Declining Habitat (Continued)

Mesic Native Sites Mixture		
Genus Species	Common Name	Oz./Acre
Ratibida Pinnata	Yellow Coneflower	.50
Rudbeckia Hirta	Black-Eyed Susan	.50
Aster Oolentangiensis	Sky Blue Aster	.50
Helianthus Helianthoides	False Sunflower	1.00
Monarda Fistulosa	Bergamot	.50
Vernonia Virginicum	Culvers Root	.25
Dalea Purpurea	Purple Prairie Clover	1.00
Silphium Integrifolium	Rosinweed	1.00
Liatris Pycnostachya	Prairie Blazing Star	1.00
Aster Novae-Angliae	New England Aster	.50
Andropogon Gerardii	Big Bluestem	8.00
Panicum Virgatum	Switchgrass	8.00
Schizachyrium Scoparium	Little Bluestem	24.00
Elymus Canadensis	Canada Wild Rye	8.00
Sorghastrum Nutans	Indian Grass	16.00

Wet Prairie Restoration		
Genus Species	Common Name	Oz./Acre
Veronicastrum Virginicum	Culver's Root	.25
Vernonia Fasciculata	Common Ironweed	.50
Silphium Perfoliatum	Cupplant	2.00
Asclepias Incarnata	Marsh Milkweed	1.00
Eupatorium Maculatum	Joe Pye Weed	.50
Verbena Hastata	Blue Vervain	1.00
Desmodium Canadense	Showy Tick Trefoil	2.00
Eupatorium Perfoliatum	Boneset	.50
Zizia Aurea	Golden Alexander	1.00
Panicum Virgatum	Switchgrass	16.00
Spartina Pectinata	Prairie Cordgrass	8.00
Andropogon Gerardii	Big Bluestem	8.00
Elymus Canadensis	Canada Wild Rye	16.00
Sorghastrum Nutans	Indian Grass	12.00
Glyceria Striata	Fowl Managrass	4.00
Carex Vulpinoidea	Fox Sedge	4.00

CP-25 Rare & Declining Habitat (Continued)

For Oak Savanna restorations, the authorized tree species are:

Trees	
Common Name	Genus and species
Hardwoods (Deciduous)	
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>

CP-25 Rare & Declining Habitat – Pictures

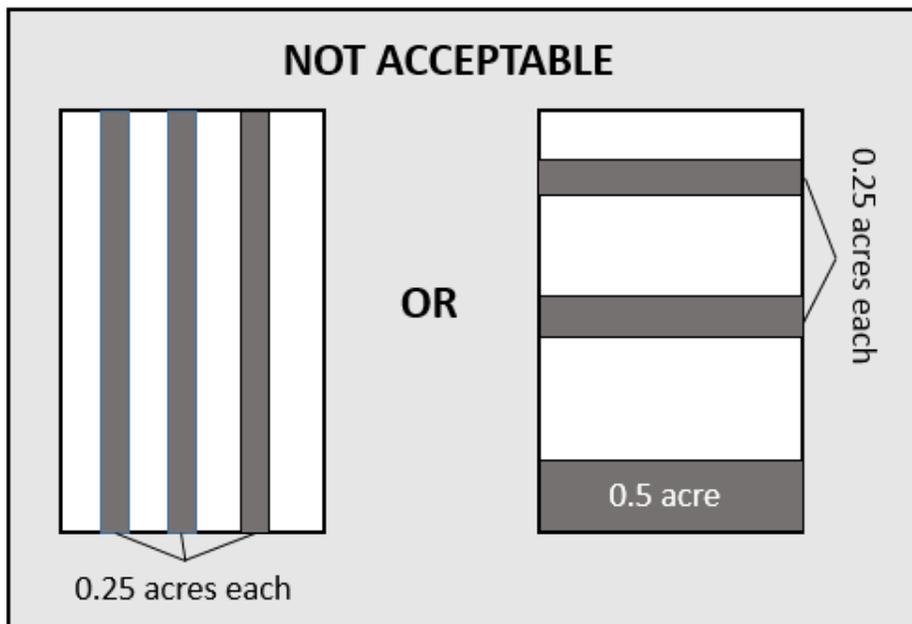
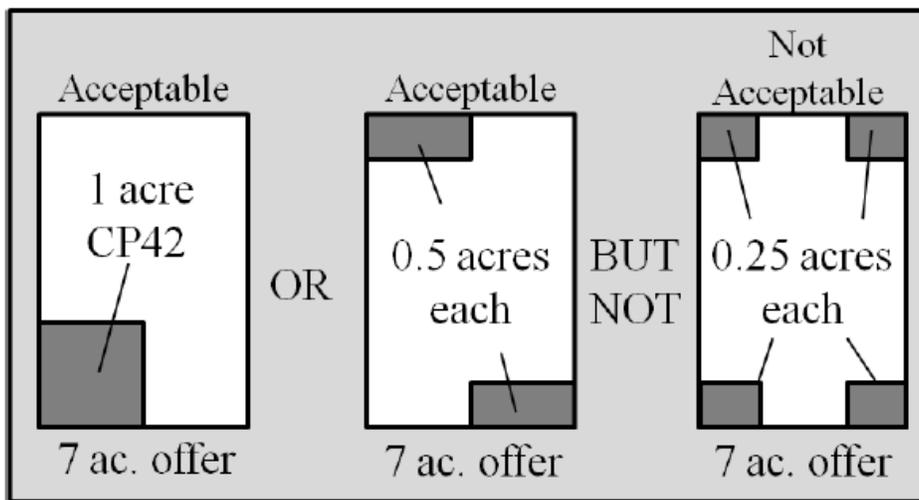
(NOTE: Tall Grass Prairies only)



CP-42 Pollinator Habitat

CP-42 Pollinator Habitat (Exhibit 11 – Page 257)

- Pollinator Habitat is designed to establish and support a diverse group of pollinator species.
- WI does not allow shrub plantings on CP-42, and does not allow for feathering around field edges.
- CP-42 must consist of at least 9 species of flowering forbs with a minimum 3 blooming in each bloom period.
 - Spring
 - Summer
 - Fall
- Seed mixes are created between a landowner and the NRCS to meet the technical specifications in a cost-effective manner.
- Plantings must be at least 0.5 acre in size and participants should consider block plantings versus long narrow band plantings



CP-42 Pollinator Habitat Pictures



Pollinator Friendly Habitat Wisconsin Job Sheet 130

Landowner: _____ Tract: _____

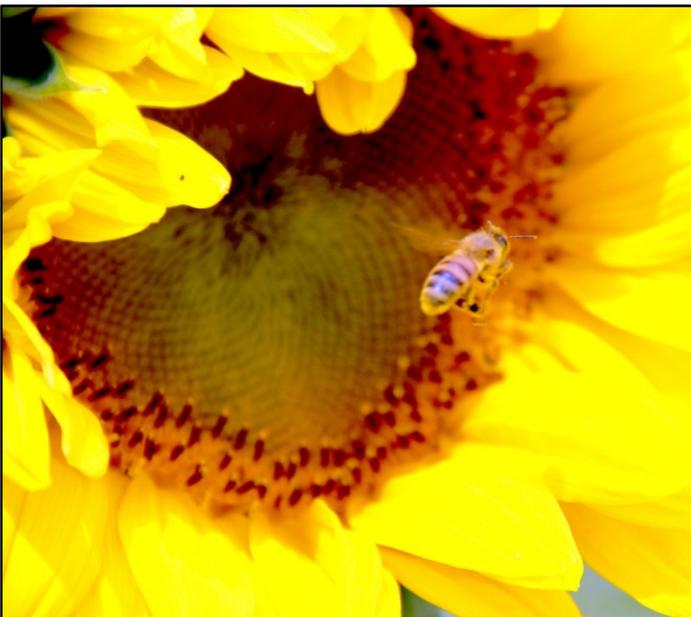
If you are receiving financial assistance for completing this planting, refer to your agreement for any additional requirements or restrictions.

Introduction

Pollinators are an integral part of our environment and our agricultural systems; they are important in 35 percent of global crop production. Animal pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, beetles, ants, bats and hummingbirds. Worldwide, there are an estimated 20,000 species of bees alone, with approximately 4,000 species native to the United States.

This job sheet focuses on selecting appropriate species and habitat requirements for pollinators. Specie selection and habitat establishment in this document will focus on native plants primarily; however, non-native plants may be used to establish pollinator habitat.

For additional recommendations, refer to Wisconsin NRCS Biology Technical Note 8, Pollinator Biology and Habitat, located at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/technotes.html>.



