

For: AL, FL, LA, MS, NC, and TX State and County Offices

Suspending Signup for the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP)

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Section 107 of the 2006 Appropriations Act authorized EFCRP to enroll certain land that:

- is private nonindustrial forest land
- experienced a loss of 35 percent or more of merchantable timber in the States
- suffered forestry damage related to 2005 hurricanes.

Pub. L. 109-234 included an additional \$100 million and made other EFCRP changes. EFCRP is eligible in 228 Presidential- or Secretarial-designated counties in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas.

Almost 4,800 offers have been received to enroll over 546,000 acres. The number of offers received since the first quarter of FY 2007 through the first quarter of FY 2008 declined by about 95 percent.

B Purpose

This notice informs State and County Offices that:

- EFCRP signup is scheduled to end at **COB January 30, 2009**
- County Offices must inform the public about the end of signup, including outreach to beginning, socially-disadvantaged, and limited resource farmers
- any offers submitted after COB January 30, 2009, will be treated as late-filed offers subject to review by COC, STC, and CEPD
- any offer made by COB January 30, 2009, will be processed under existing rules (e.g., offer acceptability, plan development, and contract approval).

| Disposal Date | Distribution |
|---------------|---|
| April 1, 2009 | Above State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and NRCS State Offices |

Notice CRP-628

2 General Policy

A EFCRP Signup Ending

EFCRP signup is scheduled to end at **COB January 30, 2009**. No further notice is expected to be provided.

B Information Campaign

To prepare for the end of EFCRP signup, scheduled to occur at **COB January 30, 2009**, County Offices shall use all practical means available to notify eligible participants:

- of EFCRP provisions
- that EFCRP signup is scheduled to end at **COB January 30, 2009**.

C Timely and Late-Filed Offers

Any offers submitted to the County Office by COB January 30, 2009, will be evaluated according to 2-CRP, Part 6, Section 5.

Any offers submitted to the County Office **after** COB January 30, 2009, will be considered as “late-filed”, the acceptance of which is subject to review by COC, STC, and CEPD

3 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices shall:

- ensure that County Offices follow instructions in this notice
- notify the NRCS State Conservationist and State Forester of the contents of this notice.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall read and follow the provisions of this notice.