

# Conservation Reserve Program Longleaf Pine Initiative CP36



USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) offers a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Longleaf Pine Initiative designed to plant up to 44,750 acres of longleaf pine forests in 116 Georgia counties.

## Sign-up

Sign-up begins Dec. 1, 2006, at local FSA offices for the CRP Longleaf Pine Initiative and runs continuously until the acreage goal is met, or Dec. 31, 2007, whichever comes first.

## Requirements

The following requirements apply during the life of the contract:

- Plantings must be protected from grazing by domestic livestock;
- Chemicals used in performing the practice must not include fertilizers and be:
  - Federally, state and locally registered; and
  - Applied according to authorized registered uses, label directions, and other Federal or state policies and requirements;
- The practice has periodic management activities performed according to the conservation plan; and
- The producer controls all noxious and invasive.

### For example:

- The offered acreage meets the CRP cropping history requirement;
- The site falls within the Longleaf Pine National Conservation Priority Area (CPA) and meets proper soil and other site conditions, making it appropriate for longleaf pine planting where necessary and feasible; and

The total acreage for all longleaf pine (CP36) acreage enrolled in a state does not exceed a state's allocation.

## Eligible Land and Practices

To be eligible for this practice, land must be located in counties within the historic range of the longleaf pine and soils suitable for longleaf pine. In addition, land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements.

Acceptable land is cropland that was planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity in four out of six years between 1996 and 2001 and which is also physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.

## Rental Rates

Rental rates are based on three predominant soils on land offered for enrollment. FSA bases rental rates on the average value of dry-land cash rent for the past three years and adjusts rates to reflect the relative productivity of soils within each county.

## SIP and PIP Payments

A one-time up front signing incentive payment (SIP) of \$100 per acre for CRP contracts for 10 or more years will be paid by FSA after eligibility criteria are met and the CRP contract is approved.

A one-time practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs will be paid after the CRP practice is installed, eligible costs are verified and other payment eligibility criteria are met.

## Cost-share Payments

In addition to the payments described, FSA will pay up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover.

## Contracts

The effective date of the CRP contract is the first day of the month following the month of approval. In certain circumstances, producers may defer the effective date for up to six months.

Contracts are for not less than 10, nor more than 15 years.

## Cooperating Agencies

CRP is administered by USDA's FSA with assistance from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); NCDFR; and local soil and water conservation districts.

# Technical Requirements for CRP CP36, LONGLEAF PINE

This practice is to restore and manage Longleaf pine forest on cropland, including the native groundcover plants to provide wildlife habitat and protect water quality.

Required mid-contract management includes understory burning, or light disking between tree rows.

Establishment of tree species other than Longleaf pine is not permitted.

Portions of fields, where it is infeasible to establish Longleaf are not eligible for enrollment.

In-stand mowing and pine straw raking are prohibited during the contract period.

Control of invasive is required during the contract period.

## The Following Steps Are Often Necessary to Establish Longleaf Pine

*Site specific actions, as applicable, will be indicated in the NRCS conservation plan and GFC plan*

1. Control all Tall fescue, Bermuda grass, Bahia grass, Cogon grass or other non-native plants using appropriate herbicide and following label instructions. The Extension Service will provide information on appropriate herbicides. Where heavy Bermuda grass occurs, two growing seasons will be required for control.
2. Leave field un-cropped (fallow) for one growing season before planting Longleaf to aid with establishment. This will also allow all crop herbicide residue to breakdown.
3. Lightly scalp tree planting rows to a depth  $\leq 3$ -5" according to GFC specifications.
4. Sub-soil tree planting rows to relieve compacted layer.
5. Band spray (a 48" wide band) soil active herbicide to control competition in rows during trees 1<sup>st</sup> year. (The remainder of the row may be planted to and managed for NWSG.)
6. Plant 400 to 600 Longleaf seedlings per acre on a 12 ft spacing between rows to allow for the development of native grasses and weeds. The trees spacing will be:

	6'	7'	8'	9'
12' Row Spacing	600	519	454	403
	Trees Per Acre			

7. Establish firebreak (without trees) at least 10 ft. wide, if vegetated, (or the width of fire plow if un-vegetated) surrounding stand or separating stands.
8. Band spray soil active herbicide to control competition in rows during trees 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
9. Conserve wildlife cover in the unplanted space between trees- DO NOT MOW BETWEEN ROWS OR BROADCAST SPRAY HERBICIDE UNLESS TO CONTROL COMPETITION DURING NWSG ESTABLISHMENT.

## This Management for Wildlife Habitat is Required

Prescribed burn twice during 10-yr. contract, or 3 times during 15-yr. contract following this schedule: and refresh firebreak prior to each burn.

- 1<sup>st</sup> prescribed burn scheduled in contract year 1-4 during October-March,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prescribed burn in contract year 5-9 during October-March,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prescribed burn in year 10-14 of 15 yr. contract during October-March;

OR

1. Disk every 3<sup>rd</sup> inter-row (space between rows of trees) to a depth of 3-5" during October-March of each year. Rotate the disking so it occurs in each inter-row once every three years.

**Enhancing Wildlife Habitat by Planting Native Vegetation is Allowed** (Determined by NRCS according to guidance document for NWSG)

Plant native grass such as wiregrass, little bluestem, big bluestem, Indian grass, switch grass and/or native forbs such as partridge pea, or beggar lice lespedeza in the space between tree rows.