

For: State and County Offices

Revised Policy and Reporting Requirements for WRP

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Notice CRP-662 provided policy and procedure for collecting and reporting WRP data. Collecting and reporting WRP cropland data is necessary to implement the 25 percent cropland limitation. Cropland enrolled under WRP counts toward the 25 percent cropland limitation.

Several questions have been raised about collecting WRP data, including administrative cropland designation.

B Purpose

This notice provides the following:

- policy clarification about WRP acres and cropland
- revised procedures for evaluating and reporting WRP data.

Disposal Date	Distribution
January 1, 2011	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices

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2 Policy for Designating WRP Cropland

A Policy in 2-CM and 3-CM

Before 2003, land administratively classified as cropland and subject to a WRP easement was reclassified as noncropland.

In 2003, revisions were made to this policy. 3-CM, paragraph 25 provides that WRP is **exempt** from the requirement that land administratively classified as cropland and subject to a restrictive or permanent easement that prohibits the planting of an annual crop be removed from the cropland classification.

WRP acres are identified in farm records and defined in 3-CM, subparagraph 25 G. The definition of WRP acres is “WRP acres are DCP cropland acres enrolled in WRP administered by NRCS according to 16 U.S.C. 3837, et seq.”

B Policy for CRP

2-CRP, paragraph 69 provides policy about collection and reporting of WRP cropland data for the purposes of implementing the 25 percent cropland limitation.

Only WRP easements on land that is administratively classified as cropland shall be considered WRP cropland for the purposes of implementing the 25 percent cropland limitation.

The following type of land shall **not** be considered WRP cropland for the purposes of implementing the 25 percent cropland limitation:

- land that is enrolled in WRP but is not administratively classified as cropland, including marginal pastureland enrolled in WRP
- land enrolled in EWRP that is administratively classified as cropland.

3 Collecting WRP Cropland Acres

A Data Sources

The National Office is providing the following 3 data sources to facilitate reviewing and reporting WRP cropland acres:

- NRCS shapefile and list of WRP easements
- NRCS shapefile of EWRP easements
- list of farm tracts that include WRP acres, as defined in 3-CM, paragraph 25.

Note: WRP acres, as defined in 3-CM, paragraph 25, may include EWRP acres.

See Exhibit 1 for instructions on accessing shapefiles, lists of easements, and the list of farm tracts that include WRP acres.

B Data Evaluation

State and County Offices shall evaluate the data sources provided by the National Office to determine the number of WRP cropland acres physically located in each county. In conducting an evaluation, State and County Office should use the following guidelines.

- Only tracts with land classified as WRP acres in farm records shall be considered in the calculation of WRP cropland.
- Each tract with land classified as WRP acres in farm records shall be compared to both NRCS's WRP and EWRP shapefiles to determine if the tract contains WRP, EWRP, or both. Only tracts with WRP should be considered to have WRP cropland.

Example: Tract 100 in Clinton County, MI is classified as having 100 WRP acres in farm records. The physical location of tract 100 is compared to the WRP and EWRP shapefiles. The comparison reveals that the WRP on tract 100 is in fact EWRP. While this is correct for the purposes of farm records, this tract is not considered WRP cropland for the purposes of the 25 percent cropland limit. Clinton County's total WRP cropland should be adjusted accordingly.

- If comparison between tracts with land classified as WRP acres and NRCS's WRP shapefile reveals that NRCS does not have a corresponding record of this easement, the County Office shall contact the State Office. The State Office shall contact NRCS State Office.

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3 Collecting WRP Cropland Acres (Continued)

B Data Evaluation (Continued)

- If a review of NRCS's WRP shapefile reveals that a WRP easement is in place on land that is believed to be cropland, but is not classified as cropland in farm records, then County Offices shall follow procedures in 3-CM, Part 6 for correcting misclassifications.

Example: Tract 100 in Clinton County, MI is classified as having 100 acres of farmland and zero acres of cropland in farm records. A comparison of tract records with the NRCS shapefile reveals a WRP easement on this tract. The County Office believes this tract was previously designated as cropland and the easement was put in place after 2003. Therefore, the County Office concludes that the designation of zero acres of cropland is incorrect. The County Office should follow 3-CM, Part 6 for correcting misclassifications.