Pollinator Friendly Habitat
Wisconsin Job Sheet 130

Specie Selection, Site Selection, and Seed Quality

1. Species and cultivars must be selected based upon the adaptation to site conditions, including appropriate moisture regime, climatic conditions, soil conditions, and landscape position.
2. Select species based on growth characteristics, fertility requirements, disease resistance, compatibility with other species, and the intended use of the seeding.
3. Seed must be of high quality and meet the requirements of the Wisconsin seed laws for certification. If certified seed is not available, non-certified seed may be used as long as the seed is tested for purity and germination by a testing laboratory following association of official seed analysts (AOSA) procedures. If you plan to use untested seed, prior approval must be granted from NRCS before planting.
4. Mixtures must meet all requirements of the Wisconsin seed laws. Species identified as restricted or prohibited by law shall not be planted.
5. Legume seed must be inoculated prior to planting.
6. If one or more of the species in the mix consists of more than 20 percent hard seed, the seeding rate for the species must be increased by the percent of hard seed.

Seeding Periods and Rates

Seeding rates and species are provided on the attached seeding plan. Rates are based upon Pure Live Seed (PLS). In order to determine PLS, the seed must be tested for purity and germination. If you are receiving financial assistance for this practice, any changes to the species or rates listed in the seeding plan must be approved before seed is purchased.

- Permanent, perennial vegetative cover will be established within the recommended seeding dates

as shown on the attached seeding plan. When it is not possible to seed during the recommended seeding dates, a temporary cover will be required to reduce erosion until the seeding can be completed.

- **Frost Seeding.** The frost seeding period in Wisconsin typically ranges from February to mid-March but may vary from year to year depending on the weather. Frost seeding is allowed only during the active freezing and thawing cycle and can be completed on fields where good seed-to-soil contact can be obtained. Do not frost seed on fields with solid ice or snow cover greater than 2 inches. Seeding rates must be increased by 15 percent. Refer to your seeding plan to determine if frost seeding is allowed for your situation.
- **Dormant Seeding.** Dormant seeding occurs late in the fall when the soil temperature is cool enough to prevent germination until the following spring. This type of seeding provides greater risk of failure due to variability in weather and often has reduced yields. Seeding rates must be increased by 15 percent when seeding during this time period. Refer to your seeding plan to determine if dormant seeding is allowed for your situation.

Fertilizer and Lime Requirements

Native Species

For establishment of native species, soil testing and application of soil amendments is not a requirement.

Non-Native (Introduced) Species

Soil tests no older than four years must be taken according to UW Extension Publication A2100, Sampling Soils for Testing. You will need at least one sample for every 5 acres or less, and the samples must be analyzed at a Wisconsin certified soil testing laboratory. Any recommendations for fertilizer or lime will be applied based on UW Extension Publication A2809, Nutrient Application Guidelines for Field, Vegetable and Fruit Crops.

You can choose to take a soil test using the procedure listed above or follow a general recommendation. If you choose not to obtain a soil test, a general recommendation of 150 pounds per acre of a 20-10-10 fertilizer and a minimum of 2 tons per acre of 80-89 lime may be used. Under certain conditions, fertilizer and/or lime recommendations may be waived.

Seeding Methods

Conventional Seeding

Conventional seeding includes preparing a firm seedbed by using tillage and packing equipment. The seed is broadcasted on the soil surface and incorporated by secondary tillage or packing tools.

Some native seeds are fluffy, light, and chaffy which require agitators in the seed boxes on the drill for the seed to flow uniformly. When possible, seed should be sorted according to size and shape and placed in the appropriate seed boxes to ensure uniform distribution across the field.

Seed can also be broadcast by using air seeders, fertilizer spreaders, or other types of rotary or drop seeder implements. When a small amount of seed is being applied over a large area, a carrier should be mixed with the seed. Carriers such as pelletized lime, fertilizer, cracked corn, saw dust, vermiculite, etc., may be used.

The seedbed should contain enough fine soil particles to provide uniform shallow coverage of the seed as well as contact with moisture and nutrients. It is important to have a firm seedbed. As a minimum, culti-pack or roll before and after seeding. When walking on a properly prepared seedbed, the depth of your footprints should not exceed ¼ inch. Do not use heavy, no-till type drills to seed on conventionally prepared seedbeds. Heavy drills tend to sink into the soil and seeding depth will be difficult to control. Do not plant seed deeper than ¼ inch.

No-Till Seeding

No-till planting is the planting of grasses and/or forbs in the absence of tillage. No-till can be used to establish new seedings on land previously in row crops or existing sod. As with conventional seeding, seed placement should be no deeper than ¼ inch. A drill equipped for no-till planting must be used to obtain proper seeding depth unless the ground is soft enough to allow consistent penetration of disk openers of a conventional drill.

Herbicides are often necessary when using no-till methods of establishment. When using herbicides, be sure to read and follow all label directions.

No-Till Planting Into Crop Residue

Residue should be uniformly distributed over the field from the previous year's harvest. It is often preferred to plant new seedings into soybean stubble when using a no-till drill. No-tilling into large amounts of

non-fragile residue such as corn stalks and small grain residue may reduce germination and seedling vigor. For spring weed control, use a nonselective herbicide to kill weeds prior to planting. Be careful not to select a herbicide that will have carryover or residual effects on your new seeding.

No-Till Planting Into Existing Sod

No-till planting can be used to completely renovate existing sod. In order to prepare a good seedbed for no-tilling into existing sod, plant litter and existing growth must be removed or altered prior to applying nonselective herbicides. Options to remove or reduce existing cover include mowing, burning, haying, or grazing.

- **Mowing:** Mow the site using a rotary mower or flail chopper to a height of 3 inches. Mowing equipment should uniformly distribute the mowed plant material over the field surface.
- **Burning:** Conduct a prescribed burn according to the requirements outlined in the burn plan. The burn plan must address safety concerns and document the appropriate timing for the burn.
- **Haying:** Mechanically harvest vegetation from the site the year before the planned seeding. The timing of the hay harvest should be planned to minimize the amount of re-growth that will occur prior to herbicide application.
- **Grazing:** Timing and duration of grazing must be intensive enough to significantly reduce the existing vegetative cover. If possible, begin the grazing at a time of the year when the standing vegetation is green and growing to increase the palatability and feed value of the forage which will result in a more uniform removal of the vegetation.

After the existing plant litter is altered or removed, allow plants to actively re-grow before applying a nonselective herbicide. Be aware of herbicides that may have carryover or residual effects. Timing of herbicide applications usually occurs in the spring before plants flower or early fall to actively growing plants. Herbicide applications in the fall often have greater efficacy, but air temperature should be above 50° F to improve plant uptake.

Inter-Seeding

Interseeding includes any stand modification that maintains some vegetative component of the original stand. Interseeding is a good way to improve existing stands that lack plant diversity. It is NOT recommended to seed native species along with or into existing stands of introduced grasses/legumes (bromegrass, fescue, alfalfa, etc.). Introduced species will out compete the slower establishing native

species. Any existing stands of introduced species should be terminated prior to seeding native species.

For inter-seeding native species, existing plant growth and litter will need to be reduced, and the same options used for no-tilling into existing sod can be used. In addition, limited tillage can be used to suppress the existing cover.

- **Limited Tillage:** Limited tillage may also be used to suppress the existing stand. Fields can be tilled to a depth of 3 to 5 inches, should expose at least 50 percent of the soil surface. Careful consideration should be used when using limited tillage due to potential erosion concerns or the potential to encourage additional weed growth due to soil disturbance.

After plant growth is reduced, herbicides can be used to suppress, not eliminate, vegetation prior to inter-seeding. One must consider the current types of plants in the field (grasses vs. broadleaves) and which species you want to suppress. In addition, current field conditions and timing of application must be considered before selecting a herbicide.

A drill equipped for no-till planting must be used to obtain proper seeding depth unless limited tillage is used to prepare the seedbed. In this case, seed may be broadcast or drilled. Use a culti-packer or roll the seedbed before and after seeding when tillage is used.

Temporary Cover

Temporary cover is required when seed or planting stock is not available, the normal planting period has passed, or where herbicide carryover is likely. A temporary cover will typically not be necessary on areas where at least 50 percent of the ground is covered with either crop residue or vegetative cover.

Temporary cover crops must be clipped or terminated prior to seedhead emergence or before planting permanent cover.

Temporary Cover			
Species	Rate (lbs. or bu. / acre)		Seeding Dates
	No Herbicide Carryover	Triazine Carryover Likely	
Forage Sorghum	½ bu.		5/15 - 7/15
Sorghum-Sudangrass Hybrid	1 bu.		
Sudangrass	1 bu.		
Winter Wheat	120 (2 bu.)	Not recommended	8/1 - 10/15
Winter Cereal Rye	112 (2 bu.)	Not recommended	
Oats	64 (2 bu.)	Not recommended	
Annual Rye-grass	20 lbs.	Not recommended	4/1 - 9/1

Companion Crops

Companion crops can be used to reduce the amount of erosion on critical sites, suppress weeds, and provide added protection for permanent perennial vegetation seeded during the first year of planting. Refer to your seeding plan to determine if companion crops are recommended for your situation.

