



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

2014 Farm Bill NRCS Compliance Website

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelprdb1257899>

2014 Farm Bill Conservation Compliance Web Page



Programs

▣ Farm Bill

2008 Farm Bill Archive

Regional Conservation
Partnership Program

Landscape Initiatives

⊕ Financial Assistance

⊕ Technical Assistance

⊕ Easements

⊕ Landscape Planning

⊕ Alphabetical Listing & Archive

2014 Farm Bill - Conservation Compliance Changes



5 Steps

Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions aim to reduce soil loss on erosion-prone lands and to protect wetlands for the multiple benefits they provide. These provisions apply to all land that is considered highly erodible or a wetland, and that is owned or farmed by persons voluntarily participating in USDA programs, unless USDA determines an exemption applies.



No change for traditional USDA customers

- ▶ Producers who have traditionally participated in Title I (FSA) or Title II (conservation programs) should see no changes to conservation compliance.
- ▶ Approximately 10,000 to 14,000 producers “new to compliance” according to Risk Management Agency (RMA).
- ▶ Producers not in conservation compliance can still buy crop insurance but will no longer be eligible for premium subsidies paid through RMA.



Failure to Certify Compliance

- ▶ Producers new to compliance will be ineligible for the premium crop insurance subsidy for the subsequent crop insurance year (July 1, 2015) if they did not have a 1026 on file certifying their HELC/WC compliance prior to June 1, 2015.



HEL violation timelines

- ▶ Producers who have never been subject to compliance have 5 years to develop and implement a conservation plan.
- ▶ Producers who have been subject to compliance in the past and currently are in violation, have two years to comply with a conservation plan to regain eligibility for crop insurance subsidies.



Statutory Authority

- ▶ Food Security Act of 1985
- ▶ Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
- ▶ Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996
- ▶ Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002
- ▶ Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008
- ▶ Agricultural Act of 2014



Why is this necessary?

- ▶ Congresses intent was to:
 - Discourage production of crops on HEL and wetlands
 - Reduce NPS pollution
 - Reduce soil loss from wind/water
 - Protect nations long term capability to produce food/fiber
 - Reduce sedimentation/improve WQ
 - Assist in preserving the functions/value of nations wetlands

Erosion from bare fields into river



Oklahoma October 2012 I-35



Aberdeen ID 2013



Lubbock Texas Oct. 17, 2011





HEL Provision:

Loss of certain USDA Program benefits by persons who:

- ▶ **Pre-1985 Cropland:** Produce an annual agricultural commodity on HEL cropland that has an erosion rate of greater than 2 times T



Sodbuster Provision

Sodbuster: Produce an annual agricultural commodity on an HEL cropland field that has been “sodbusted” from native vegetation and has an erosion rate greater than T



Swampbuster Provision:

- **Swampbuster:** Conversion of wetlands for the purpose of **making possible the production of an agricultural commodity** (annually-tilled crop)



