

**§ 1410.23**

productive capability of the soil, improve water quality, protect wildlife or wetlands, protect a public well head, or achieve other environmental benefits as applicable.

(c) If applicable, a tree planting plan shall be developed and included in the conservation plan. Such tree planting plan may allow up to 3 years to complete plantings if 10 or more acres of hardwood trees are to be established.

(d) If applicable, the conservation plan shall address the goals included in the conservation priority designation authorized under §1410.8 of this part.

(e) All conservation plans and revisions of such plans shall be subject to the approval of CCC and NRCS.

**§ 1410.23 Eligible practices.**

(a) Eligible practices are those practices specified in the conservation plan that meet all standards needed to cost-effectively:

(1) Establish permanent vegetative or water cover, including introduced or native species of grasses and legumes, forest trees, and permanent wildlife habitat;

(2) Meet other environmental benefits, as applicable, for the contract period; and

(3) Accomplish other purposes of the program.

(b) Water cover is eligible cover for purposes of paragraph (a) of this section only if approved by the Deputy Administrator for purposes such as the enhancement of wildlife or the improvement of water quality. Such water cover shall not include ponds for the purpose of watering livestock, irrigating crops, or raising for commercial purposes.

**§§ 1410.24-1410.29 [Reserved]**

**§ 1410.30 Signup.**

Offers for contracts shall be submitted only during signup periods as announced periodically by the Deputy Administrator, except that CCC may hold a continuous signup for land to be devoted to particular uses, as CCC deems desirable.

**§ 1410.31 Acceptability of offers.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, producers may sub-

mit bids for the amounts they are willing to accept as rental payments to enroll their acreage in the CRP. The bids shall, to the extent practicable, be evaluated on a competitive basis in which the bids selected will be those where the greatest environmental benefits relative to cost are generated, provided the bid is not in excess of the maximum acceptable payment rate established for the for the area offered by or for the Deputy Administrator.

(b) In evaluating contract offers, different factors, as determined by CCC, may be considered from time to time for priority purposes to accomplish the goals of the program. Such factors may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Soil erosion;  
(2) Water quality (both surface and ground water);

(3) Wildlife benefits;  
(4) Conservation priority area designations;

(5) Soil productivity;  
(6) Conservation compliance considerations;

(7) Likelihood that enrolled land will remain in conserving uses beyond the contract period, which may be indicated by, for example, tree planting, permanent wildlife habitat, or commitments by a participant to a State or other entity to extend the conservation plan;

(8) Air quality; and  
(9) Cost of enrolling acreage in the program.

(c) Acreage determined eligible for continuous signup, as provided in §1410.30, shall be automatically accepted in the program if the:

(1) Land is eligible in accordance with the applicable provisions of §1410.6, as determined by the Deputy Administrator;

(2) Applicant is eligible in accordance with the provisions of §1410.5; and

(3) Applicant accepts either the maximum payment rate CCC is willing to offer to enroll the acreage in the program or a lesser rate.

**§ 1410.32 CRP contract.**

(a) In order to enroll land in the CRP, the participant must enter into a contract with CCC.

(b) The CRP contract will be comprised of: