

For: State Offices

Establishing State CRP Grassland Zones

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

The 2014 Farm Bill created the CRP Grassland Program as part of CRP. States may create grassland zones to target CRP grassland enrollment. Grassland zones are used to provide additional points in the grassland ranking factors.

CRP grassland zones can be used for, but are not limited to:

- areas where wildlife can be protected or enhanced
- areas where there is a threat of conversion to development or cropland
- tribal areas
- areas with water quality issues.

CRP grassland zones may not be larger than 25 percent of total NASS hay, pasture and CRP acres in the State. See Exhibit 1 for the total acres by State.

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- procedure for creating a CRP grassland zone
- that the deadline for creating a new CRP grassland zone is **August 31, 2015**.

Disposal Date	Distribution
July 1, 2016	State Offices; State Offices relay to NRCS State Offices

Notice CRP-790

2 State CRP Grassland Zones

A Developing State CRP Grassland Zones

STC's shall consult with State Conservationists and State Technical Committees to develop a State CRP grassland zone. CRP grassland zones do not need to be within a State or National CRP CPA. The State zone will be reported to DAFP, through CEPD. STC's must certify to DAFP that State Technical Committees concur with the zone establishment.

Note: CRP grassland zones are in addition to the CRP wildlife, water quality, and air quality CPA's and zones used for the CRP general signup EBI.

B Size Limitations for State CRP Grassland Zone's

State zones are limited to no more than 25 percent of total acres of hay, pasture rangeland, and CRP in the State as listed in Exhibit 1.

STC's must certify to DAFP, through CEPD, that not more than 25 percent of the total acres in Exhibit 1 in the State have been designated as a State zone.

C Establishing a State CRP Grassland Zone

The State CPA's must be based on whole counties. A listing of total acres by county will be posted to <https://connections.usda.gov/communities/community/FSACEPD/CRPgrassland>. If you do not have access, contact Jim Williams by either of the following:

- e-mail to jim.williams@wdc.usda.gov
- telephone at 202-720-9562.

Note: Some counties do not show any acres because the Census of Agriculture does not report it. State Offices may add these counties to their State CRP Grassland Zone, but the acres in these counties will not count toward the 25 percent limit described in subparagraph B.

The State conservation specialist working with the State Technical Committee should create an Excel table listing a column for each of the following:

- FIPS code of the county
- county name.

Once the table is complete, name it using the format "STATE Name" CRP grassland zone. The state conservation specialist shall send it to jim.williams@wdc.usda.gov by close of business August 31, 2015. The e-mail shall contain:

- the zipped file including State name and CRP grassland zone name
- acres of cropland in the zone
- the zone's objective
- STC concurrence date.

Example: The file from Oklahoma should be named "Oklahoma CRP grassland zone".

State Total Hay, Pasture, and CRP Acreage Amounts and 25 Percent Limit

State	Total Acres	25 Percent	State	Total Acres	25 Percent
ALABAMA	3,279,121	819,780	NEBRASKA	26,034,397	6,508,599
ARIZONA	19,863,110	4,965,778	NEVADA	5,052,582	1,263,146
ARKANSAS	4,630,854	1,157,714	NEW HAMPSHIRE	83,952	20,988
CALIFORNIA	15,062,294	3,765,574	NEW JERSEY	180,832	45,208
COLORADO	22,209,326	5,552,332	NEW MEXICO	35,633,121	8,908,280
CONNECTICUT	107,868	26,967	NEW YORK	2,137,580	534,395
DELAWARE	30,067	7,517	NORTH CAROLINA	1,762,328	440,582
FLORIDA	4,259,438	1,064,860	NORTH DAKOTA	14,307,813	3,576,953
GEORGIA	2,090,857	522,714	OHIO	2,347,494	586,874
HAWAII	775,229	193,807	OKLAHOMA	23,886,263	5,971,566
IDAHO	7,036,914	1,759,229	OREGON	11,049,820	2,762,455
ILLINOIS	1,981,450	495,363	PENNSYLVANIA	2,445,516	611,379
INDIANA	1,244,716	311,179	RHODE ISLAND	15,106	3,777
IOWA	4,102,359	1,025,590	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,020,036	255,009
KANSAS	20,649,492	5,162,373	SOUTH DAKOTA	25,952,241	6,488,060
KENTUCKY	5,707,329	1,426,832	TENNESSEE	5,168,477	1,292,119
LOUISIANA	2,423,722	605,931	TEXAS	101,436,300	25,359,075
MAINE	249,349	62,337	UTAH	9,363,254	2,340,814
MARYLAND	348,986	87,247	VERMONT	338,177	84,544
MASSACHUSETTS	131,177	32,794	VIRGINIA	3,833,580	958,395
MICHIGAN	1,512,082	378,021	WASHINGTON	7,165,824	1,791,456
MINNESOTA	3,663,205	915,801	WEST VIRGINIA	1,755,869	438,967
MISSISSIPPI	2,555,623	638,906	WISCONSIN	2,944,012	736,003
MISSOURI	12,005,240	3,001,310	WYOMING	28,664,126	7,166,032
MONTANA	44,542,170	11,135,543	Total	493,040,678	123,260,170