

## Are You Compliant with Conservation Efforts? Don't Miss Out on Crop Insurance Premium Subsidy

Marina Arouca, Rod Clouser, John VanSickle

Agricultural producers have a high understanding of the importance of environmental conservation to preserve the ecosystems they work with. Still, governmental agencies have enforce compliance with the highly erodible land conservation (**HEL**C) and wetland conservation (**W**C) provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, aiming to reduce soil loss due to erosion and improve water quality.

**Highly erodible land** is cropland, hayland or pasture that can erode at excessive rates. It would contain soils that have an erodibility index of eight or more. **Wetlands** characteristics include the presence of hydric soils, the presence of hydrology that would or could support hydrophytic vegetation (water tolerant).

With the 2014 Farm Bill, producers must be compliant with conservation requirements to become or remain eligible for most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), such as the **crop insurance premium support**.

To be compliant producers must agree that they will not:

- Plant or produce an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land without a conservation system;
- Plant or produce an agricultural commodity on a converted wetland;
- Convert a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity, by draining, dredging, filling, leveling, removing woody vegetation, or any other activity that affects water flow and circulation.

To seal this agreement the USDA requires the filing of the Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification form.

If you are a producer of agricultural commodities or specialty crops and have not yet filed for conservation compliance, download the **AD-1026 form** [here](#) and file with your [local FSA office](#) by **June 1, 2015** for the 2016 reinsurance year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016).

Even if you believe you don't have highly erodible land or wetland, you should still file the form with your local office. If it is your **first time** filing, when you complete the AD-1026, USDA staff will outline any additional actions that may be required for compliance with the provisions, such as a conservation plan.

For more detailed information visit the Natural Resources Conservation Services [webpage](#) and take a look at the [Conservation Fact Sheet](#).

Stay Informed! Find details on other 2014 Farm Bill initiatives in companion information sheets.

**Visit our website** 2014 Farm Bill Education Program at [fred.ifas.ufl.edu/FarmBill](http://fred.ifas.ufl.edu/FarmBill).

Have any questions or concerns? **Contact us!**

John VanSickle ([sickle@ufl.edu](mailto:sickle@ufl.edu)); Rod Clouser ([rclouser@ufl.edu](mailto:rclouser@ufl.edu)); Marina Arouca ([arouca@ufl.edu](mailto:arouca@ufl.edu))