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opportunity to participate in the program in accordance with the provisions of the program as set forth in this subpart. An applicant, as a part of his application for assistance, will file an acceptable conservation and development plan for the acreage to be included in his contract, and the measures specified in the plan must be carried out irrespective of whether cost-sharing is offered. The county committee will determine the practices and extent of such practices to be approved for cost-sharing to assist the applicant in carrying out his acceptable plan. A contract shall be entered into setting forth the extent of the approved assistance. An acceptable conservation and development plan will be a plan developed for the land proposed to be placed under contract, on a form prescribed by the Administrator, with technical planning assistance by technicians of the Soil Conservation Service, except in cases where the proposed treatment involves only a single practice of pasture renovation or timber stand improvement or conversion of less than 10 acres of land to grass or trees and such use does not involve critical areas or unusual costs and the conservation and development plan is acceptable to the county committee. In approving contracts, the county committees shall give preference to needy landowners, operators, and occupiers to the extent that such preference is consistent with the development of land treatment programs in the project area.

(c) Detailed information concerning the program as it applies to an individual farm may be obtained from the county FSA office for the county in which the farm is located or from the State FSA office.

[30 FR 8669, July 9, 1965, as amended by Amdt. 4, 33 FR 16141, Nov. 5, 1968]

**§ 755.5 State programs.**

(a) The State program shall be developed by the State or a political subdivision thereof in accordance with the regulations contained in this subpart. The Farm Service Agency and other applicable agencies of the Department of Agriculture shall cooperate with the State governmental officials in the development of the program. The chairman of the State committee as the

chairman of the State Agricultural Conservation Program Development Group shall be the point of contact with the State governmental officials. The State Agricultural Conservation Program Development Group, which consists of the State ASC Committee (including the State Director of Extension), the State conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service, and the Forest Service official having jurisdiction over farm forestry in the State, shall consult with organizations and agencies within the State that have conservation interests and responsibilities. Upon request of the Governor of the State, a person selected as a direct representative of the Governor may be designated by the Secretary as an additional member of the ACP Development Group with equal authority with other members of the Group in the development of the State program.

(b) The State program shall include the following provisions: (1) Identification of program objectives and areas in the State where the program will be applicable; (2) the designation of practices for which cost-share assistance is requested for each designated area, including specifications for each proposed practice; and (3) the proposed cost-share rates for each practice.

(c) Minimum specifications which practices must meet to be eligible for Federal cost-sharing shall be set forth in the State program, or be incorporated therein by specific reference to a standard publication or other written document containing such specifications. For practices involving the establishment or improvement of vegetative cover, the specifications shall include, where appropriate, liming fertilization, and seeding rates, eligible seeds and mixtures, seeding dates, requirements for cultural operations and inoculation, and other steps essential to the successful establishment or improvement of the vegetative cover. For mechanical or construction type practices, the specifications shall include, where appropriate, the types and sizes of material, installation or construction requirements, and other steps essential to the proper functioning of the structure. For other practices, the specifications shall include those steps essential to the successful performance

of the practice. Practice specifications may provide minimum performance requirements which will qualify the practice for cost-sharing and maximum limits of performance which will be eligible for cost-sharing. For practices which authorize Federal cost-sharing for applications of liming materials and commercial fertilizers, the minimum applications and maximum applications on which cost-sharing is authorized shall be determined on the basis of a current soil test: *Provided, however*, That if available facilities are not adequate to permit the desired use of soil tests under the program, an alternative basis for determination by the county committee of such application shall be authorized to the extent necessary.

(d) The following practices and uses are authorized:

(1) Establishment of permanent sod waterways to dispose of excess water without causing erosion.

(2) Establishment of a permanent vegetative cover for soil protection or as a needed land use adjustment.

(3) Constructing terraces to detain or control the flow of water and check soil erosion.

(4) Constructing diversion terraces, ditches, or dikes to intercept runoff and divert excess water to protected outlets.

(5) Constructing erosion control, detention, or sediment retention dams, pits, or ponds to prevent or heal gullying or to retard or reduce runoff of water.

(6) Constructing channel lining, chutes, drop spillways, pipe drops, drop inlets, or similar structures for the protection of outlets and water channels that dispose of excess water.

(7) Streambank or shore protection, channel clearance, enlargement or realignment, or construction of floodways, levees, or dikes, to prevent erosion or flood damage to farmland.

(8) Establishment of a stand of trees or shrubs to prevent erosion.

(9) Establishment of a stand of forest trees or shrubs on farmland for purposes other than the prevention of erosion.

(10) Improvement of a stand of forest trees.

(11) Establishment of contour strip-cropping to protect soil from erosion.

