

For: State and County Offices

**CRP Grassland Small-Scale Livestock Grazing Operation Initiative**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

USDA announced the small-scale livestock operation initiative on November 4, 2016. The initiative targets small-scale livestock operations of under 140 grazing animal units with offers of not more than 200 acres. The initiative uses CRP Grassland practices CP87A and CP88A to offer land during the third ranking period ending on December 16, 2017.

During the third ranking period:

- all offers will be ranked normally, in addition small-scale livestock grazing operations will be ranked separately against each other
- offers with CP87A and CP88A will be ranked against each other.

**B Purpose**

This notice provides:

- policy for the small-scale livestock grazing operation initiative
- forms and conservation practices needed for the CRP Grassland third ranking period
- procedure for using CP87A and CP88A when making a CRP Grassland offer
- additional procedure for the third ranking period.

| <b>Disposal Date</b> | <b>Distribution</b>   |
|----------------------|---|
| July 1, 2017         | State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices |

## Notice CRP-812

### 2 Policy

#### A Eligibility

Producers with small-scale livestock operations are eligible to submit offers of 200 acres or less for CRP Grassland under the small livestock grazing operation initiative.

#### B Practices CP87A and CP88A

The 87A practice is the same as the 87 practice; the 88A practice is the same as the 88 practice.

CRP practices CP87A and CP88A will be used for all small-scale livestock grazing operation offers. To be considered for the small-scale livestock grazing operation initiative, only practices CP87A, CP88A, and CP42 will be eligible. Rejected offers from prior ranking periods will be allowed to modify their offers to take advantage of this initiative. Offers for this initiative shall not have both 87 and 87A or 88 and 88A on the same offer.

CP87 will be used to calculate the F4 ranking score for CP87A. CP88 will be used to calculate the F4 ranking score for CP88A. See Exhibit 1 for a description of CP87A and CP88A.

**Note:** CRP procedure limits a producer to 1 offer per tract.

#### C Small-Scale Livestock Grazing Operation Certification

Producers will use CRP-2G-1 to self-certify the number of grazing animal units. See Exhibit 2 for an example of CRP-2G-1. Exhibit 3 has values for other types of livestock if needed. If a State needs a value for a type of livestock not listed in exhibit 3, contact Jim Williams by either of the following:

- e-mail to [jim.williams@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:jim.williams@wdc.usda.gov)
- telephone at 202-720-9562.

#### D Maximum Offer Acreage

For the small-scale livestock grazing operation initiative, offers will be limited to 200 acres per farm.

## Notice CRP-812

### 3 Automation Policy

#### A Instructions

County Office employees shall use the following table to complete CRP-2G for the small livestock operation initiative.

| Step | Action  |
|------|---|
| 1    | Delineate acres to be offered with the Tool for Environmental Resource Results Assessment (TERRA). The following practices will be available for selection: CP87, CP87A, CP88, CP88A, and CP42.   |
| 2    | After completing a TERRA scenario, process offers through the Conservation On-Line System (COLS).   |
| 3    | If software is unavailable, generate and print the revised CRP-2G (11-04-16) from the forms web site at <a href="http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/forms.html">http://fsaintranet.sc.egov.usda.gov/dam/ffasforms/forms.html</a> , and enter the information manually.<br><br><b>Note:</b> You may use the system generated CRP-2G (11-04-16) to populate the information on the current form dated 11-04-16.  |
| 4    | If the producer provides information for item 11H, "Other", enter it on the manually created form dated 11-04-16. When the producer has certified eligibility for the small livestock operation initiative print/write "Eligible for livestock" in block 11H.<br><br><b>Important:</b> You will need to edit the offer once software is available and enter the applicable information from item 11H, Other into COLS. Once the information is recorded in COLS print the CRP-2G and attach it to the manual offer if applicable. |
| 5    | Obtain required signature(s) and enter the "Date participant delivers offer" into COLS in order to submit the offer for the next ranking period.  |

#### 4 Action

##### A County Office Action

County Offices shall read and follow the provisions of this notice.

##### B State Office Action

State office shall ensure that County offices follow instructions in this notice.