Swampbuster



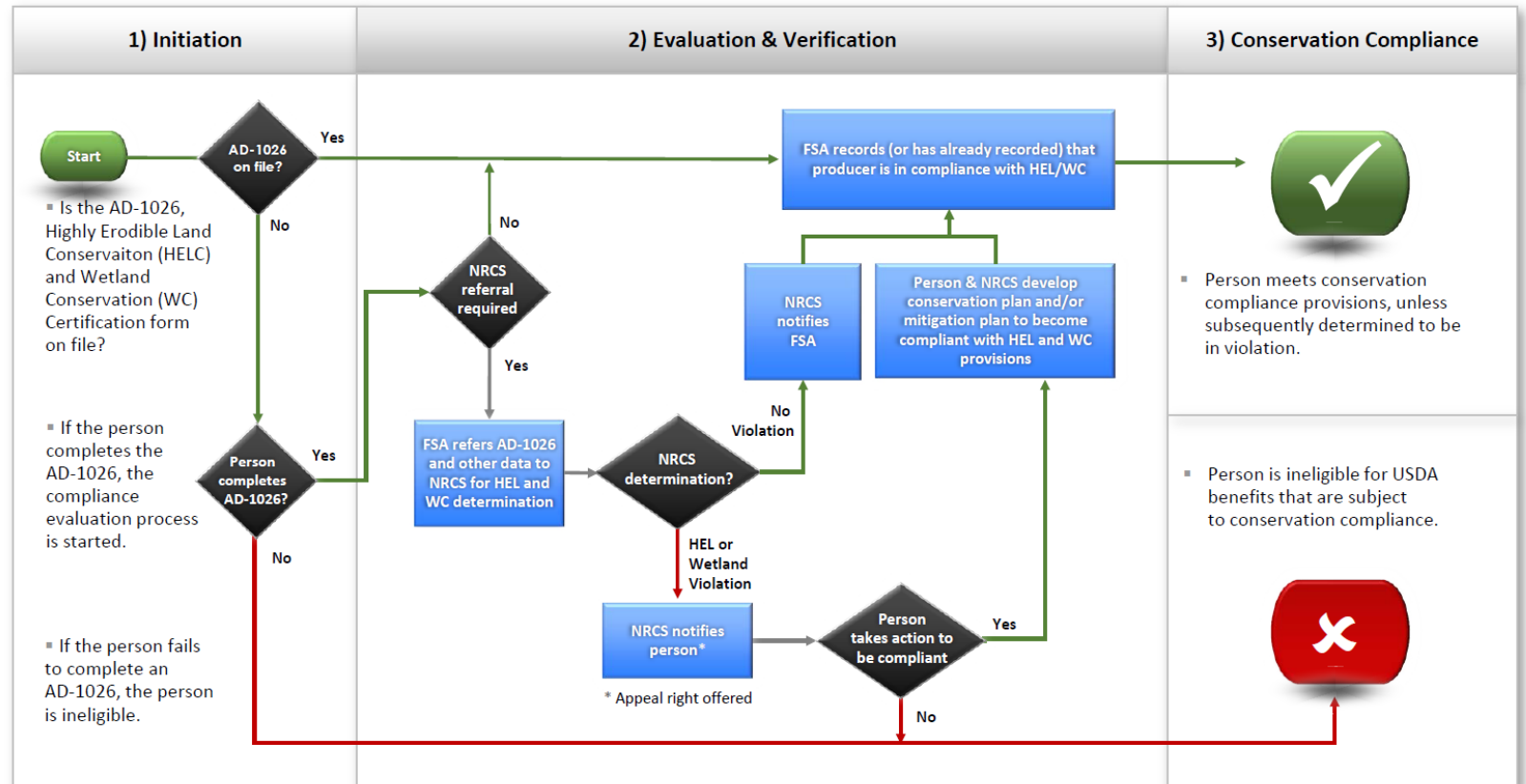
- ▶ Agricultural commodity
 - Annually planted crops
 - After 11/28/1990, forages also prohibited
- ▶ Making production possible
 - Alteration of the hydrology and/or removal of woody vegetation that:
 - Allows or would allow production of an ag commodity where not previously possible
 - After 11/28/90, allows forage production or pasture and hayland use
 - Farmable more years than previously possible
 - Reduces crop stress and allows increased yield



