

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
IN  
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

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**ADJUSTMENT IN AGRICULTURE—III  
ADMINISTRATIVE RULINGS AMENDED**

**C. Use of Contracted Corn Acres Under  
The Corn-Hog Contract**

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Cooperating producers are urged by the government to use the contracted corn land in such a way as to improve the permanent value of the farm. Under no circumstances should such land be used to add to any existing agricultural surplus. The land which is being retired from corn production is subject to certain restricted uses which should be understood by every producer who has signed the contract.

Every producer who signs the corn-hog reduction contract should understand that he is receiving a cash rental for the land which is being retired from corn production and the government reserves the right to determine how this land shall be used. Cooperating producers appear to be anxious to use the contracted corn land in accordance with the wishes of the government and are willing to do their part to make the program a success. It is probable that very few producers will intentionally attempt to use the contracted corn land for the purpose of making additional farm profit.

The requirements of the corn-hog reduction contract and of the administrative rulings are quite easily explained by stating typical questions which arise among farmers who have signed the contract, with answers taken either from the contract or from administrative rulings. Many such questions involve the possibility of using this land to make an additional profit. A study of the contract and of administrative rulings will quickly show that any use of the contracted acreage for the purpose of additional profit is not permissible and is a violation of the contract.

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**TO THE CORN-HOG FARMER:** This circular is based upon administrative rulings of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in effect April 1, 1934. Said rulings are subject to changes and modifications by the Secretary of Agriculture. Contracting growers agree to conform to corn-hog contract regulations and administrative rulings pertaining to contracted acres. The answers to questions were approved by the Replacement Crops Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the Corn-Hog Section concurring. This circular should be used in connection with others in the Adjustment in Agriculture series, listed below.

- I. The Live at Home Plan for Oklahoma.
- II. Crop Adjustment—Oklahoma's Opportunity for Soil Improvement.
- III. Administrative Rulings Amended.

**Question 1. I have signed the corn-hog reduction contract, and have rented to the government a certain number of acres of my corn land. What can be done with this contracted corn land?**

**Answer:** Every producer who signs a contract is being encouraged by the government to use the contracted acreage in such a way as to improve the value of his farm, but at the same time to avoid adding to any existing agricultural surpluses. The following different uses of the contracted acres are recommended:

(1.) Establish permanent pastures. The corn-hog reduction contract affords an exceptional opportunity to Oklahoma farmers to establish tame permanent pastures. The contract specifically approves the planting of additional permanent pastures. The term "additional permanent pasture" means pasture in addition to the average number of acres which were devoted to pasture in 1932-33. This newly seeded additional pasture may be grazed in 1934, provided no nurse crop is used. In no event can such crop be harvested for hay.

The need for good pastures has become general in many sections of the state. Frequently it will prove desirable to retire certain sloping fields which are subject to serious erosion permanently from production. Pasture grass mixtures which are adapted to local conditions should be used. An extension circular outlining recommendations of pasture mixtures for the different sections of the state may be obtained from your county agent.

The additional permanent pasture can be planted with the following crops: orchard grass, redtop, Kentucky bluegrass, timothy, meadow fescue, Bermuda grass, carpet grass, brome grass, crested wheat grass, slender wheat grass, and Reed's canary grass; also, such legumes as lespedeza, red clover, alsike clover, white clover, bur clover, hop clover, black medic, alfalfa, sweet clover and Kudzu, with or without a nurse crop. Sweet clover may be seeded on contracted acres but cannot be pastured until after December 1 when the contract expires. Sweet clover is excluded under the term "additional permanent pasture" because of the large first year growth made by this crop in certain corn belt states (adm. rul. 40).

(2.) Plant to soil improvement crops. The majority of Oklahoma farmers have done little or nothing to build up and maintain soil fertility on their farms. Frequently, it will be to their advantage to use the contracted acres in beginning a soil improvement program. There are many different legume crops which can be used advantageously for this purpose. An extension circular outlining recommendations of such crops adapted to Oklahoma may be obtained from your county agent.