**CP87A Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes - Livestock**

**A Purpose**

This practice maintains existing vegetative cover of introduced grasses and legumes on eligible land as part of a livestock operation.

**B Program Policy**

Apply CP87A to maintain existing permanent introduced grasses and legumes on eligible CRP grassland for small-scale livestock grazing operations. NRCS or TSP determines, based on a site visit, that the grassland is suitable to be hayed or grazed according to the conservation plan of operations.

**C Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice shall:

- promote common grazing-related activities
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring
- be included and required in the approved conservation plan
- be maintained for the life of CRP-1
- prevent breaking of native sod except for CP42.

**D C/S Policy**

The following shows C/S policies for this practice.

| <b>IF the component is...</b>              | <b>AND the justification is...</b>  | <b>THEN C/S is...</b>   |
|--|---|---|
| permanent fence<br>(internal and boundary) | fencing needed to facilitate a livestock grazing system<br><br><b>Important:</b> A single strand electric fence is not a permanent fence for CRP grassland.   | authorized using technical practice codes 314, 315, 338, 378, 382, 472, 516, 561, 574, 575, 595, and 614. |
| access control                             | needed to control access to an area to maintain the quantity and quality of natural resources, or seasonal or permanent livestock exclusion<br><br><b>Example:</b> Gates between rotational grazing paddocks. | authorized.   |

CP87A Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes – Livestock (Continued)

D C/S Policy (Continued)

| IF the component is...  | AND the justification is...   | THEN C/S is... |
|---|---|----------------|
| ponds, wells, spring developments, pipelines, and water facilities    | substantiated as needed by COC for providing a water source for livestock<br><br><b>Note:</b> COC shall only approve the minimum number of water sources needed.  | authorized.    |
| fuel break  | to control and reduce the risk of the spread of fire by treating, removing, or modifying vegetation, debris, and detritus   |                |
| brush management  | to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create the desired quality or enhance stream flow</li> <li>• improve forage accessibility, quality, and quantity for livestock and wildlife</li> <li>• manage fuel loads to achieve desired conditions</li> </ul>                              |                |
| trails and walkways   | to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide or improve access to forage, water, working/handling facilities, and/or shelter</li> <li>• improve grazing efficiency and distribution</li> <li>• protect ecologically sensitive, erosive, and/or potentially erosive sites</li> </ul> |                |
| prescribed burning  | to improve plant production quantity and/or quality as mid-contract management by managing fuel loads to achieve desired conditions   |                |
| corrals, feedlots, ornamental fences, holding pens, and cattle guards |   |                |

**CP87A Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes – Livestock (Continued)****E Practice Requirements**

The following are requirements for this practice.

- Limit C/S to the minimum level of treatment necessary to support common grazing practices.
- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be:
  - Federally, State, and locally registered
  - applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- Haying, mowing, or harvesting for seed production shall be subject to appropriate restrictions for species identified by STC focus areas.

**F Practice Management**

If the producer destroys the practice during the life of CRP-1 or failure is caused by the producer, if COC terminates, the producer must refund all annual rental payments, C/S payments, interest, and liquidated damages

**G Environmental Concerns**

Consider wildlife and other environmental concerns, especially federally threatened or endangered species and critical habitat, when establishing protective measures.

**H Practice Maintenance**

The practice shall be maintained without additional C/S for the life of CRP-1. C/S shall be refunded if either of the following applies:

- producer destroys the practice during the life of CRP-1
- failure is **not** caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

**I Program Development**

Follow this subparagraph to develop the county program.

- County programs shall provide the requirements that are conditions for C/S.
- STC may establish these requirements.

**J Technical Responsibility**

Technical responsibility for this practice shall be assigned to NRCS or TSP.

**CP88A Permanent Native Grasses and Legumes – Livestock**

**A Purpose**

The purpose of this practice is to maintain existing vegetative cover of native grasses and legumes on eligible grassland as part of a livestock operation.

**B Program Policy**

Apply this practice to maintain existing permanent native grasses and legumes on eligible CRP Grassland for small-scale livestock grazing operations. NRCS or TSP determines, based on a site visit, what grassland is suitable to be hayed or grazed, according to the conservation plan of operations.

