

Farm Service Agency, USDA

§ 701.9

upon such appropriation as the Congress may provide for such purpose; and the amounts of such cost-shares will be within the limits finally determined by such appropriation.

(b) Funds available for the Agricultural Conservation Program may be made available as needed for practices to be performed under the Naval Stores Conservation Program, in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations.

§ 701.7 Eligible person.

An eligible person is a farmer or rancher who as an individual, partnership, association, corporation, estate, trust, or other business enterprise, or other legal entity (excluding districts which have taxing authority, Federal agencies, States and State agencies, but not excluding political subdivisions of a State) and, as an owner, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper, participates in the operation of a farm or ranch.

§ 701.8 Eligible land.

(a) The program is applicable to:

- (1) Privately-owned lands;
- (2) Land owned by a State or political subdivision of a State;
- (3) Lands owned by corporations which are partly owned by the United States;
- (4) Lands temporarily owned by the United States or a corporation wholly owned by it, which were not acquired or reserved for conservation purposes, including lands administered by the Farmers Home Administration, the U.S. Department of Defense, or by any other government agency designated by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations;
- (5) Any cropland farmed by private persons which is owned by the United States or a corporation wholly owned by it;
- (6) Indian lands, except that where grazing operations are carried out on Indian lands administered by the Department of the Interior, such lands are within the scope of the program only if covered by a written agreement approved by the Department of the Interior giving the operator an interest in the grazing and forage growing on the land and a right to occupy the land

in order to carry out the grazing operations; and

(7) Noncropland owned by the United States on which practices are performed by private persons where such practices directly conserve or benefit nearby or adjoining privately-owned lands of the persons performing the practices and such persons maintain and use such federally-owned noncropland under agreement with the Federal agency having jurisdiction thereof.

(b) The program is not applicable to:

(1) Noncropland owned by the United States which was acquired or reserved for conservation purposes, or which is to be retained permanently under Government ownership, including, but not limited to, grazing lands administered by the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or by the Bureau of Land Management (including lands administered under the Taylor Grazing Act), or the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, except as indicated in paragraph (a)(7) of this section.

(2) Nonprivate persons for performance of practices on any land owned by the United States or a corporation wholly owned by it.

§ 701.9 Conservation practices.

Conservation practices as specified by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, FSA, are made available nationally under the Agricultural Conservation Program and may be included in the State and county programs. Practices shall not be primarily production oriented or have little or no conservation or pollution abatement benefits. The practices are designed to be consistent with the agricultural conservation policy stated in section 7 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, and national program policy, and are developed primarily to meet a definite need to accomplish one or more of the following:

- (a) Establish long-lasting protective cover.
- (b) Improve or sustain existing protective cover.
- (c) Conserve or safely dispose of water.
- (d) Benefit wildlife.

§ 701.10

(e) Establish or improve stands of forest trees.

(f) Give protection against soil erosion.

(g) Prevent or abate agricultural-related pollution of water, land, and air.

(h) Meet special State or county conservation needs.

(i) Encourage energy conservation practices.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 939, Jan. 8, 1982]

§ 701.10 County programs.

(a) A program shall be developed in each county by the county committee, in consultation with the county conservation review group, in accordance with the National and State development guidelines and policies provided. At least one public meeting per year shall be held for this purpose.

(b) The county program shall be that approved by the State committee and the Secretary or designee.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 46998, Oct. 22, 1982]

§ 701.11 State programs.

(a) The State committee, in consultation with the State conservation review group, shall develop recommendations for the State program. The chairperson of the State conservation review group may also invite others with conservation or water quality interests to participate in such deliberations. At least one public meeting per year shall be held for this purpose.

(b) The State program shall consist of the guidelines and practices selected by the State committee after considering the recommendations submitted by the county committee to the State review group and approved by the Secretary or designee.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 46999, Oct. 22, 1982]

§ 701.12 Selection of practices.

The practices to be included in the State or county program shall be only those practices for which cost-sharing is essential to permit accomplishment of the program objective.

7 CFR Ch. VII (1-1-02 Edition)

§ 701.13 Levels and rates of cost-sharing.

(a) The maximum level of cost-sharing for each practice shall be the percentage of the average cost of performing the practice considered necessary to obtain the needed performance of the practice, but at a level such that the participant will make a significant contribution to the cost of performing the practice.

(b) Levels of cost-sharing under annual agreements for each practice shall not be in excess of 75 percent of the average cost of carrying out the practice as determined by the county committee. However, where the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, determines a higher level of cost-sharing is necessary to provide adequate incentive for producer to carry out a conservation practice, the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, may specifically authorize a higher level. (See § 701.19 for special provision for low-income farmers.)

(c) Levels of cost-sharing under long term agreements shall not be in excess of 75 percent nor less than 50 percent of the average cost for each practice as determined by the county committee.

(d) For the purpose of establishing rates of cost-sharing, the average cost of performing a practice may be the average cost for a county or a part of a county, as determined by the county committee.

[45 FR 49522, July 25, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 939, Jan. 8, 1982]

§ 701.14 Starting of practices.

Costs will not be shared for practices or components of practices that are started before a formal approval is given by the county committee.

[47 FR 939, Jan. 8, 1982]

§ 701.15 Method of approval.

The county committee will determine the extent to which Federal funds will be made available to share the cost of each approved practice, taking into consideration the county allocation, the conservation and environmental problems in the county, the land involved, and the practices for