Sometimes it is a good plan to terrace the land first. Very often the fields on a farm are planted to crops so that no land is available for terracing in late spring or summer when the heavier seasonal work is done. After terracing is completed, plant a soil improvement or an erosion prevention crop.

For soil improvement such crops may be planted as cowpeas, soybeans, mungbeans, hairy vetch, Austrian winter peas, lespedeza and sweet clover. Such crops may not be pastured or otherwise harvested, and shall be turned under to increase the nitrogen and organic matter content of the soil. It is possible to plant a winter annual legume in early fall to be turned under in April or May, or to plant a summer annual legume in the spring or early summer, to be turned under in the fall. Sweet clover seeded in late winter or in the spring would make sufficient growth to be turned under for soil improvement in the fall in some instances. However, the crop will prove more valuable for soil improvement if permitted to continue growth to be turned under in April or May of the second year. The second year's growth cannot be designated as contracted acreage if the crop is to be pastured or harvested for hay or seed.

(3.) Plant erosion prevention crops. In certain sections of western Oklahoma dust storms during the spring months frequently cause much damage. In other sections of the state certain soil types are subject to devastating damage from soil erosion. Under such conditions, it may be desirable to plant erosion prevention crops, such as a small grain crop or a

sorghum crop (including Sudan grass) when sown broadcast, or any legume crop when sown broadcast. Such crops may not be pastured or otherwise harvested, and should be used for soil improvement.

(4.) Permit land to lie unplanted. The land may be permitted to lie unplanted or uncultivated when this can be done without serious loss due to soil erosion. Also, it is expected that any obnoxious weeds on this land shall be mowed before the seed develops. Such a practice of resting land is not uncommon in certain sections of the country. Often a heavy weed growth can be plowed under to advantage for soil improvement.

(5.) Practice weed control. On farms badly infested with certain obnoxious weeds, it may be desirable to use the contracted acreage to eradicate certain weed pests by approved methods of control. Intensive cultivation during the summer growing season, in which all growth is prevented, will prove very effective in accomplishing this end. The use of chlorates for weed control is often practicable when undertaken under careful supervision.

(6.) Plant farm woodlots. It is possible to use the land for planting farm woodlots to provide fuel or fence posts for use on the farm. Likewise, it is often practicable to establish a shelterbelt of timber around the farmstead to provide protection during the windy season of the year. Such a practice will certainly add to home comfort on many Oklahoma farms.

**Question 2. When are the contracted acres released from the terms of the contract?**

**Answer:** Crops for harvest in 1935 may be planted in 1934 on the contracted acres after the date that 1934 corn acreage on the farm on which the contracted acres are located, or 1934 corn acreage in the locality of such farm, is actually planted to a crop for harvest in 1935.

**Question 3. Will farmers be allowed to pasture hogs or other livestock on contracted acres?**

**Answer:** The corn-hog reduction contract does not allow pasturing hogs or other livestock on the contracted acreage, except on new and additional permanent pasture seedings permitted in the contract where a nurse crop is not used. It is contrary to the contract to pasture hogs on soybeans or cowpeas or any other crops producing a large amount of feed on the contracted acres.

**Question 4. Can a man use sweet clover for pasture after December 1, 1934, after the corn-hog contract expires?**

**Answer:** Yes, restrictions on the use of the contracted acres are removed at the end of the contract period. Sweet clover planted for pasture or soil improvement in the spring is available for use after December 1.

**Question 5. Can a man pasture his contracted acreage after his corn is harvested?**

**Answer:** Yes, he can pasture the contracted acreage after December 1 when the corn-hog contract expires, if such land has been planted to pasture or meadow crops, or has remained idle. It is not permissible to grow high yielding forage crops to provide heavy pasturing after December 1. This would be contrary to the contract.