Compliance Flow Chart

USDA, Conservation Compliance Process

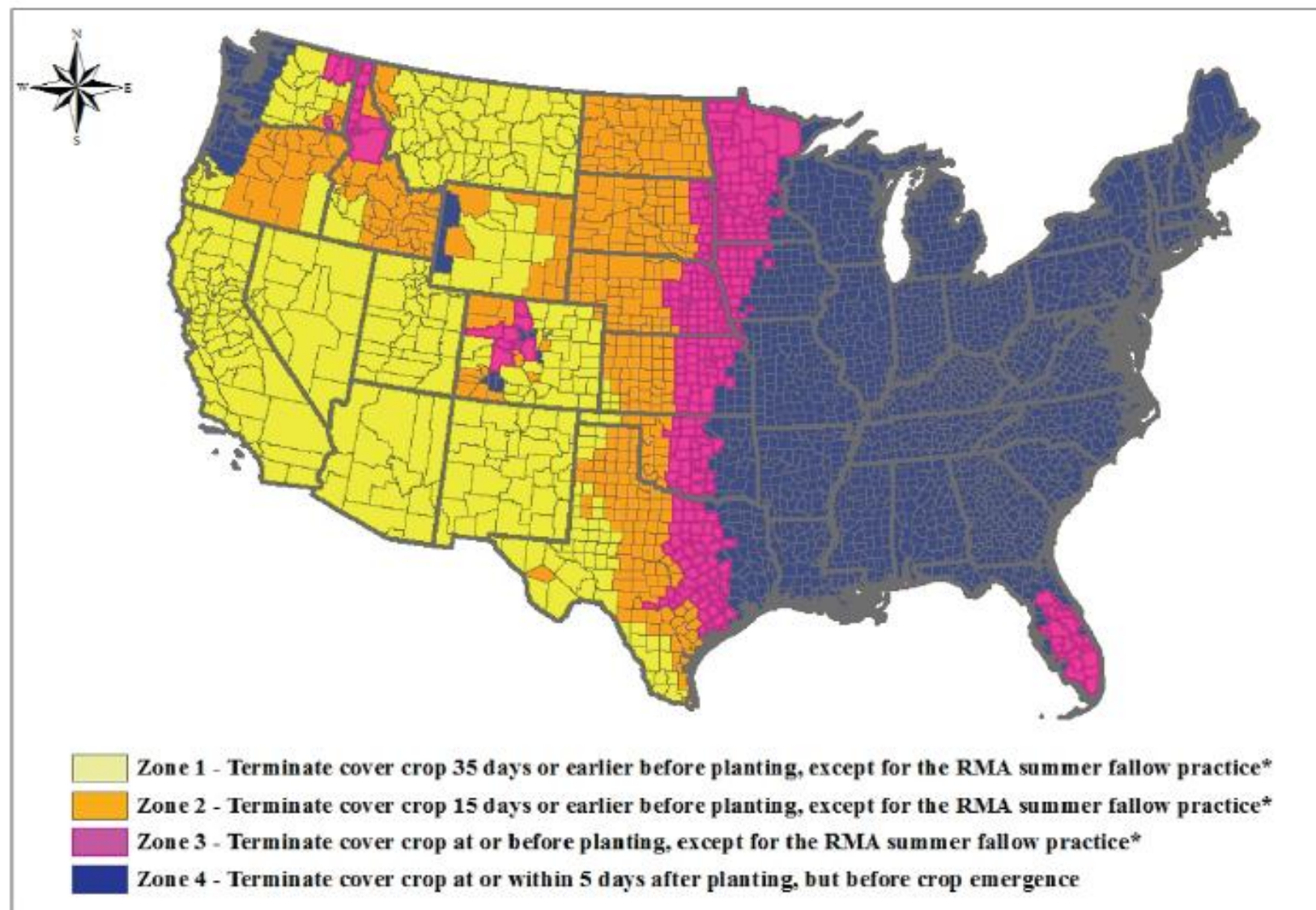
August 2014





*Cover Crop Termination Zones

Produced by: NRCS | ESD
December 2013



*See guidelines for details on the RMA summer fallow practice.



NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines for Management Zones

Zone 1 - See Map	Zone 2 - See Map	Zone 3 - See Map	Zone 4 - See Map
NRCS Cover Crop Termination Period Guidance - Non-Irrigated Cropland:			
<p><u>For Late Spring to Fall Seeded Crops</u> - For Late Spring to Fall Seeded Crops - Terminate cover crops 35 days or earlier prior to planting the crop.</p> <p><u>Early Spring Seeded Crops</u> - Terminate cover crops as soon as practical prior to planting the crop. (Additional Cover Crop Termination Considerations 4 and 8)</p>	<p><u>For Late Spring to Fall Seeded Crops</u> - Terminate cover crops 15 days or earlier prior to planting the crop.</p> <p><u>For Early Spring Seeded Crops</u> - Terminate cover crops as soon as practical prior to planting the crop. (Additional Cover Crop Termination Considerations 4 and 8)</p>	<p>Terminate cover crop at or before planting the crop.</p>	<p>Terminate cover crop, at, or within 5 days after planting, but before crop emergence.</p>
<p>RMA Designated Summerfallow Practice (See "Consideration #13" for additional guidance)</p>	<p>RMA Designated Summer Fallow Practice (See Consideration #13" for additional guidance)</p>	<p>RMA Designated Summer Fallow Practice (See Consideration #13" for additional guidance)</p>	

Note: These guidelines can be used as a stand alone document, if needed.