

# North Dakota State Technical Committee FSA Update – September 2016



## FSA Updates

# Topics to be covered

- CRP Enrollment Cap
- Review of Current Approved Management Activities for CRP
- Litter removal

# CRP Enrollment

- The 2014 Farm Bill decreased the maximum CRP acreage enrollment from 32 million acres to 24 million acres
- The 2014 Farm Bill limits total enrollment of CRP after the beginning of Fiscal Year 2017 (October 1, 2016) to 24 million acres.
- Currently, CRP enrollment is very close to the acreage cap



# CRP Enrollment

- FSA had to have all Signup 48 and Signup 200 (Grasslands) offers submitted to NRCS by September 9<sup>th</sup> for conservation planning.
- FSA had until September 16<sup>th</sup> to have all offers approved.
- The approval process has been suspended until further notice.



# CRP Enrollment

- FSA can still accept offers for continuous CRP practices
- FSA cannot submit offer to NRCS for conservation planning.
- Continuous CRP Signup 50 begins October 1<sup>st</sup>, but FSA cannot approve the offers or submit to NRCS for planning until further notice.

# CRP Enrollment

- The FSA National Office will be determining the number of acres enrolled after September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- This may take several weeks to determine
  - Expiring contracts re-enrolled
  - New contracts beginning Oct 1<sup>st</sup>
  - New contracts starting later in FY2017

# CRP Enrollment

- The CRP-1 Appendix was updated, to inform participants of contracts approved on or after August 30, 2016, that their CRP contract acres may be decreased, if it is determined the national acreage cap has been exceeded.



# CRP Management Activities

- There are currently 23 different CRP conservation practices with enrolled acreages in North Dakota
- There are currently 9 different mid-contract management activities authorized in North Dakota
- However, not all 9 activities can be conducted on every practice



# CRP Management Activities

- Litter Removal
- Disking – which includes vertical tillage
- Heavy Harrow
- Lawson Aerator
- Inter-seeding Legumes or Forbs
- Prescribed Burning
- Chemical Herbaceous Vegetative Control
- Fabric Management
- Light Harrow



# CRP Management Activities

- Purpose of today's discussion:
  - To possibly form a sub-committee to:
    - Align mid-contract management activities
    - Consider different activities for various practices
- See handout

# CRP Management Activities

- Grand Forks County FSA Committee has submitted a request to change/improve mid-contract management activities.
- Summary
  - Litter removal – allow participant to keep forage from all practices (national policy doesn't allow this)

# CRP Management Activities

- GF County recommendations (continued)
  - Heavy Harrow – to allow this activity on CP27 (FWP wetland acreage), as well as CP30 and CP42.
  - Vertical tillage – to allow this activity on practices that are allowed heavy harrowing (CP2, CP18B & C, CP25, CP28)

# CRP Management Activities



September 22, 2016

# CRP Management Activities

- GF County Recommendations (continued)
  - Management frequency – require management activities for newly seeded contracts be on an as-needed-basis, and for re-enrolled contracts to be done at beginning of contract period. (National policy requires at least 1 mid-contract management activity be done in year 5 or 6 of the contract period).



# CRP Management Activities

- GF County Recommendations (continued)
  - Rotary mowing – to allow this activity on all grass practices.