Operation and Maintenance

Weed control during establishment is critical to ensure survival of the new stand. Mowing, herbicide application, or grazing may be used alone or in combination to control weeds before they go to seed. Graze or mow the existing stand at a height of 7 inches for natives species and 4 to 6 inches for non-native species before weeds go to seed. If grazing the stand, be cautious of selective grazing where animals do not uniformly graze the stand. Be careful not to mow or graze when the soil is wet to avoid damage to seedlings. If residue will be left on the field, do not allow the vegetation to grow too high prior to mowing, otherwise excessive residue may accumulate and smother seedlings. Additional treatment may be needed every 3 to 4 weeks throughout the growing season until the stand becomes established. If using herbicides, be sure to follow all label directions. Once the permanent vegetation is established, control noxious weeds or invading woody vegetation by spot mowing, spraying with herbicides, grazing, burning, or other methods appropriate for the site. To maximize wildlife benefits, mow before May 15 or after August 1 to protect nesting birds and provide cover.

Please note: If you are receiving financial assistance for this seeding, certain methods and timing of maintenance may not be allowed. Refer to your contract agreement for specific guidance.

Conservation Reserve Program Requirements

CRP rules allow the cover to be managed throughout the year to control weeds or woody vegetation UNTIL the cover is determined to be established (typically within the first 3 years of the contract).

Once the cover is established, no disturbance is allowed during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract (May 15 through August 1). 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.

Any haying or grazing of CRP must be approved by the Farm service Agency in advance.

CRP Pollinator Habitat Criteria

Seeding composition must include a minimum of 9 species of pollinator-friendly legumes or wildflowers, including at least 3 species in bloom each season of spring (early), summer (middle), and fall (late).

Seeding composition must contain at least 1 and a maximum of 2 bunch grasses.

CRP pollinator habitat must be at least 0.5 acres in size and a minimum of 20 feet in width, amounting to a minimum of 1.0 acre per contract.

Introduced species and woody vegetation are not approved for CRP pollinator habitat.

Example Pure Live Seed (PLS) Rate Calculation:

- Step 1 – Determine the seeding rate of each of specie. For example: 80 PLS pounds per acre of Spring Barley is planned.
- Step 2 – Multiply the percent purity by the percent germination of each specie based on seed tag information. For example: 98% purity x 60% germination equates to 0.588% PLS.
- Step 3 – Divide the planned seeding rate by the percent PLS to find the bulk seed needed per acre. For example: 80 lbs. of Spring Barley per acre / 0.588% PLS = 136 lbs/acre.

The adjusted pure live seeding rate of 136 pounds of Spring Barley per acre is required to meet the seeding criteria for his example.

CRP Required Management Activities

Landowner: _____

DEFINITION

Establish permanent vegetative cover to provide nutritious forage for honey bees and other pollinators.

WHERE USED

This practice is focused on enhancing honey bee habitat associated with grasslands currently under CRP contract and established to CP-1, CP-2, CP-4D, CP-10, CP-25, and CP-38E conservation cover practices.

SPECIFICATIONS

Native forb mixture: Eligible on practices CP-2, CP-4D (native grass/forbs), CP-25, CP-38E (native grass/forbs).

- A minimum of **six species** of pollinator friendly native forbs – additional species are encouraged, but not more than eight species can be utilized.
- Two species shall be from each of early, mid and late flowering seasons so that pollinators have continuous food sources during the time of greatest need.
- The list of forb species below shall be used. Additional forb species can be added at the landowners’ personal expense.



Species (Scientific Name)	Bloom Period	Pure Live Seed (PLS) per/oz. per/acre	Seeds per square ft.	Total Seeds per square ft.	Color
Foxglove Beardtongue (Penstemon digitalis)	Early	2.00	2.64 × 2	5.28	White
Lance Leaved Coreopsis (Coreopsis lanceolata)	Early	3.00	0.46 × 3	1.38	Yellow
Large Flowered Penstemon (Penstemon grandifloris)	Early	2.00	0.32 × 2	0.64	Lavender
Mountain Mint (Pycnanthemum virginicum)	Mid	1.00	5.05	5.05	White
Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca)	Mid	2.00	0.09 × 2	0.18	Purple
Purple Prairie Clover (Dalea purpurea)	Mid	5.00	0.458 × 5	2.29	Purple
Maximilian Sunflower (Helianthus maximiliani)	Late	4.00	0.30 × 4	1.2	Yellow
Stiff Goldenrod (Oligoneuron rigidum)	Late	4.00	1.05 × 4	4.2	Yellow
TOTAL:				20.22	

- The mixture will result in a minimum of 20 seeds/sq. ft. When native grasses are added to the mixture, no more than 2 native grass species and 10 grass seeds per sq. ft. per acre are allowed.



Introduced legume mixture: Eligible on practices CP-1, CP-4D (introduced grass/legume), CP-10, CP-38E (introduced grass/legume).

Legume	Bloom	Type	Total Seeds/sq.	PLS Seeding Rate lbs./ac	Moisture Regime
Alsike Clover	Early – Mid	Perennial	32.0	2.0	M-W
Red Clover	Early – Mid	Perennial	12.0	2.0	DM-WM
White Clover	Early – Mid	Perennial	40.0	2.0	DM-WM
Alfalfa	Mid – Late	Perennial	20.0	4.0	D-M
TOTALS:			104.0	10.0	

- The mixture will result in a minimum of 104 seeds per sq. ft. per acre.
- Increase the seeding of Red Clover to 3 lbs. per acre when site conditions are too wet for Alfalfa.

SIZE

Honey bee habitat shall be established in blocks of at least 1.0 acre in size. Where feasible, locate the planting along the edge of the existing CRP field to facilitate establishment and maintenance. Encourage locating the planting at least 125’ from existing cropland.

PLANTING

No-Till Planting: If possible, use specialized no-till native grass drills for seeding pollinator habitat. Such drills have depth bands designed to handle a wide variety of seed (fluffy, smooth, large, and small) and low seeding rates. Since no-till drilling can plant directly into a light stubble layer, this method reduces erosion on the newly seeded site. Conventional grain drills are not capable of handling diverse seed sizes and are unlikely to provide satisfactory results.

While these no-till native seed drills can plant through light stubble, success is still likely to be greatest when most excess residue (heavy thatch) is removed. Similarly, cultipacking the ground prior to planting will help smooth the seedbed and may improve germination. Do not harrow or till the soil prior to planting, as heavy drills tend to sink in loose soil and depth.

Broadcast Planting: Prepare a fine firm seedbed to a depth of 3 inches. Use a roller, cultipacker or similar implement prior to seeding. The seedbed should contain enough fine soil particles for uniform shallow coverage of the seed as well as creating direct contact with moisture and nutrients.

Broadcast seed at a rate of 1.5 times the normal drill seeding rate. Harrow lightly with a chain link fence (not a heavy spike tooth harrow) to smooth the ground and cover the seed, and roll or cultipack.

Site Preparation: Site preparation, which includes perennial weed abatement and seedbed creation, is crucial for successful native plantings. The key points are to remove all perennial weeds through herbicide use or another weed abatement method, and to prepare a firm seedbed that will ensure good seed to soil contact.



CRP HONEY BEE HABITAT TO BE ESTABLISHED		
	Establishment Methods	Planting Dates
Existing Cover is		
Introduced Grass/Legumes	Mow Spring (April) or Fall (late July to early September), and remove residue. Spray re-growth with glyphosate. Three planting options: * No-till into existing cover. * lightly disk as needed, broadcast & drag. * Fall dormant planting.	Spring Plant: April 1 - May 14 Summer Plant: August 2 - August 29 Fall Dormant: October 8 - Freeze-up
Native Grass/Forbs	Mow early summer (June) and remove residue. Spray re-growth with glyphosate (late July - August). * Fall dormant planting.	Spring Plant: Thaw - May 14 Fall Dormant: October 8 - Freeze-up

All management or maintenance activities occurring during the nesting season must receive prior approval by the Farm Service Agency.

When feasible, establishment of honey bee habitat should be concurrently planned with other mid-contract management activities, such as prescribed burning and inter-seeding.

Post Planting: During the establishment year, mow annual weeds after they have reached 12” in height. Mow 2 to 3 times to a height of 6 inches, generally on 30 day intervals from the date of seeding, or as often as needed to prevent weeds from flowering. Use a rotary mower or remove the clippings so as not to smother the seedlings. This will slow the weeds but won't harm the prairie plants. The second year, evaluate the stand to determine if weed control is necessary. If weed control is necessary spot mow weeds to a height of six inches.

Use of Pesticides: Only those pesticides which are labeled for use with the planned mixture will be recommended. University and Extension publications and specific label instructions will be used for guidance on herbicide selection and use.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

1. Control annual weeds and other competition the year of establishment, with early and timely clipping before seed heads appear, or timely application of herbicides.
2. Prevent unmanaged vegetative disturbance of the planting.
3. After the seeding is established control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by: (a) spot treating with chemicals per label directions, or (b) spot mow before seed heads form.
4. Manage cover periodically to rejuvenate grass quality and vigor. Management should occur within 3-5 years of adequate vegetative establishment. Mechanical management activities must take place prior to May 15th or between August 2nd and September 1st.
5. Prescribed fire is the preferred management option for native forbs. Fall (October-early November) burns favor wildflowers.