**C Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice shall:

- promote common grazing-related activities
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring
- be included and required in the approved conservation plan
- be maintained for the life of CRP-1
- prevent breaking of native sod.

**D C/S Policy**

The following shows C/S policies for this practice.

| <b>IF the component</b>                 | <b>AND the justification is...</b>  | <b>THEN C/S is...</b>   |
|---|---|---|
| permanent fence (internal and boundary) | fencing needed to facilitate a livestock grazing system<br><br><b>Important:</b> A single strand electric fence is not a permanent fence for CRP grassland.   | authorized using technical practice codes 314, 315, 338, 378, 382, 472, 516, 561, 574, 575, 595, and 614. |
| access control                          | needed to control access to an area to maintain the quantity and quality of natural resources, or seasonal or permanent livestock exclusion<br><br><b>Example:</b> Gates between rotational grazing paddocks. | authorized.   |

CP88A Permanent Native Grasses and Legumes – Livestock (Continued)

D C/S Policy (Continued)

| IF the component is...  | AND the justification is...  | THEN C/S is... |
|---|--|----------------|
| ponds, wells, spring developments, pipelines, and water facilities    | substantiated as needed by COC for providing a water source for livestock<br><br><b>Note:</b> COC shall only approve the minimum number of water sources needed.   | authorized.    |
| fuel break  | to control and reduce the risk of the spread of fire by treating, removing, or modifying vegetation, debris, and detritus  |                |
| brush management  | to:<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create the desired quality or enhance stream flow</li> <li>• improve forage accessibility, quality, and quantity for livestock and wildlife</li> <li>• manage fuel loads to achieve desired conditions</li> </ul>                              |                |
| trails and walkways   | to:<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide or improve access to forage, water, working/handling facilities, and/or shelter</li> <li>• improve grazing efficiency and distribution</li> <li>• protect ecologically sensitive, erosive, and/or potentially erosive sites</li> </ul> |                |
| prescribed burning  | to improve plant production quantity and/or quality as mid-contract management by managing fuel loads to achieve desired conditions  |                |
| corrals, feedlots, ornamental fences, holding pens, and cattle guards |  |                |

**CP88A Permanent Native Grasses and Legumes – Livestock (Continued)****E Practice Requirements (Continued)**

- Limit C/S to the minimum level of treatment necessary to support common grazing practices.
- Chemicals used in performing the practice **must** be:
  - Federally, State, and locally registered
  - applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
- Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid an adverse impact on surrounding land.
- Haying, mowing, or harvesting for seed production shall be subject to appropriate restrictions for species identified by STC focus areas.

**F Practice Management**

If the producer destroys the practice during the life of CRP-1 or failure is caused by the producer, if COC terminates, the producer must refund all annual rental payments, C/S payments, interest, and liquidated damages according to paragraph 574.

**G Environmental Concerns**

Consider wildlife and other environmental concerns, especially federally threatened or endangered species and critical habitat, when establishing protective measures.

**H Practice Maintenance**

The practice shall be maintained without additional C/S for the life of CRP-1. C/S shall be refunded according if either of the following applies:

- producer destroys the practice during the life of CRP-1
- failure is **not** caused by circumstances beyond the producer's control.

**I Program Development**

Follow this subparagraph to develop the county program.

- County programs shall provide the requirements that are conditions for C/S.
- STC may establish these requirements.

**J Technical Responsibility**

Technical responsibility for this practice shall be assigned to NRCS or TSP.

CRP-2G-1, CRP Grassland Small Scale Livestock Grazing Operation Certification

Following is an example of CRP-2G-1.