# CRP Management Activities

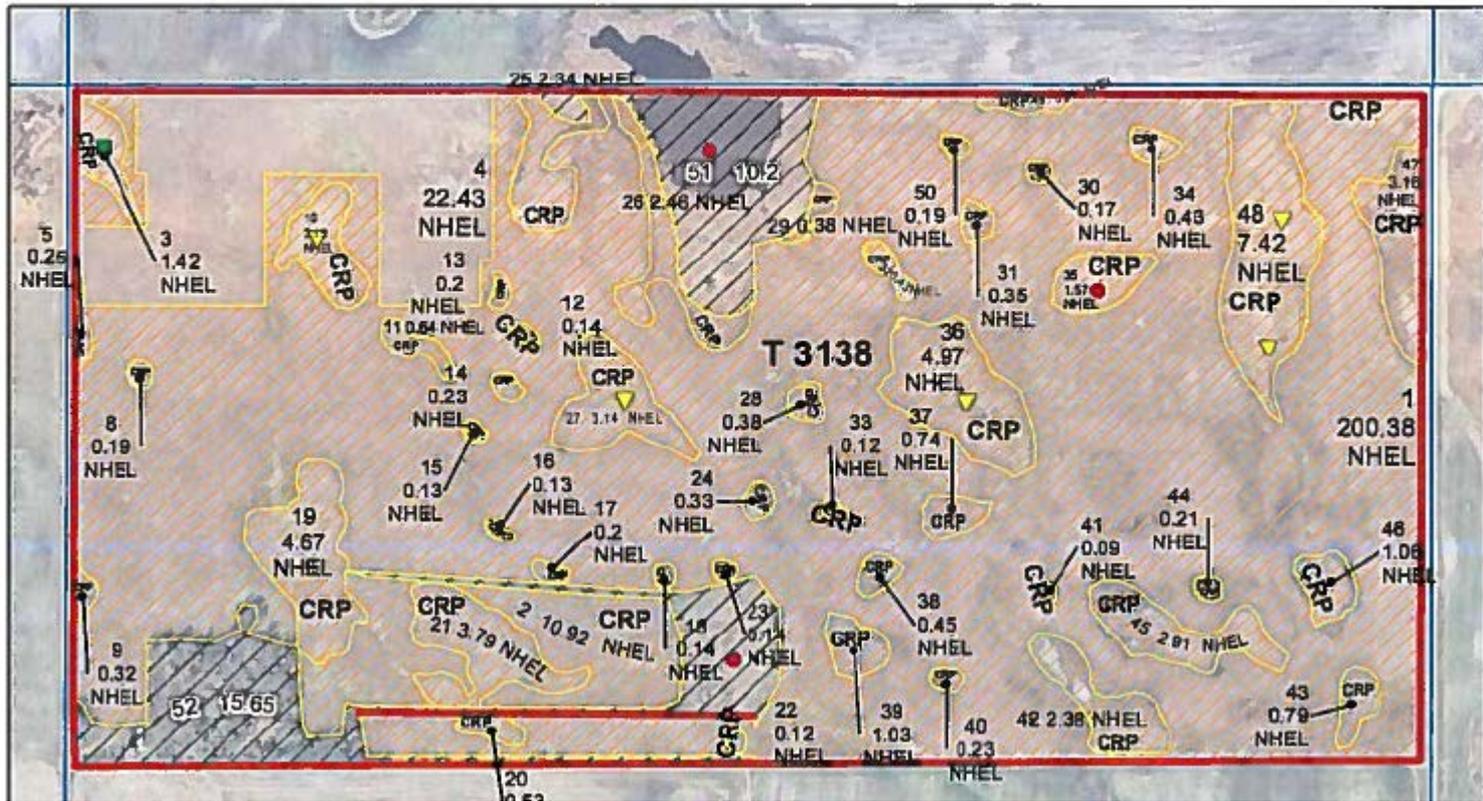


September 22, 2016

# CRP Management Activities



## Grand Forks County, North Dakota



# CRP Management Activities

- The FSA National Office conducted a review of mid-contract management (MCM) activities throughout the nation.
- The purpose of MCM is to promote plant diversity and wildlife habitat.
- No practice is exempt from MCM



# CRP Management Activities

- After the review of the MCM activities currently in place, the National Office issued Notice CRP-805.
- The notice outlined which activities were permissible and which ones needed to stop.
- Litter removal on conservation practices ineligible for managed haying/grazing is being scrutinized



# CRP Management Activities

- Litter removal requires an action of “haying”, whereby the vegetation is cut, raked and baled.
- In North Dakota, the baled vegetation is required to be destroyed by burning, unless the practice is eligible for managed haying



# CRP Management Activities

- CP's eligible for managed haying are:
  - CP1
  - CP2
  - CP4D
  - CP10
  - CP18B
  - CP18C
  - CP38, if sub-practice is one listed above

# CRP Management Activities

- Under MCM Litter Removal, FSA would pay cost-share to producers to remove and destroy the cover at \$12.50 per acre
  - Unless the practice is eligible for managed haying.
  - If managed hayed, then the annual payment is reduced by 25%

# CRP Management Activities

- If the FSA National Office does not allow North Dakota producers to remove the litter from CP8A, CP21, CP23, CP23A, CP25, CP27, CP28, CP41, CP37 or CP42, the State Technical Committee will have to recommend to the ND State FSA Committee to remove that MCM activity from those practices.



# CRP Management Activities

- However, FSA's National Office is willing to elevate our concerns to OGC for a review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- The current EIS does not address a haying activity of the ineligible CP's, therefore we are being told our producers can't do the litter removal on those CP's.



# CRP Management Activities

- However, the EIS does address a one-time use of those practices under Emergency Haying provisions.
- The EIS states a one-time use under emergency conditions did not have any long lasting significant impacts to those practices.



# CRP Management Activities

- Suggestion –
  - State Technical Committee write letter to show support for litter removal on ineligible practices.
  - Submit scientific data to show why this activity is beneficial to the stand and wildlife.
  - Allow managed haying to be conducted on ineligible practices, one-time during life of contract, and apply a payment reduction, rather than paying cost-share assistance.