Introduction

A firebreak for CRP purposes, is a low growing strip of vegetation placed strategically to reduce the risk of a potential wildfire causing damage and to contain prescribed burns. Because native prairie grasses and forbs tend to stand up over winter and contain high levels of fuel, unexpected wildfires can cause damage to neighboring land. CRP allows the use of carefully designed and installed firebreaks. (See NRCS Field Office Technical Guide [FOTG], Section IV, Standard 394, Firebreak.)



Where to Plant

Attempt to locate firebreaks near ridge crests and valley bottoms. Firebreaks should be perpendicular to the wind and on the windward side of the areas to be protected. Design a perimeter along woods or other areas that need protection. Buildings should also be protected if a mowed lawn does not already exist around them.

Size

A minimum firebreak of 50 feet should be used to protect buildings (existing lawn should be accounted for). Buffer width next to woods should be determined by fuel type in burn unit compared to woodland fuels. At a minimum, firebreaks should be non-combustible and at least two times as wide as the height of the adjacent vegetation to be burned. In very large areas of open grass, it is advised to place secondary breaks within the areas.

Other Requirements

Firebreaks should be clipped annually in the fall of the year. Consider cultural resources and environmental concerns such as threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, natural areas, and wetlands. Use barriers such as streams, lakes, ponds, rock cliffs, roads, field borders, drainage ditches and other areas as existing firebreaks when possible.

This job sheet must be a part of the CRP CPO when firebreaks are planned.



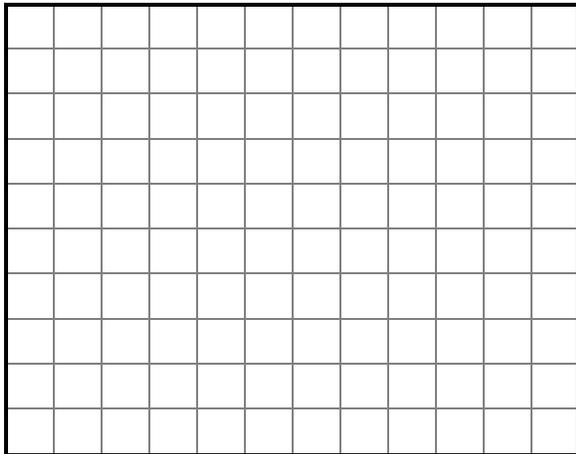
Landowner: _____

PLS Based Seed Mix Calculations

Mix 1		
Species	Field _____ Acres _____	
	Rate Per Acre	# Seed Needed
Kentucky Blue Grass	8 lbs.	

Mix 2		
Species	Field _____ Acres _____	
	Rate Per Acre	# Seed Needed
Creeping Red Fescue	4 lbs.	
Alfalfa	2 lbs.	

Location Sketch



Scheduled planting date: _____

Total length in feet to be planted: _____

Width of break: _____

**Include location on conservation plan map.*

Additional Specifications and Notes:

CRP Required Management Practice Prescribed Burning Wisconsin Job Sheet 389

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 participants to do some type of “disturbance” to certain CRP practices during specific years of the contract. Required Management Practices are designed to enhance the cover value. This job sheet describes how to implement Prescribed Burning as a required management activity.

PURPOSE

Once established, grassland fields need to be managed so that the grasses do not crowd out the forbs and/or legumes over time. In the absence of disturbance, the composition of grassland communities will change over several years through normal plant succession. The vegetative structure changes as annual forbs and legumes are replaced by perennial grasses, and eventually, woody plants. Changes also occur structurally as litter accumulates and vegetation density increases. These changes may lead to a decline in diversity and reduced wildlife benefits.

The purpose of required contract management activities is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres by encouraging a diverse forb/legume community. Forbs and legumes in grasslands are beneficial to birds, insects such as butterflies, along with other wildlife. Prescribed burning is an effective management tool to balance the forbs and grasses in a native planting.

NOTE: CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract. This rule prevents injury to nesting and fledgling birds. The dates have varied over time, but the current primary nesting season for new CRP contracts is May 15 through August 1. CRP participants are also required to control

invasive and weed plant species before they produce viable seed. Maintenance activities such as spot mowing, spot spaying and spot burning may be done during the primary nesting season with prior approval from the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee.



PRESCRIBED BURNING

Fire, when properly applied, can improve grassland habitats by:

- Creating open ground for wildlife movement by reducing excess plant litter and dense sod formation.
- Allowing sunlight to reach the soil surface, encouraging the germination and growth of forbs and legumes.
- Suppressing woody plants and other non-native plant species.

Prescribed burning may reduce naturally occurring wildfire hazards while enhancing the aesthetic appearance of natural landscapes.

The structural diversity that results from this type of management is especially helpful for maintaining brood-rearing habitat for bobwhite quail, wild turkey, ring-necked pheasant, and other early successional grassland wildlife species. Prescribed burning also improves habitat for a variety of grassland songbirds, including bobolinks and savannah sparrows. Many of these grassland

songbird species have experienced population declines over the last several decades. The habitat quality is enhanced because fire inhibits woody growth, promotes favored seed producing plants, reduces plant residue, increases bare ground, and increases insect abundance. The insects associated with forb communities provide critical nutrients, including protein, and essential amino acids for growing nestlings and chicks.



SPECIFICATIONS

The following are specifications for prescribed burning on CRP acreage:

- The landowner is responsible for adhering to the burn plan, as well as all applicable local, state and federal laws. Landowners are responsible for confining prescribed burns to their lands and are liable for damages and costs to others should the fire escape from the designated area. Landowners are also responsible for any damages caused by smoke blowing into neighboring properties, across roads or airport runways.
- A written prescribed burn plan must be completed and submitted to NRCS for review before any fires are ignited. The burn plan will identify suitable weather conditions, needed personnel and equipment, adjacent and in-field hazards, and the safest firing method, in addition to the time of year to conduct the burn for the best management results. Prescribed Burning plans will follow the NRCS Prescribed Burning Practice Standard (338) found in the Wisconsin Field Office Technical Guide.
- Prescribed burning will not be performed during the primary nesting period for grassland bird species identified in the CRP contract.

- Prescribed burns shall not be planned in the following areas:
 1. Areas where the soil surface contains high levels of organic matter (muck/peat).
 2. Areas where burning will cause erosion to exceed tolerable limits.
 3. Areas planted to trees and/or shrubs.
- Guidelines for Prescribed Burns on CRP:
 1. Identify the need for prescribed burning.
 2. Determine the timing of the burn based on burn objective.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the following primary components when planning for a prescribed burn:

1. Evaluate the proposed site to determine the intended objective of the burn, and conditions to meet the intended objective. See Table 1.
2. Prepare a comprehensive burn plan describing all the necessary elements to have a safe and effective burn.
3. Select trained and qualified persons to write the burn plan and conduct the prescribed burn.
 - Fall and late winter burns may decrease Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, and Switch Grass and favor forbs and legumes.
 - Prescribed burning should not be planned in locations where gully formation is a potential problem.
 - Use discretion if soil conditions are extremely dry or drought conditions are predicted - burning under these conditions may damage or destroy perennial prairie plant crowns. Follow all State and Local laws and obtain necessary permits.
 - Control noxious weeds by spot spraying or spot mowing.
 - It is highly recommended, but is not required, that prescribed burning be delayed until after August 15, reducing the chance of harming fledgling birds and other young wildlife.

Table 1. Burn Objective and Relationship to Burning Time Frame

Burn Objective	Timing of Burn
Promote grasses in introduced plantings	August 2-August 10 or October 1-November 15 or March 1-April 14
Promote forbs and legumes in introduced plantings	April 15-May 14 or August 20-September 30
Promote early forbs in native plantings	August 2-August 10 or November 1-November 30 or March 1-April 15
Promote grasses and late forbs in native plantings	April 15-May 14 or August 20-September 30

CRP Field Number	Acres	Reason for Burn	Timing & Year of Burn	Other Identified Concerns

Notes:

Prescribed Burn Plan

Wisconsin Job Sheet 338

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Plan must be submitted at least 60 days prior to burn. Burn plans with ANY missing items will not be reviewed.

Landowner/Operator: _____	Date: _____
Address: _____	
Phone Number: _____	E-mail: _____
Entity Responsible (individual/organization) for conducting burn: _____	
Address: _____	
Phone Number: _____	E-mail: _____

Burn location address (include fire number): _____

County: _____ **TWP:** ___ N **Range:** ___ E W ___ ¼ **Section:** _____

Total Acres in Burn Unit: _____

Objective of the burn (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Control woody/invasive species | <input type="checkbox"/> Promote grasses in cool season stands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promote legumes in cool season stands | <input type="checkbox"/> Promote grasses in warm season stands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promote forbs and legumes in warm season stands | <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation for seeding or planting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Species specific habitat management | <input type="checkbox"/> Oak regeneration <input type="checkbox"/> Pine regeneration |

Vegetation (list all dominant species, both herbaceous and woody).