**Question 6. Under what conditions can a man use the contracted corn land to provide pasture and forage under the terms of the contract?**

**Answer:** The contract approves the planting of additional permanent pasture, which means pasture in addition to the average number of acres which were devoted to pasture in 1932-33. This newly seeded additional pasture may be grazed during the term of the contract if no nurse crop is planted. Under no circumstances can any other crop be used to provide pasture or forage. It is a violation of the contract to grow sorghum, Sudan grass, millet, cowpeas, mungbeans, soybeans, or any other high producing crop on the contracted acreage to be pastured or harvested during the term of the contract, or to be grazed following the expiration of the contract.

**Question 7. Suppose a man sows cowpeas or soybeans to plow under; he fails to plow the crop under and allows it to mature; if he turns pigs or other livestock on the crop after December 1, 1934, is he violating the contract?**

**Answer:** He is violating the contract. A man can plant cowpeas or

soybeans to turn under. However, it would be a violation of the corn-hog reduction contract not to follow out the intent to plow them under, and afterwards to pasture such crops with hogs or other livestock after December 1. Permission to grow such crops is given for soil improvement only, and not for pasture.

**Question 8. In the corn-hog reduction contract is it permissible to pasture Johnson grass on the contracted acreage?**

**Answer:** No, the contracted acreage, which is infested with Johnson grass, cannot be designated under the term "additional permanent pasture." The ordinary methods of grazing with commercial livestock cannot be considered as a means of control of Johnson grass. Therefore, pasturing of land generally infested with Johnson grass is not permissible. The sowing of lespedeza on land heavily infested with Johnson grass for the purpose of making it possible to designate the contracted acreage as "additional permanent pasture" will be a violation of the intent of the contract.

**Question 9. Suppose a man planted sweet clover, or lespedeza, or timothy and red clover, or reedtop and alsike clover as soil improvement crops, could he harvest the seed?**

**Answer:** No, it is very seldom that new seedings of these crops (except lespedeza) produces seeds the first season. The contract does not allow the harvesting of seed of the above crops in 1934. However, the corn-hog contract expires December 1, 1934, and the man is then permitted to harvest the seed, and to sell it or use it in some other way, or otherwise use the crop, the second year after seeding, or in 1935.

**Question 10. Is a man permitted to sow small grain with his grass seed in order to keep back weeds if he does not harvest the grain?**

**Answer:** Yes, he can sow grain as a nurse crop with a pasture mixture on the contracted acres if he clips the grain and lets it lie on the ground.

**Question 11. Is it permissible for a farmer to summer fallow the contracted acres and seed to alfalfa in the fall or to make a spring seeding of alfalfa with a light nurse crop? He would clip the nurse crop before it heads, and let the clippings lie on the ground. He would not take any crop off the land in 1934.**

**Answer:** Yes, a farmer can summer fallow the contracted acreage, then seed to alfalfa, or he can make a spring seeding with or without a nurse crop, as long as he does not harvest clippings of a crop from the land in 1934. If the alfalfa is sown in the spring without a nurse crop to be designated as "additional permanent pasture" it is possible to pasture with livestock if desired. However, heavy grazing would prove detrimental to the alfalfa.

**Question 12. Will a corn-hog contract signer be allowed to use the contracted acres to set out an orchard if he does not take crop off the land in 1934?**

**Answer:** No, the government has not approved the use of contracted corn land for the planting of apple, peach, and other fruit trees. Increasing the planting of those fruits might result in serious surplus fruit production, and injure the fruit industry.

**Question 13. Is a man required to fence the land he takes out of production?**

**Answer:** Not unless necessary to carry out the contract. However, he must not grow crops that produce a large amount of forage for the purpose of pasturing livestock. If he plants heavy producing forage crops, such as cowpeas or soybeans, he should fence the contracted acres to avoid any possibility of grazing such crops, or he must keep his livestock in fenced fields.

**Question 14. Is it permissible to use the contracted acreage for the production of food and feed crops to be consumed on the producer's own farm?**

**Answer:** The corn-hog reduction contract does not include any provisions for the planting of food and feed crops. It is expected that other uses approved by the Secretary of Agriculture (see answer to question 1) shall be made of the contracted acreage.