This form is available electronically.

|  |  |                         |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p><b>CRP-2G-1</b><br/>(11-04-16)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b><br/>Farm Service Agency</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CRP GRASSLAND SMALL SCALE LIVESTOCK GRAZING<br/>OPERATION CERTIFICATION</b></p>   | <p>1. STATE</p> <hr/> <p>2. COUNTY</p> <hr/> <p>3. FARM NUMBER(S)</p>        |                         |                                     |
| 4. Producer Name and Address (Including Zip Code)  | 5. Producer Telephone Number (Including Area Code)                           |                         |                                     |
| <b>TYPES OF LIVESTOCK:</b>   |  |                         |                                     |
| 6.<br>Grazing Animals<br>Animal Kind/Class   | 7.<br>Animal Unit Equivalent   | 8.<br>Number of Animals | 9.<br>Total Animal Unit Equivalents |
| A. Beef/Buffalo/Dry Dairy Cow  | 1.00   | x                       | =                                   |
| B. Dairy Cow   | 1.40   | x                       | =                                   |
| C. Beef/Dairy/Buffalo Bulls  | 1.50   | x                       | =                                   |
| D. Calf (over > 400 lbs.)  | 0.30   | x                       | =                                   |
| E. Heifer  | 0.86   | x                       | =                                   |
| F. Yearling Cattle   | 0.65   | x                       | =                                   |
| G. Sheep, Ewe  | 0.16   | x                       | =                                   |
| H. Lamb, Weaned to Yearling  | 0.14   | x                       | =                                   |
| I. Ram (> 200 lbs.)  | 0.17   | x                       | =                                   |
| J. Goat, Mature  | 0.15   | x                       | =                                   |
| K. Kid, Yearling   | 0.10   | x                       | =                                   |
| L. Llama   | 0.23   | x                       | =                                   |
| M. Other: _____  |  | x                       | =                                   |
| N. Other: _____  |  | x                       | =                                   |
| <b>O. TOTAL</b>  |  |                         |                                     |
| <b>10. PRODUCER'S CERTIFICATION</b>  |  |                         |                                     |
| <p><i>I certify:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• my farm has 140 grazing animal units or less</li> <li>• that I will not offer more than 200 acres for CRP Grassland on my farm.</li> </ul> <p><i>By signing this form, the Applicant acknowledges and understands that any false representation or claims are subject to civil and criminal penalties including, but not limited to those under 18 U.S.C. 1001.</i></p>  |  |                         |                                     |
| A. PRODUCER SIGNATURE (BY)   | B. TITLE RELATIONSHIP OF THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNING IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY | C. DATE (MM-DD-YYYY)    |                                     |
| <p><b>NOTE:</b> The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a – as amended). The authority for requesting the information identified on this form is 7 CFR Part 1410, the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), and the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-79). The information will be used to determine producer ability to participate in and receive benefits under the Conservation Reserve Program. The information collected on this form may be disclosed to other Federal, State, Local government agencies, Tribal agencies, and nongovernmental entities that have been authorized access to the information by statute or regulation and/or as described in applicable Routine Uses identified in the System of Records Notice for USDA/FSA-2, Farm Records File (Automated). Providing the requested information is voluntary. However, failure to furnish the requested information will result in a determination that the producer is unable to participate in and receive benefits under the Conservation Reserve Program.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>The provisions of appropriate criminal and civil fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. <b>RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR COUNTY FSA OFFICE</b></p> <p><small>In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.</small></p> <p><small>Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.</small></p> <p><small>To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <a href="http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html">http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html</a> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: <a href="mailto:program.intake@usda.gov">program.intake@usda.gov</a>. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.</small></p> |  |                         |                                     |

**Livestock Animal Unit Values**

Following are the livestock animal unit values.

| <b>Animal Kind/Class</b>   | <b>Animal Unit Equivalent</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Beef/Buffalo/Dry Dairy Cow | 1.00                          |
| Dairy Cow                  | 1.40                          |
| Beef/Dairy/Buffalo Bulls   | 1.50                          |
| Calf ( > 400 lbs)          | 0.30                          |
| Heifer                     | 0.86                          |
| Yearling cattle            | 0.65                          |
| Sheep, Ewe                 | 0.16                          |
| Lamb, Weaned to Yearling   | 0.14                          |
| Ram ( > 200 lbs.)          | 0.17                          |
| Goat, mature               | 0.15                          |
| Kid, yearling              | 0.10                          |
| Llama                      | 0.23                          |