Species	Height	Percent of Stand

- Switchgrass comprises more than 50% of stand? Yes No
- Woody species comprise more than 10% of stand? Yes No

Acceptable Conditions: Document actual conditions in the Go/No Go checklist (page 4) on the day of the burn. If any of the following constraints cannot be met or are on the edge of the limits for more than one parameter, **do not** burn that day.
(Red Flag Conditions: Temp >80°F or Wind >18 mph or Relative Humidity <25%; Avoid light and variable winds; **DO NOT burn within 12 hours of an approaching weather front or during Orange/Red Air Quality days (see link below).**

- Temperature 40-80°F
- Preferred **steady** wind 3-18 mph from _____ Indicate direction on burn plan map.
Other acceptable direction(s) for burning are: _____
- Relative humidity 25-60%

Notification Phone Numbers:

County Sheriff Dispatch: _____ Local Fire Department Chief: _____

WDNR Dispatch (in WDNR protection areas – <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/permits.html>): _____

Neighbors (all adjoining the property to be burned): _____

PERMITS NEEDED: (list all appropriate permits). WDNR and townships often require permits.

Permitter/Person (if known)	Phone Number	Date Obtained

Neither WDNR nor the township requires a permit for this location.

Burn Boss (if known): _____ Qualifications: _____

Number of people planned to conduct burn (4 minimum): _____

Safety and Burn Equipment (list number of each item needed):

*Items marked in **BOLD** are highly recommended to provide adequate safety for crew members.

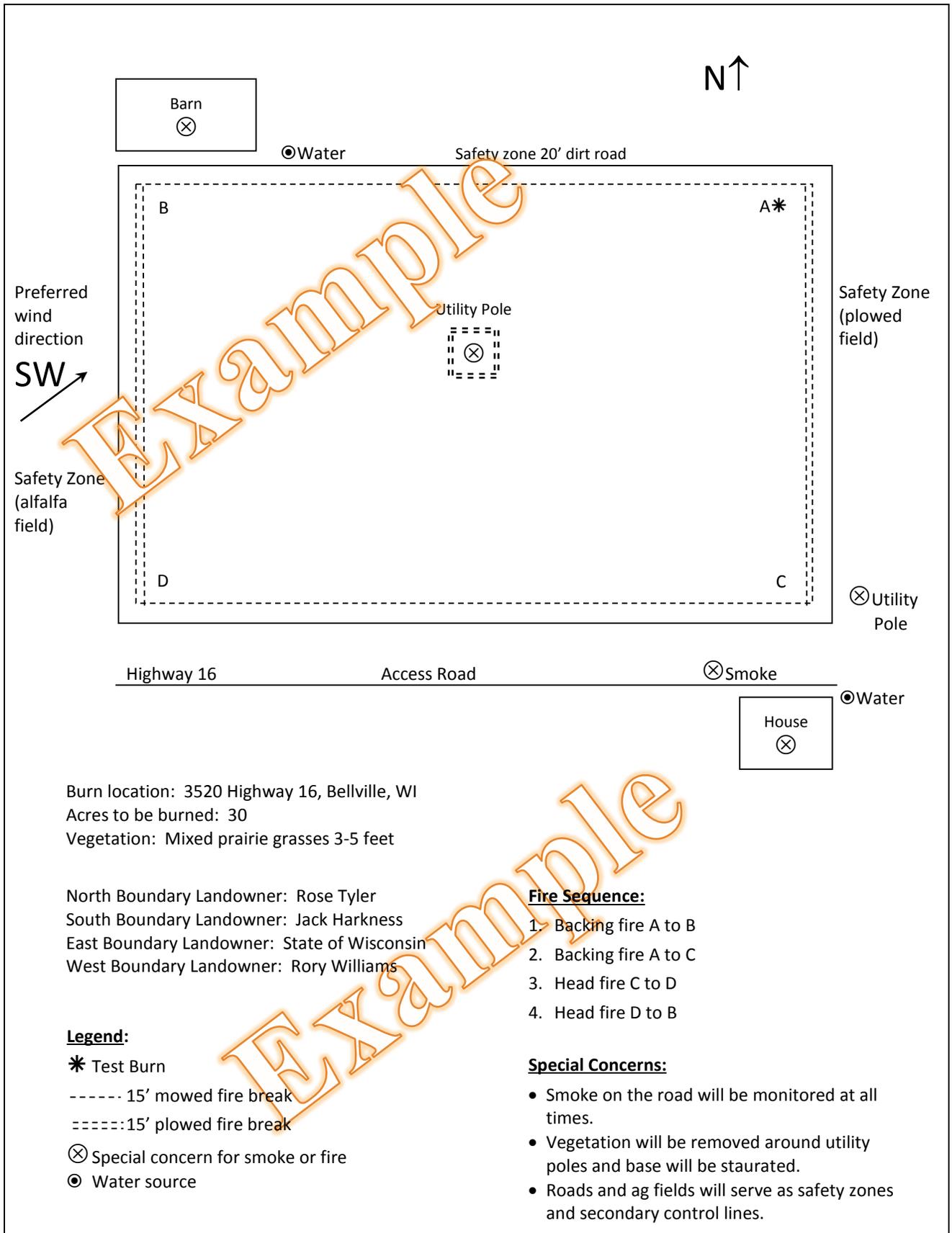
- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| ___ Drip Torch | ___ Pumper Truck | ___ Cell Phones |
| ___ Lighters | ___ Portable Pump | ___ Leather Gloves |
| ___ Backpack Pump | ___ 2-Way Radios | ___ Eye Protection |
| ___ Chainsaw | ___ Rakes | ___ Drinking Water |
| ___ ATV with Water Supply | ___ Signs for Highway | ___ Natural Fiber Clothing/Nomex |
| ___ First Aid Kit | ___ Weather Kit | ___ Hightop Lace-up Leather Boots |
| ___ Flappers | ___ Hard Hat | |
| ___ Other (explain): _____ | | |

How will the burn team communicate? _____

Useful Prescribed Fire Websites:

- Weather: <http://radar.srh.noaa.gov/fire/> or <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/forecasts.html>
- Fire Danger/Permits: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/restrictions.asp>
- Wisconsin Prescribed Fire: <http://www.prescribedfire.org>
- Smoke web site: <http://shrmc.ggy.uga.edu/maps/vsmoke.html>
- DNR Fire Management Guidelines: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestManagement/documents/guidelines/chapter17.pdf>
- Topographic maps, air photos: <http://mapper.acme.com/>

EXAMPLE BURN MAP – Please create a site-specific map for the prescribed burn.



Contingency Plan

- Where is the fire most likely to get out of control? _____

- In the event of the fire getting out of control, would you directly attack or is there another back up plan? _____

- How would the fire department/rescue access the burn site with heavy equipment? _____

- What is the contingency plan if smoke on the road becomes a safety issue? _____

Smoke and Fire Concerns (check all that apply). For each item checked, enter the distance from the burn site.

- Subdivision: _____ mile(s) County Highway: _____ mile(s)
 Municipality: _____ mile(s) Town Road: _____ mile(s)
 State or Federal Highway: _____ mile(s) Other: _____

Certification: I acknowledge that I may be held liable for any and all damages and/or suppression costs if the fire escapes, smoke damage occurs, or accidents are caused as a result of the prescribed burn.

Landowner Signature

Date

Plan Written By

Date

NRCS Burn Class

NRCS Review – Meets 338 Prescribed Burning Standard

NRCS Job Approval Level

Date

Continuation Sheet

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CRP Required Management Practice Mowing Wisconsin Job Sheet 386

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, payments, or modifications should be directed to the FSA office where your contract originated.

CRP policy requires participants to do some type of “disturbance” to certain CRP practices during specific years of the contract. This job sheet describes how to implement mowing as a required management activity.

PURPOSE

Once established, grassland fields need to be managed so that the grasses do not crowd out the forbs and/or legumes over time. In the absence of disturbance, the composition of grassland communities will change over several years through normal plant succession. The vegetative structure changes as annual forbs and legumes are replaced by perennial forbs, grasses, and eventually, woody plants. Changes also occur structurally as litter accumulates and vegetation density increases. These changes may lead to a decline in diversity and reduced wildlife habitat benefits.

The purpose of required contract management activities is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres by encouraging a diverse forb and legume community. Forbs and legumes in grasslands are beneficial to birds, insects such as butterflies, along with other wildlife.

MOWING

The mowing CRP required management practice increases wildlife habitat quality by inhibiting woody plant growth, reducing plant residue, increasing sunlight penetration to the ground surface, and may increase insect abundance.

NOTE:

CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season as recorded in the CRP contract.

This rule prevents injury to nesting and fledgling birds. The dates have varied over time, but the current primary nesting season for new CRP contracts is May 15 through August 1. Spot clipping or whole field mowing may be done during the primary nesting season with prior approval from the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committee.

SPECIFICATIONS

The following specifications must be met for the mowing required management practice on CRP acreage.

- Evaluate the proposed site to determine the objective of the mowing activity.
- Mow to the height necessary to destroy flowers or immature seed of weed or invasive plants species.
- Utilize a rotary mower or flail chopper. Operate equipment to ensure a uniform distribution of mowed plant material across the field surface.
- For native grasses and forbs, field(s) will be mowed once between 9/1 - 11/15 with the minimum mow height of 7 inches.
- For introduced grasses and legumes, field(s) will be mowed once between 3/15 - 5/14 OR 8/2 - 9/1 with a minimum mow height of 4 inches.
- The field(s) must be mowed one time for each year(s) specified in the job sheet. See Table 1 for scheduled dates.

CONSIDERATIONS

The following considerations shall be evaluated when developing mowing recommendations:

- If soil erosion is a concern, consider using mowing instead of other management practices that may cause excessive disturbance to the stand.
- Use discretion if soil conditions are wet to avoid compaction and damage to sod.
- Control of noxious weeds may require herbicide application in addition to mowing.
- Clean mowing equipment prior to moving out of fields with known noxious weeds or invasive plant species to avoid spreading seed.

Table 1. Scheduled Dates for Mowing

Introduced Grasses/Legumes (no Smooth Bromegrass)		
Mow field(s) one time from: March 15 to May 14 or August 2 to September 1		
Field Number(s)	Acres	Year

Introduced Grasses/Legumes with Smooth Bromegrass)		
Mow field(s) one time from: August 2 to September 1		
Field Number(s)	Acres	Year

Native Grasses/Forbs		
Mow field(s) one time from: September 1 to November 15		
Field Number(s)	Acres	Year

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. This job sheet describes the Disking and Interseeding for Cool Season Grass Cover required management practice in more detail.

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. These changes may lead to a decline in wildlife benefits.

The purpose of this required management practice is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres by increasing the amount of bare soil and encouraging a diverse forb/legume community. Forbs and legumes are beneficial to birds, insects such as butterflies, and other wildlife. Disking and interseeding is an efficient and cost-effective disturbance tool that can be used where vegetation is too thick. Reduced plant residue and open ground are critical for young chick mobility in grassland areas.



The improvement in habitat is especially important for bobwhite quail, wild turkey, ring neck pheasants, and other grassland wildlife species. The structural diversity that results from disking also improves habitat for songbirds such as bobolinks and savannah sparrows.



PRIMARY NESTING SEASON

CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract. This rule prevents injury to nesting and fledgling birds. The dates have varied over time, but the current primary nesting season for new CRP contracts is May 15 through August 1. CRP participants are also 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.

DISKING AND INTERSEEDING

Disking enhances habitat quality because it inhibits growth of woody plants, promotes favored seed-producing plants, reduces plant residue, and increases insect abundance.

DISKING AND INTERSEEDING 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 previously had a 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 a 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.
- For fields enrolled in CRP with cover established as a new practice, manage 100% of the field in year 6 if under 40 acres. For fields 40 acres and larger, manage 50% of the field in year 6 and 50% of the field in year 7. For contracts that are 15 years in length required management practices are required in the 11th year or 11/12 for fields 40 acres or more.
- For contracts enrolling existing cover, the disking and interseeding is required in year 1 or 1 and 2 if 40 acres are larger. These fields will be managed for disking and interseeding again in year 6 or (6 and 7 on fields of 40 acres or more).
- 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.

- Only certified seed shall be planted. The planting rate shall be adjusted to reflect the actual amount of Pure Live Seed (PLS).
- Seed shall be properly stored and legume seed inoculated prior to planting.
- The no-till drill or other seeding equipment shall be adjusted to ensure that seed placement provides uniform soil/seed contact to encourage consistent germination.
- The seed shall be placed at a depth of ¼ inch or less.
- 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.



CONSIDERATIONS

A site assessment should be conducted to 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.
- Spot spray or clip areas where noxious weeds (Canada thistle) or other invasives (Reed Canary Grass) are present prior to disking. This will reduce the potential for spreading these species by disking.
- Consider delaying legume interseeding after disking (within specified planting deadline) to evaluate weed pressure. A herbicide should be applied where significant weed pressure is observed.

- Consider applicable program practice implementation deadlines when planning a late season or selecting a herbicide treatment (residual herbicide effect).
- Consider a late summer disking and interseeding in fields where some weed or invasive plants are identified as present in the cover.
- Landowners should walk the site prior to disking to locate animal holes, fallen tree limbs, and other hazards that are not easily seen in well established cover.

Table 1
Timing of Interseeding

Spring Interseeding	Disk and plant when soil is friable April 1 through May 14
Late Summer Interseeding	Disk and plant between August 2 and August 30
Fall Interseeding	Disk and plant between October 8 and freeze up

The timing for interseeding should be planned to appropriately match the soil moisture conditions of each site and the growth characteristics of species to be seeded.

To promote native forbs, a fall seeding 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 practices CP1, CP23 (cool), CP23A (cool), CP28 (cool), and CP33 (strips only).

Mix B: Introduced mix – mesic or wet site.

Red Clover: 5 lbs.
Ladino Clover: 1.5 lbs.

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

Mix C: Introduced Grass Component.

Orchardgrass: 5 lbs.
Timothy: 4 lbs.

For use with practices CP1, CP23 (cool), CP23A (cool), CP28 (cool), 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 practices CP1, CP23 (cool), CP23A (cool), CP28 (cool), 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 practices CP1, CP23 (cool), CP23A (cool), CP28 (cool), CP33 (strips only).

Guidelines for Disking and Interseeding on CRP:

1. Identify the need for disking and interseeding.
2. Determine what date the disking/planting will occur based on cover objectives.
3. Follow the guidance outlined in this job sheet.



Note: Use of mixes D and E will require additional management actions (burn/mow) beyond the seeding year to ensure successful establishment.

PLS Based Seed Mix Calculations

Species	Field: _____ Acres: _____	
	PLS Rate Per Acre	Seed Needed

Date Scheduled for Disking and 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 be disturbed.

Specify other conservation considerations: _____

Species	Field: _____ Acres: _____	
	PLS Rate Per Acre	Seed Needed

Date Scheduled for Disking and 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 be disturbed.

Specify other conservation considerations: _____

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.

The CRP policy requires some type of required management to grassland CRP practices during the life of the contract. The goal of required management is to enhance CRP cover. This job sheet describes the Prescribed Burn and Interseeding practice in more detail.

Grassland fields need to be managed so 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. These changes may lead to a decline in wildlife benefits.

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 and insects such as butterflies, and other wildlife. Prescribed burning and interseeding is an effective management to keep native plantings balanced with forbs and grasses.

PRIMARY NESTING SEASON

CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract. This rule prevents injury to nesting and fledgling birds. The dates have varied over time, but the current primary nesting season for new CRP contracts is May 15 through August 1. CRP participants are also 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.

BURNING

Fire when properly applied, can improve grassland habitats by:

- Creating open ground for wildlife movement by reducing excess plant litter and dense sod formation.
- Allowing sunlight to reach the soil surface, encouraging the germination and growth of forbs and legumes that are interseeded.
- Suppressing woody plants and other non-native plant species.
- Prescribed burning with interseeding may reduce naturally occurring wildfire hazards while enhancing the aesthetic appearance of natural landscapes.
- The structural diversity that results from this type of management is especially helpful for maintaining brood-rearing habitat for bobwhite quail, wild turkey, ring-necked pheasant, and other early successional grassland wildlife species. Prescribed burning also improves habitat for a variety of grassland songbirds. Insects associated with forb communities provide critical nutrients for growing nestlings and chicks.



SPECIFICATIONS

The following are specifications for prescribed burning on CRP acreage.

- The landowner is responsible for adhering to the burn plan, as well as all applicable local, state and federal laws. Landowners are responsible for confining prescribed burns to their lands and are liable for damages and costs to others should the fire escape from the designated area. Landowners are also responsible for any damages caused by smoke blowing into neighboring properties, across roads or airport runways.
- A written prescribed burn plan must be completed and submitted to NRCS for review before any fires are ignited. The burn plan will identify suitable weather conditions, needed personnel and equipment, adjacent and in-field hazards, and the safest firing method, in addition to the time of year to conduct the burn for the best management results. Prescribed Burning plans will follow the NRCS Prescribed Burning Practice Standard (338) found in the Wisconsin Field Office Technical Guide.
- Prescribed burning will not be performed during the primary nesting period for grassland bird species identified in the CRP contract.
- Prescribed burns shall not be planned in the following areas:
 1. Areas where the soil surface contains high levels of organic matter (muck/peat).
 2. Areas where burning will cause erosion to exceed tolerable limits.
 3. Areas planted to trees.
 4. Areas planted to trees and shrubs.
- Only certified seed shall be planted. The planting rate shall be adjusted to reflect the actual amount of Pure Live Seed (PLS).
- Seed shall be properly stored and legume seed inoculated prior to planting.
- The no-till drill or other seeding equipment shall be adjusted to ensure that seed placement provides uniform soil/seed contact to encourage consistent germination.
- The seed shall be placed at a depth of ¼ inch or less.

