

§701.17

agreement. In such a case, no other refund or forfeiture provisions of these regulations apply.

(h) A long-term agreement may be revised in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, by mutual agreement between the signatories to the agreement and the county committee based on approved changes in the Conservation plan of operations for the farm or ranch.

(i) An eligible person who acquires control of land under an approved agreement may elect to become a successor in interest under such agreement.

(j) An agreement will be terminated with respect to land for which loss of control has occurred and where the person acquiring control of such land elects not to become a successor in interest under the agreement. If the loss of control is for reasons beyond the control of the signatories to the agreement, the county committee will determine whether or not any cost-shares previously paid shall be refunded, but in no event shall the refund be greater than would be required in cases where loss of control is voluntary. If the loss of control is voluntary on the part of the signatories to the agreement, the signatories will be jointly and severally responsible for refunding all cost-shares paid and will forfeit all rights to further payments, with respect to the land for which control is lost. However, a refund will not be required for cost-shares where, the county committee and the State committee determine, after consulting with a representative of the Soil Conservation Service, that failure to perform the remaining practices in the agreement will not impair the effectiveness of the practices which have been performed and that the completed practices have provided conservation benefits consistent with the cost-shares which have been paid.

(k) An agreement may be terminated by the county committee, after considering the recommendation of the Soil Conservation District (or comparable district) board or, if none exists, with a representative of the Soil Conservation Service, if such action is in the public interest. The county committee will

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determine the amount of cost-shares previously paid that shall be refunded.

(l) An agreement may be terminated by the county committee upon the written request of the participant(s) to an agreement where no cost-shares have been paid for any of the scheduled practices and where the participant(s) does(do) not intend to perform any of the scheduled practices.

§701.17 Replacement, enlargement, or restoration.

The establishment or installation of a practice, for the purposes of the program shall be deemed to include the replacement, enlargement, or restoration of a practice for which cost-sharing has been allowed if the practice has served for its normal lifespan, or if all of the following conditions exist:

(a) Replacement, enlargement, or restoration of the practice is needed to solve the problem.

(b) The failure of the original practice was not due to the lack of proper maintenance by the current operator.

(c) The county committee believes that the replacement, enlargement or restoration of the practice merits consideration under the program to an equal extent with other practices.

§701.18 Pooling agreements.

Farmers, ranchers, or eligible landowners in any local area may agree in writing, with the approval of the county committee, to perform designated practices which, by conserving or improving resources of the community, will solve a mutual conservation, pollution, or other environmental problem on the land of the participants. For purposes of eligibility for cost-sharing, practices carried out under such an approved written agreement shall be regarded as having been carried out on the land of the persons who performed the practices.

§701.19 Special provisions for low-income farmers and ranchers.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in §701.13(c), the county committee may approve, in the case of low-income farmers and ranchers as defined in this section, level of cost-sharing of up to 80 percent of the average cost of performing practices.