(12) Constructing or sealing dams, pits, or ponds as a means of protecting vegetative cover or to make practicable the utilization of the land for vegetative cover.

(13) Developing springs or seeps for livestock water as a means of protecting vegetative cover or to make practicable the utilization of the land for vegetative cover.

(14) Controlling competitive shrubs to permit growth of adequate desirable vegetative cover.

(15) Improvement of an established vegetative cover for soil or watershed protection.

(16) Treatment of farmland to permit the use of legumes and grasses for soil improvement and protection.

(17) Construction of water facilities for wildlife habitat or protection.

(18) Establishment of vegetative cover to provide habitat, food, or shelter for wildlife.

(19) Conservation practices to develop recreation resources—establishment of picnic and sports area; establishment of camping and nature recreation areas; establishment of hunting and shooting preserve area; establishment of fishing area; establishment of summer water sports area; establishment of winter sports area.

(20) Other practices not covered above which are determined to be needed to accomplish the purpose of the program.

(e) The Soil Conservation Service shall have the same technical responsibility for Appalachian Land Stabilization and Conservation Program practices as it has for the same or similar Agricultural Conservation Program Practices including applicable components of approved recreation practices. The Forest Service is responsible for the technical phases of forestry practices.

(f) Each proposed State program shall be submitted to the Commission by the member thereof representing such State. The estimated amount of funds needed to accomplish the objectives of such program shall be stated in the submission of the proposed program to the Commission. If approved by the Commission, the proposed State

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program shall be submitted to the Secretary by the Federal Cochairman. Responsibility is assigned to the Farmer Programs Division, FSA for review and recommendation for approval or disapproval by the Secretary.

(g) Copies of bulletins setting forth the State program as approved by the Secretary shall be available in the office of the county committee.

[30 FR 8669, July 9, 1965, as amended by Amdt. 2, 30 FR 14099, Nov. 9, 1965]

### § 755.6 Cost-share contract.

(a) *Filing requests.* (1) Landowners, operators, or occupiers in eligible counties shall be furnished information with respect to the program and afforded an opportunity to request a cost-share contract covering those practices which would accomplish the objectives of the program on the farm.

(2) The request shall be on a form and in accordance with instructions prescribed by the Administrator.

(b) *Entering into a contract.* (1) The county committee is authorized to approve the contract on behalf of the Secretary.

(2) The contract must be signed by the owner of the land on which cost-share payments are provided under the contract and by the operator of the farm. The contract shall also be signed by any occupiers who will share in payments in one or more years of the contract period.

(3) There shall be only one contract for a farm.

(4) The final date for signing the contract shall be the date announced by the Administrator.

(c) *Contract period.* (1) The period to be covered by a contract shall be not less than 3 years or longer than 10 years as agreed to by the contract signers and the county committee.

(2) The first year of the contract period shall begin on the date of the approval of the contract and shall end on December 31 of such year. Each subsequent year of the contract period shall be on a calendar year basis.

### § 755.7 Cost-share payments.

(a) Subject to the conditions and limitations in this subpart, cost-sharing may be authorized for practices needed during the period of the contract to

conserve and develop soil, water, woodland, wildlife, and recreation resources. Payment of the cost-shares shall be made only upon application submitted on a form prescribed by the Administrator. Practices required to be established under the contract which are started after a request for a contract is filed shall be considered as started during the contract period.

(b) Cost-share rates shall not exceed 80 per centum of the average cost of carrying out the land treatment measures or such lower rate as the county committee determines will accomplish the objectives of the program. As a further limitation, cost-sharing may not be authorized in excess of a total amount computed by multiplying the number of acres designated under contract times \$50, unless a representative of the State committee approves an amount in excess of this limitation on the basis that the income potential and benefits derived from expenditures of the additional money warrant the higher limit.

(c) Cost-sharing shall not be approved for more than 50 acres per farm.

(d) The total acreage with respect to which any landowner, operator, or occupier receives cost-sharing payments shall not exceed 50 acres under all contracts in which he has an interest.

(e) Cost-sharing for the practices or components thereof contained in the approved State program is conditioned upon the establishment, maintenance, and performance of the practices in accordance with all applicable specifications and program provisions. The county committee shall specify on the practice approval the date by which the practice must be completed. Subject to the availability of funds, cost-sharing may be authorized for the restoration or replacement of any needed conservation measure if during the contract period the original conservation use is destroyed or rendered unsuitable through no fault of the contract signers.

(f) In addition to the provisions contained in this subpart, cost-sharing payments shall also be subject to the following regulations of the Agricultural Conservation Program (7 CFR 701.1-701.93, as amended):