- 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.



CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the following primary components when planning for a prescribed burn:

1. Evaluate the proposed site to determine what the intended objective of the burn is, and what conditions are needed to meet the intended objective. See Table 1.
2. Prepare a comprehensive burn plan describing all the necessary elements to have a safe and effective burn.
3. Select trained and qualified persons to write the burn plan and conduct the prescribed burn.
 - Fall and late winter burns may decrease Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, and Switch Grass and favor forbs and legumes.
 - Prescribed burning should not be planned for in places where gully formation is a potential problem.
 - Use discretion if soil conditions are extremely dry or drought conditions are predicted because burning under these conditions may damage or destroy perennial prairie plant crowns. Follow all State and Local laws and obtain necessary permits.
 - Always control noxious weeds by spot spraying or clipping. This will reduce the

potential for unintentional establishment of these species.

- It is highly recommended, but is not required, that prescribed burning be delayed until after August 15, reducing the chance of harming fledgling birds and other young wildlife.

Table 1

Burn Objective and Relationship to Burning Time Frame

Burn Objective	Timing of Burn
Promote grasses in cool season stands	August 2-August 10 or October 8-November freeze up or March 1-April 14
Promote forbs and legumes in cool season stands	April 15-May 14 or August 20-September 30 Interseed from August 2-May 14
Promote early forbs in warm season stands	August 2-August 10 or November 1-November 30 or March 1-April 15
Promote grasses and late forbs in warm season stands	April 15-May 14 or August 20-September 30

Guidelines for Prescribed Burns on CRP:

1. Identify the need for prescribed burning and interseeding.
2. Determine the timing of the burn and the seeding based on burn objective.
3. Establish the seed mix to use.
4. Follow the specifications outlined above.

INTERSEEDING PLS-BASED SEED MIX

Mix A: Introduced mix – dry site.

Alfalfa: 6 lbs.
Alsike Clover: 1.5 lbs.

For use with the following practices:

- CP1
- CP21 (cool)
- CP23 (cool)
- CP23A (cool)
- CP28 (cool)
- CP38B Glacial Habitat Buffer (cool)
- CP38E Central Wisconsin Introduced (cool)
- CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Introduced (cool)

Mix B: Introduced mix – mesic or wet site.

Red Clover: 5 lbs.
Ladino Clover: 1.5 lbs.

For use with the following practices:

- CP1
- CP21 (cool)
- CP23 (cool)
- CP23A (cool)
- CP28 (cool)
- CP38B Glacial Habitat Buffer (cool)
- CP38E Central Wisconsin Introduced (cool)
- CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Introduced (cool)

Mix C: 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 Bush clover: 4 oz.

For use with the following practices:

- CP1
- CP2
- CP21 (cool)
- CP21 (warm)
- CP23 (cool)
- CP23 (warm)
- CP23A (cool)
- CP23A (warm)
- CP28 (cool)
- CP28 (warm)
- CP29 (warm)
- CP30 (warm)
- CP38B Western Prairie Buffer (warm)
- CP38B Glacial Habitat Buffer (warm)
- CP38E Western Prairie (warm)
- CP38E Central Wisconsin Native (warm)
- CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Native (warm)
- CP38E Glacial Habitat Native (warm)

Mix D: Native mix – mesic or wet site.

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

For use with the following practices:

- CP1
- CP2
- CP21 (cool)
- CP21 (warm)
- CP23 (cool)
- CP23 (warm)
- CP23A (cool)
- CP23A (warm)
- CP28 (cool)
- CP28 (warm)
- CP29 (warm)
- CP38B Western Prairie Buffer (warm)
- CP38B Glacial Habitat Buffer (warm)
- CP38E Western Prairie (warm)
- CP38E Central Wisconsin Native (warm)
- CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Native (warm)
- CP38E Glacial Habitat Native (warm)

Mix E: Introduced Grass Component.

Orchardgrass: 5 lbs.
Timothy: 4 lbs.

For use with the following practices:

- CP1
- CP21 (cool)
- CP23 (Cool)
- CP23A (cool)
- CP28 (cool)

Mix F: 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.
Evening Primrose: .5 oz.
Pale Purple Coneflower: 1 oz.

For use with the following practices:

- CP25 Tall Grass Prairie
- CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Native (warm)
- CP38E Glacial Habitat Native (warm)

Mix G: Native mix – mesic or wet site.

Canada Milk Vetch: 2 oz.
Ox-eye Sunflower: 2 oz.
Black-eyed Susan: 1 oz.
Yellow Coneflower: 1 oz.
Blue Vervain: .5 oz.
Purple Coneflower: 1 oz.
New England Aster: 1 oz.

For use with the following practices

- CP25 Tall Grass Prairie
- CP38E Southwest Wisconsin Native (warm)
- CP38E Glacial Habitat Native (warm)

Mix H: Dry

Ox-eye Sunflower (early-late): 4 oz.
Spotted Beebalm (late): 2 oz.
Compass Plant (mid): 2 oz.
Prairie Cinquefoil (early - mid): 1 oz.
Round Headed Bush Clover (mid): 2 oz.

For use with the following practice only:

- CP42 Pollinator Habitat

Mix I: Mesic or Wet Mesic

Purple Coneflower (mid-late): 4 oz.
Common Bennet (late): 1 oz.
Ox-eye Sunflower (early-late): 4 oz.
Mountain Mint (early-late): 1 oz.

For use with the following practice only:

- CP42 Pollinator Habitat

Note: Use of mixes C and D will require additional management actions (burn/mow) following the year of establishment if seeded into an existing cool season cover.

PLS Based Seed Mix Calculations

Species	Field: _____ Acres: _____	
	PLS Rate Per Acre	Seed Needed

Timing of burn and interseeding: _____

Year of burn and interseeding: _____

Date of burn plan reviewed by NRCS: _____

Species	Field: _____ Acres: _____	
	PLS Rate Per Acre	Seed Needed

Timing of burn and interseeding: _____

Year of burn and interseeding: _____

Date of burn plan reviewed by NRCS: _____



CRP Required Management Practice – Herbicide Application and Interseeding for Cool Season Grass Cover *Wisconsin Job Sheet 384*

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Wisconsin

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 participants to do some type of “controlled disturbance” to cool season grass CRP cover during specific years of the contract. This job sheet describes how to implement the Herbicide Application and Interseeding for Cool Season Grass Cover as a CRP required management activity.

Once established, grassland fields need to be managed to prevent grasses from crowding out the forbs and/or legumes over time. In the absence of disturbance, the composition of grassland communities will change over several years through normal plant succession. The vegetative structure of the cover changes as annual forbs and legumes are replaced by perennial grasses, and eventually, woody plants. These changes may lead to a decline in plant diversity and reduced wildlife benefits.

The purpose of CRP required management activities is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres by encouraging a diverse forb/legume community. Forbs and legumes in grasslands are beneficial to birds, insects such as butterflies, and other wildlife.

PRIMARY NESTING SEASON

CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract. This rule prevents injury to nesting and fledgling birds. The dates have varied over time, but the current primary nesting season for new CRP contracts is May 15 through August 1. CRP participants are also 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.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION AND INTERSEEDING

Use of this required management practice is limited to the following CRP cover types: CP1, CP21 (cool), CP23 (cool), CP23A (cool), and CP28 (cool) only.

The Herbicide Application and Interseeding for Cool Season Grass Cover CRP required management practice increases wildlife habitat value by suppressing grasses, inhibiting woody plant growth, reducing the accumulation of plant residue, and increasing sunlight penetration to the ground. The controlled disturbance of the existing cover will increase the survival of interseeded legumes and stimulate the natural regeneration of forbs and legumes.

Site Preparation Alternatives

Site preparation is typically required prior to herbicide application and interseeding where the existing vegetation is extremely thick, tall, or a heavy accumulation of plant residues are present. Site preparation exposes targeted weed species to allow uniform herbicide contact with the plant.

Note: The haying or managed grazing site preparation options must follow CRP contract requirements, can only be done once in a three-year period, and will result in a reduced CRP payment for any year that this activity occurs.

Select one of the following site preparations for each field:

- **Grazing** shall be based upon a plan developed in accordance with NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 528, Prescribed Grazing, and can only be done with prior approval by the FSA County Committee. The target post grazing height for the CRP cover shall be 3 inches.