C Data Reporting

County Office shall report the WRP cropland acres physically located in their county to the State Office. State Offices shall report the County Office totals to the National Office when all County Offices have reported.

The deadline for submission to the National Office is COB July 26, 2010. Submissions should be e-mailed to shawn.bucholtz@wdc.usda.gov. The **only** submission required is the number of WRP cropland acres for each county according to subparagraph D.

D Counties Prioritized for Reporting Requirements

Counties that are near the 25 percent cropland limit are required to report WRP cropland acres. See Exhibit 2 for the list of counties that are near the 25 percent limit and **are** required to report WRP cropland in accordance with the provisions of this notice

Future guidance is forthcoming for counties not listed in Exhibit 2.

4 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices shall follow the provisions of this notice and ensure County Offices identified in Exhibit 2 follow the provisions in this notice.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall follow the provisions of this notice.

County Office Instructions for Collecting and Reporting WRP Acres

County Offices shall collect and report WRP acres according to the following.

Step	Action
1	Go to the CEPD Data Entry SharePoint site at https://fsa.sc.egov.usda.gov/states/cepd/default.aspx .
2	CLICK “WRP Cropland Data Entry”.
3	<p>Download the zip file called “WRP_05012010”. The zip file contains the following files:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRP_FSA: WRP easement boundaries • FSA_EWRP: EWRP easement boundaries • WRPTtracts06142010: list of tracts from farm records that include WRP acres according to paragraph 3. <p>The zipped file is password protected. County Offices must call their State Office to receive the password.</p>

The NRCS WRP and EWRP shapefiles contain easement boundaries. The following fields are helpful for determining WRP acres:

- AGREE_NUM: WRP easement agreement number
- EASE_ACRES: number of acres of the WRP easement agreement.

Counties Required to Submit WRP Acres

State	County	State	County	State	County
Arizona	Coconino	Michigan	Baraga	North Dakota	Nelson
Arkansas	Miller	Michigan	Cheboygan	Ohio	Lake
Arkansas	Pulaski	Minnesota	Marshall	Oklahoma	Beaver
Colorado	Elbert	Minnesota	East Polk	Oregon	Klamath
Colorado	Logan	Minnesota	Roseau	Oregon	Morrow
Colorado	Morgan	Mississippi	Adams	South Carolina	Bamberg
Colorado	Park	Mississippi	Attala	South Carolina	Clarendon
Colorado	Pueblo	Mississippi	Claiborne	South Carolina	Dorchester
Colorado	Washington	Mississippi	Grenada	South Carolina	Georgetown
Colorado	Weld	Mississippi	Humphreys	South Carolina	Richland
Florida	Brevard	Mississippi	Issaquena	Texas	Freestone
Florida	Martin	Mississippi	Jefferson	Texas	Garza
Florida	Orange	Mississippi	Madison	Texas	Panola
Florida	Seminole	Mississippi	Quitman	Texas	Tarrant
Georgia	Candler	Mississippi	Sharkey	Utah	Box Elder
Idaho	Bonneville	Mississippi	Warren	Utah	Juab
Idaho	Caribou	Mississippi	Wilkinson	Utah	Salt Lake
Illinois	Hardin	Mississippi	Yazoo	Washington	Adams
Illinois	Johnson	Missouri	Caldwell	Washington	Benton
Illinois	Pope	Missouri	Chariton	Washington	Franklin
Illinois	Union	Missouri	Daviess	Washington	Pacific
Kansas	Wallace	Missouri	Harrison	Wyoming	Goshen
Louisiana	Caldwell	Missouri	Linn	Wyoming	Platte
Louisiana	Catahoula	Montana	Hill		
Louisiana	Concordia	Montana	Lincoln		
Louisiana	Grant	Montana	Valley		
Louisiana	La Salle	Nebraska	Johnson		
Louisiana	Madison	Nebraska	Rock		
Louisiana	Red River	North Carolina	Hyde		
Louisiana	Tensas	North Dakota	Eddy		
Louisiana	West Carroll	North Dakota	Griggs		