Note: CRP rules require managed grazing to occur between August 2 and September 30.

- **Haying** can be done to physically remove plant material from CRP land for site preparation. Haying can only be done with prior approval

from the FSA County Committee. Haying shall be carried out according to NRCS Practice Standard 511, Forage Harvest Management. The hay cutting equipment shall be operated to achieve a post harvest plant height of 3 inches. If site conditions prevent uniformly harvesting to this height other site preparation options should be considered.

Note: CRP rules require haying to occur between August 2 and September 15.

- **Mowing** must be done in accordance with Wisconsin Job Sheet 386, CRP Required Management Practice - Mowing. Plan the timing and type of mowing equipment utilized to achieve a post mowing height of 3 inches and to uniformly distribute the mowed plant material over the field.
- **Prescribed Burning** shall be in accordance with a burn plan developed to satisfy the requirements of NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 338, Prescribed Burning. Wisconsin Job Sheet 389, CRP Required Management Practice - Prescribed Burning, shall be used as a reference.

Note: The landowner and/or the individual igniting the fire are liable for any damages or emergency response fees resulting from the prescribed burn.

Herbicide Selection and Application

- Evaluate the proposed site to determine the objective of the herbicide application. Identify the plants targeted for suppression and any beneficial plants that could be harmed by the herbicide application.
- Select a herbicide formulation, application rate, and timing that will maximize the potential for successful establishment of the interseeded species and minimize the impact on any existing beneficial plant species.

Interseeding Legumes

- Select the legume type to interseed (Table 2 - Legume Interseeding Rates) based on the soil moisture regime and soil pH conditions of the CRP field.
- Use a no-till drill to plant the legume seed that is properly equipped and set up to operate in the cover conditions on the site. The drill must be accurately calibrated to achieve the planned per acre seeding rate.

- The growth habits of known weed competition shall be considered when developing a planting plan. Late summer establishment of legumes after site preparation and herbicide application may provide an advantage over aggressive weeds such as thistles.

SPECIFICATIONS

CAUTION: This practice may have an extremely negative impact on vegetative cover if not implemented correctly. The CRP contract holder is ultimately responsible for complying with the terms of the contract, including maintaining the appropriate vegetative cover.

- Herbicide application restriction areas and environmentally sensitive areas, including but not limited to concentrated flow areas, potentially erosive areas, and areas within 20 feet of surface water, shall be identified on the conservation plan map.
- Required management activities **shall not** be performed during the primary nesting period for grassland birds documented in the CRP contract.
- Herbicide applications and interseeding shall not be planned in areas where herbicide application will result in minimal cover improvements or potentially cause a long-term negative impact on existing high quality cover that can be expected to persist for the remaining contract period.
- Evaluate the need for site preparation prior to herbicide application. Document method and timing if needed.
- Herbicide applications shall be conducted according to the product label instructions and in compliance with all state and federal laws.
- Herbicide application recommendations shall be based on published research and comply with label restrictions. The herbicide type and application timing shall be planned to suppress specific plant species identified by the conservation planner. **Failure to follow herbicide recommendations within the timeframe outlined in this job sheet could cause significant damage to the CRP cover.**
- The herbicide product, application rate, application method, and timing selected and applied by the client shall be documented in the interseeding plan.
- Plan the timing of the herbicide application and legume interseeding to compensate for any expected herbicide carryover while complying

with the contract schedule for the required management practice implementation and the allowable seeding periods in Table 1.

- Only certified legume seed shall be planted. The planting rate shall be adjusted to reflect the actual amount of Pure Live Seed (PLS).
- Legume seed shall be properly stored and inoculated prior to planting.
- The no-till drill shall be adjusted to ensure that seed placement provides uniform soil/seed contact to encourage consistent germination.
- The no-till drill shall place the seed at a depth of ¼ inch or less.
- 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
Legume Interseeding Planting Periods**

Spring Interseeding	Summer Interseeding	Dormant Interseeding
April 1 – May 14	August 2 – August 29	October 8 – Freeze-up

Note: Seeding should be delayed within the allowable dates if soil is extremely dry or wet. Summer seeding is generally riskier than spring seeding, and planting at either end of a recommended range is riskier than the middle of the range.

**Table 2
Legume Interseeding Rates**

Mix A: Dry Site	Lbs. PLS/ac	Mix B: Mesic or Wet Site	Lbs. PLS/ac
Alfalfa	6.0	Red clover	5.0
Alsike clover	1.5	Ladino clover	1.5

Note: These mixes are for use with the following CRP cover types: CP1, CP21 (cool), CP23 (cool), CP23A (cool), and CP28 (cool) only.

CONSIDERATIONS

- It is highly recommended, but not required that CRP cover not be disturbed until after August 15 to reduce the potential to harm fledgling birds and other young wildlife.
- Use discretion when operating heavy equipment when soil conditions are wet to avoid soil compaction and damage to the existing CRP cover.
- Clean mowing equipment prior to moving out of fields with known noxious weeds or invasive plant species to avoid spreading seed.
- Consider the availability of specialized planting or herbicide application equipment when developing an interseeding plan.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION AND INTERSEEDING PLAN

Landowner: _____ Tract: _____

Site Preparation Prior to Herbicide Application by Field

CRP Field Number(s)	Method of Site Preparation Selected	Year Site Preparation Will Occur	Other Considerations

Herbicide Application Needs Assessment by Field

CRP Field Number(s)	Targeted Plant(s) to Suppress	Year Spraying Will Occur	Herbicide Formulation/ Application Rate*	Timeframe Interseeding Will Occur	Other Concerns

*Documentation of the actual herbicide product application method, rate, and timing implemented by the client must be submitted to NRCS.

Notes:

Legume Interseeding by Field

CRP Field Number(s)	Total Acres	Species	Lbs. *PLS/ac	Total Lbs. PLS
		Alfalfa	6.0	
		Alsike clover	1.5	
		Red clover	5.0	
		Ladino clover	1.5	

* PLS = Pure Live Seed

CRP Required Management Practice Herbicide Application Wisconsin Job Sheet 387

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 participants to do some type of “disturbance” to certain CRP practices during specific years of the contract. Required Management Practices are designed to enhance the cover value. This job sheet describes Herbicide Application as a required management activity.

PURPOSE

Once established, grassland fields need to be managed so that the grasses do not crowd out the forbs and/or legumes over time. In the absence of disturbance, the composition of grassland communities will change over several years through normal plant succession. The vegetative structure changes as annual forbs and legumes are replaced by perennial grasses, and eventually, woody plants. Changes also occur structurally as litter accumulates and vegetation density increases. These changes may lead to a decline in diversity and reduced wildlife benefits.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION

The Herbicide Application CRP Required Management practice enhances wildlife habitat value by encouraging a diverse forb/legume community. A herbicide application may suppress grasses, inhibit woody plant growth, reduce plant residue, and increase sunlight penetration next to the ground. A diverse mix of forbs and legumes in grasslands are beneficial to birds, insects such as butterflies, along with other wildlife.

Note: CRP rules do not allow disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season recorded in the CRP contract. This rule prevents injury to nesting and fledgling birds. The dates have varied over time, but the current primary nesting season for new CRP contracts is May 15 through August 1. Whole field or 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

The following are specifications for required management spraying on CRP acreage. This practice may have an extremely negative impact on CRP cover if not implemented accurately.

- Spraying will be done according to label recommendations, and meet all state and federal laws.
- Spray recommendations will be made by industry professionals once the identified plant species targeted are identified. Specific timing and rates of application must target specific grasses or broadleaf plants.

- Spraying shall not be planned in the following areas:
 1. Areas where herbicide application will have minimal affect or potentially cause a negative impact on existing cover and environmentally sensitive areas.
 2. Areas planted to trees and shrubs.

Guidelines for Spraying Introduced Plantings:

1. Identify the plants targeted for suppression.
2. Determine what date the spraying will occur which is either April 1-May 14 **OR** September 1-October 1.

Guidelines for Spraying Native Plantings:

1. Identify the plants targeted for suppression.
2. Determine what date the spraying will occur which is either April 15-May 14 **OR** August 2 - August 15.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the following primary components when planning for herbicide application:

- Evaluate the proposed site to determine what the intended objective of the herbicide application is.
- Select herbicides that will minimize negative impacts to an existing high quality cover of forbs and native grasses.
- Use discretion if soil conditions are wet.
- Control noxious weeds by spot spraying and clipping. This will reduce the potential for unintentional establishment of these species. Do not spread weed seeds from field to field with equipment.
- It is highly recommended, but is not required, that spraying be delayed until after August 15, reducing the chance of harming fledgling birds and other young wildlife.

CRP Field Number	Acres	Targeted Plant to Suppress	Timeframe Spraying Will Occur	Herbicide Formulation/ Rate*	Other Identified Concerns

*Documentation of the actual herbicide product used, application method, rate, and timing shall be recorded in the above table and notes section below.

NOTES: _____

